

# Annual Report 2016–17

SUPPORT | DEVELOP | COLLABORATE | INFLUENCE









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Basildon, Billericay and Wickford CVS is registered charity (1148943) and a company limited by guarantee (8028602). We are governed by trustees who are nominated and elected by our members.

## Chair's report

have great pleasure in presenting this Annual Review of the work of Basildon. Billericay and Wickford Council for Voluntary Service (BBWCVS). Nationally the press and the Charity Commission remained pre-occupied with the fall-out from the demise of Kids Company's. Locally we listened to the debate and made sure that our own house was in good working order. We took steps to secure external accreditation and maintained an ongoing review of our own policies including health and safety, ensuring robust risk assessments were carried out and reviewing our operational plan as well as our financial procedures.

One result of this was that the CVS secured PQASSO accreditation, meeting the requirements for Charity Commission endorsement. The auditor advised that the CVS has a strong Board of Trustees with a broad range of skills; that there is a clear sense of direction within the organisation; that annual surveys and feedback from local groups demonstrated high levels of satisfaction with the work that the small and closelyknit staff team provided. He concluded "that the organisation also has an impressive history of partnership working, locally, countywide and across the region".

Naturally, we are delighted and, as a Board, we remain committed to maintaining these high standards.

The positive feedback received

from our membership survey indicates we remain on track.

I would like to add my personal thanks to the staff team and the other Trustees who took part in interviews with the auditor.

### **Our Future Plans**

In our last review, we noted the publication of our strategic plan for 2016–19. The vision, mission, values and strategic aims set out in that plan remain:

- We need to be more technologically savvy.
- We need to act as a lever bringing in new resources to the sector, including social investment, crowd funding and pro-bono support.
- We need to be the enabler of voice and the advocate of community action.
- We need to develop and promote engagement with potential corporate sector partners which can offer pro bono support through volunteering, mentoring and board membership.
- We need to promote and develop the 'time economy', coproduction and good volunteering practices. Above all, we need to help the sector with foresight to manage change because the pace of change is not going to be slow.

We have made some progress against some of these objectives this year. For example, we acquired a new database Essex Connects.





"None of this work could be achieved without the funding and, equally importantly, the support of our partners. So, we want to place on record our thanks to our core funders and partners."

This will enable us to showcase the great work delivered by the sector locally. The work of the Volunteer Centre continues to develop under the capable leadership of Emily Lawrence. We have also continued to prove effective at bringing in new resources to the sector.

The CVS Board will support and promote the implementation of this plan during the forthcoming year. Specifically, we will:

- Continue to help organisations to evaluate and communicate their impact. We will do this by developing a new health check and audit process.
- Ensure that the CVS itself complies with and models the best qualities of an infrastructure

body and continually challenges our members to do the same.

- Work with funders at all levels to develop creative and sustainable solutions to secure the future of infrastructure.
- Ensure robust evaluation of the services of the Social Prescribing project.

None of this work could be achieved without the funding and, equally importantly, the support of our partners. So, we want to place on record our thanks to our core funders and partners: Basildon Borough Council, Essex County Council, and Essex County Council Public Health.

Finally, thanks are due to my fellow trustees, staff and to our members for their ongoing support and work to make a thriving, effective voluntary and community sector in Basildon and Essex.

### Stella Calkin BBWCVS Chair

"This year we secured £486,844 new money for local groups to invest in local provision."

# STANDARD 1 Development

s an organisation, we aim to support the identification of needs in the local community and facilitate innovation and improvements in service provision to meet those needs. We aim to meet those needs by providing support to groups bidding for funding; by offering local groups access to funding research packages and by playing an active role on local funding panels in order to influence positively the level of external funding attracted into the borough.

Our offer of funding advice continues to prove popular and effective. To evaluate the impact of this work, we monitor the success rate of external applications submitted by the voluntary and community sector with support from the CVS every six months. We also track the amount of external funding attracted into the borough

with support from the CVS. We are therefore pleased to report that this year we secured £486,844 new money for local groups to invest in local provision. Consequently, groups such as Basildon Homestart, Basildon Community Arts and Northlands Community Association were able to provide new or enhanced services. This enabled the community to have more support for parenting and to improve local support for those furthest from employment.

We undertake this work in partnership with other funders. This year, two funders were very important and our thanks go to them. They were the People's Health Trust and Essex County Council. We worked in partnership with the People's Health Trust to promote awareness of its funding by hosting three briefing sessions. This resulted in successful applications by three charities who secured £102,125.

We previously reported on our work with the Big Lottery and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership to promote access to the Building Better Opportunities fund. This resulted in funding for six providers who received in excess of £6million from the fund. We are looking forward to working with them to help local delivery in Basildon and Essex.

Last December, at our end of year forum, we took the opportunity to review the year. Participants were able to share information and advice







on how they addressed challenges and the impact on their work. Many reflected on the loss of external funding, with limited and inaccessible commissioning opportunities often leading to the breakdown in preexisting partnership arrangements.

Participants said that they were "de-motivated" and could not find the time and capacity to complete funding bids. In response to these discussions, we developed a number of "Meet the Funder" sessions to provide our groups/members face-to-face sessions with locality managers. Two funders, the Veolia Trust and Lloyds Foundation Trust rose to the challenge and provided participants with the opportunity to have preliminary

assessments/appraisals, in-depth reviews, as well as discussions of projects in 1:1 sessions. However it is clear from this feedback that there is still much work to do.

The CVS acts as a "Trusted Local Organisation" (TLO) for the 'Heart of Pitsea' Big Local delivery area. A TLO is the body chosen by the Big Local partnership to administer and account for the distribution of funding and/or deliver activities or services on behalf of the Big Local partnership. We were delighted to have been asked to continue this role.

This year, the Big Local Partnership welcomed Gill Buttwell as a project administrator and she is already proving to be a valuable addition to the team. The team has also been joined by Jan Stobart who acts as a Big local Representative and provides invaluable advice and experience to decision making.

More details of the work of the Heart of Pitsea, including a slide show and a separate annual report for the Heart of Pitsea, can be found on the CVS website.

Finally this year we served on a number of external funding panels. They were the Essex Community Foundation panel Thriving Third Sector Fund, helping to shape the future direction and activity of the fund; and the Essex Community Initiative Judging Panel 2016-17.

### **CASE STUDY**

Basildon Community Arts (BCA): This group accepted advice to register with HMRC for tax exemption as setting up as a charity was not advisable given the nature of membership, objectives and income. Regular support was provided in the creation of a HMRC account and subsequent registration and submission of required evidence.



Local Trust creating lasting change



"Our information service is available via our website, with newsletters and electronic bulletins keeping members informed and up-to-date."





# STANDARD 2 Supporting the sector

s an organisation, we aim to support local voluntary organisations and community groups to fulfil their missions more effectively. We do this in a number of different ways. For example, by enabling local and regional organisations to identify and access a variety of sources and types of income; by providing learning opportunities that support the personal, professional and organisational development.

### **Keeping members informed**

Our information service is available via our website, with newsletters and electronic bulletins keeping members informed and up-to-date. This enables us to promote and celebrate good practice and helps members better understand emerging issues.

Our fortnightly electronic bulletin has a distribution list of over 200 subscribers, including CVS members, staff and volunteers of other voluntary organisations, commissioners and funders. We are very proud of this product and this is reflected in the positive feedback we continue to receive.

During the year we continued to develop our social media presence establishing Twitter and Facebook pages. Twitter has been used to highlight issues we feel are important as well as reaching new parts of the sector. This new communications strand has been

well received and, with over 200 followers, our numbers continue to grow. None of this would have been achievable without the support of our social media volunteers and our thanks go to them.

### At the Heart of Health

Last year, it was noted that supporting and promoting the role of charities and community groups in improving people's health and wellbeing is becoming an increasingly important part of infrastructure work. This is largely driven by growing evidence that giving people control can improve health outcomes and increase efficiency. This year was no different with our work on Social Prescribing, health intervention training, Staying Well at Winter, Basildon Hospital's Stepping Up to Green campaign all making a contribution to reducing health pressures in the borough.

To promote good practice in partnership working and collaboration, this year we were actively involved in the delivery of a local Social Prescription service. This is covered at length elsewhere in this report.

To promote awareness of the important role the sector can play, we hosted a "Health Intervention Training" session in collaboration with Provide. Provide are a social enterprise provider of a range of community services that care, nurture and empower individuals and communities to live better



lives. The training targeted health professionals and service user facing organisations who can offer health and wellbeing advice and signposting. The session highlighted the range of Health and Wellbeing services available in Essex as well as the effects of poor lifestyle choices on health.

Central to our work in this area is the notion of developing local health solutions from community based assets. This also remains critical to our use of Warm Homes funding. With the assistance of a modest grant from Essex County Council, we are able to provide funds to local providers who work directly with those most at risk.

Expressions of interest were received from 7 organisations who requested £12,085.00 funds. Applications included Christmas Day lunch provision for those identified by social care as isolated and alone and a Warm Homes project targeted at those with disabilities. Whilst not all were progressed, as a CVS, we are keen to provide on-going support to develop some of these ideas further. Instead we were able to provide £5,856 to DIAL, the George Hurd Centre, St Mungos, the Community Resource Centre and the Nevendon Senior Social Clubs.

In addition, offers of support were made to the Basildon Homeless Working Group who developed Basildon's winter night shelter provision. Whilst this offer was not utilised with blankets and other provision sourced elsewhere, we are now part of the working group planning for winter provision in 2017-18.

As part of this campaign, Stay Well at Winter leaflets were also distributed to local libraries and GP surgeries in Pitsea and Laindon from where the Social Prescribing service operates.

The impact of this work was significant and we are pleased to advise that the resulting activities enabled us to support 979 different interventions, the third highest in the county.

### **Training**

This year, we delivered eight training events and workshops. In partnership with Victim Support, the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, the People's Health Trust, Provide and Colchester CVS, the sessions covered a range of issues including Personal Safety Training, Hate Crime Awareness, and Auto Enrolment.

The sessions attracted over 70 delegates and were very well received. It is important to stress that much of this provision is user lead, so thank you all for your feedback.

NEVENDON SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB – KEEP WARM, KEEP WELL, CHAT AND SHARE SESSIONS JANUARY 2017 – MARCH 2017

The aim of the work was to support residents from the seven sheltered housing blocks in Wickford to improve communication, become more aware of their neighbours' needs and to help to prevent cold related illnesses and deaths by tackling loneliness and social isolation by bringing their communities together.

The project involved five weekly two hour sessions, with guest speakers, signposting information, light refreshments and entertainment. The project was delivered at a number of different locations - Eliot Close, Bradwell Court, Halstead Court, Keats Way, Meadow Court, Spencer's Court and Pine Close. Speakers included representatives from Age Concern, DIAL, the Papworth Trust and the Community Agents. DIAL delivered Winter Warmth packs for residents at two of the sessions. They covered income maximisation and keeping well during winter.

"We hosted eight networking events including relaunching the volunteer managers forum."

# STANDARD 3 Enabling collaboration

e remain committed to facilitating effective communication and collaboration amongst local voluntary organisations and community groups and between different sectors. We do this by networking, working collaboratively, sharing resources and creating and promoting formal networking opportunities.

### **Essex Connects**

One way we support effective collaboration is by providing information on local voluntary organisations and groups. To improve the way we provide this information this year, we launched Essex Connects and Connect Well Essex.

This is a searchable, online tool which has been described as the

"Home of Social Prescribing in Essex." Its aim is to be able to provide a comprehensive directory of local community services, promote the wealth of community services in your local area and provide a resource for health and social care professionals and the general public in order to search for appropriate providers. So, if you are a patient or a social or health care professional and you are you looking to join a local club or group or want to contact a self-help group for support with a health condition or are trying to find a local charity, then Essex Connects is the place to go.

Please have a look and tell us what you think. We are keen to populate Essex Connects with as many providers as possible so, if you want to highlight your service, please let us know.







### **VCS Network**

Our network events bring the voluntary and community sector together. This year, we hosted eight networking events including relaunching the volunteer managers forum. We were delighted to welcome Ruth Stephens, the new Big Lottery relationship manager for the county, to one session and wish her all the best in this important new role. These events are very much driven by our members and partners and they continue to be well received.

Another aim of the networks is to share and promote good practice. This year, sessions on Gift Aid and funding were led by St Lukes and Basildon Homestart – so our thanks to them.

There is an increased emphasis from funders on the need to assess impact. Accordingly, participants are asked to consider things that they will do as a result of the forums. Feedback indicates that the information and networking information is shared, ensuring wider reach of the issues and themes raised, and that they develop positive links with other providers to improve referrals and signposting.

"Our network events bring the voluntary and community sector together." "Supporting and promoting the role of charities and community groups in improving people's health and wellbeing is a major part of our work."

# Influence/ Strategic Partnership

s a CVS, we aim to support local voluntary organisations and community groups to influence policies, plans and practices that have an impact on their organisations and beneficiaries.

During the year, we continued to work in partnership with the local and national public sector to shape service provision and delivery as well as articulating the sectors concerns.

Nationally, politics was dominated by the European referendum campaign. The voice of the voluntary sector during the campaign was very quiet so we used our newsletter to provide some redress. We highlighted what charities needed to know- for instance, where can groups find information on the implications for charities? What were the rules concerning campaigning and the implication of the Parliamentary Lobbying Bill?

For many, it seems that we are very remote from these issues but they continue to have a very real impact on the ground both locally in Basildon and across Essex. This is illustrated elsewhere by the £6 million invested into VCS employment led projects.

To address this, local CVSs wrote to Essex based leave campaigners expressing concerns about the potential impact of a leave vote on EU funding for the sector.

MPs Stephen Metcalfe, John Baron and Priti Patel all responded and so our thanks go to them. Typical of the response was the view expressed by John Baron MP who stated that "there is no reason why a British Government outside the EU should not match, or even exceed, current levels of EU spending inside the UK by drawing upon large sums of money saved by discontinuing our subscription to Brussels".



# Big Lottery new policy directions should recognise local infrastructure

We also responded to the Government Consultation on new





policy directions for the Big Lottery Fund (July 2016). Our concerns were mirrored by NAVCA, the national membership charity for local infrastructure, in their response.

The NAVCA response called for an acknowledgement of the contribution local infrastructure makes. It highlights the crucial role of local infrastructure in making sure the Big Lottery Fund receives quality applications from a representative spread of organisations, particularly in those communities most in need of investment. The lottery does not pay for this help and in effect they

are free-riding and threatening the sustainability of local infrastructure.

We also attended a meeting with NAVCA and a number of other CVS members with Dawn Austwick, Chief Executive of the Big Lottery Fund in September. This provided an ideal opportunity to continue this discussion.

We await the outcome of the consultation with interest.

As Chief Officer, much of the time is spent supporting partnership meetings, advocating on behalf of the sector and discussing local strategies. This year, we represented the sector on the following strategic partnership boards or working groups:

- Basildon Civil and Military Partnership
- Basildon Health and Well Being Partnership
- Basildon's Partnership Education, Employment and Skills Board
- South East Local Enterprise Partnership European Structural and Investment Fund.

## **Social Prescription Project Report**



"During the year, we worked with 38 core providers to provide support to patients and we are indebted to them for their important contributions."

s reported last year, we were one of seven Social Prescribing pilots funded across Essex during the period 2015-2017. Social Prescribing is a term for a project or programme that links patients with non-clinical treatment (social or physical) within their community. The overarching objectives for the Social Prescribing services were to:

- improve the health and wellbeing of individuals through early intervention and reduce the dependency on public sector services;
- increase the role and capability of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in providing support

- for an individual's needs and in mobilising communities to support care needs;
- build a more integrated approach between health and social care and its engagement with the VCS.

Formally launched in May, our UNLOCKING SOCIAL PRESCRIBING event received contributions from Janet Wheatley, CEO Voluntary Action Rotherham, John Leslie, the Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group Accountable Officer, Krishna Ramkhelawon from Public Health Essex and Jean Broadbent our project lead. Materials from the event can be found on the service's website. During the year, the service

supported 275 clients and made referrals to 291 VCS organisations. In part, this work was possible thanks to the support we received from our 5 volunteers who worked on the project during the year. All received training in mental health awareness, brief interventions and safeguarding. They gave many valuable hours to support the project attending appointments, maintaining contacts with patients and undertaking evaluation surveys at three and five months. They also worked with partners to deliver festive hampers to vulnerable elderly clients in partnership with Age Matters, Basildon. So, our thanks go to Gill Morrell, Amanda Nichols, Lawrence Hill, Anita Hagen and Jay Nair.

The service was the subject of a rigorous evaluation programme by Essex County Council (ECC) to consider the different pilots and models implemented, including their performance and socio-economic impact. The evaluation included:

- Surveys with service users (who provided consent) via participation in a telephone survey on joining the project and again three months later.
- Interviews with key stakeholders, including partners and those that had made referrals, to obtain feedback on the outcomes and impacts achieved, what worked well and any areas for development.
- Analysis of cost, economic and social impacts - the impact on primary, secondary and social care service use and the associated cost savings generated were analysed using the Manchester New Economy database.

The full findings were not available at the time of writing this report. However, many respondents reported improvements in well-being following their referral to the service with many reporting an increase in feelings of satisfaction with life, feelings of life being worthwhile and feelings of happiness while half reported a decrease in feelings of anxiety. In addition, there was some evidence of improvements in social connectedness, increased optimism and reduced feelings of depression.

#### **CASE STUDY**

One GP interviewed for the Basildon and Brentwood Social Prescribing project highlighted that many of the patients they have referred no longer come back to see them for the same issues.

It was noted that, since referring to the Social Prescribing project, they have made fewer referrals to the mental health team. This was particularly in relation to frequent attenders who need social support but have no medical needs (e.g. are socially isolated or need help with financial issues that are impacting on their overall health and wellbeing). As a result, they believed the project has helped to reduce the number of unnecessary appointments.

Consultee Interview for the Basildon and Brentwood Social Prescribing Project

Qualitative feedback via service user case studies and stakeholder feedback suggested that the support provided has helped to increase independence and confidence to allow user engagement in community activities in which they may not otherwise have participated.

None of this work would have happen without a skilled network of quality assured local providers. During the year, we worked with 38 core providers to provide support to patients and we are indebted to them for their important contributions.

### **Next Steps**

We are pleased to report that further funding to extend the project has been agreed. The service will be a partnership between Basildon, Billericay and Wickford CVS,

Community Agents and Provide Lifestyle Service. This exciting new development will build on the work already undertaken by the Social Prescribing Navigator Service to increase the role of social prescribing in GP practices. This is welcome as it will enable an expanded and consistent service across all practices in Basildon and Brentwood. We look forward to reporting on progress and the outcome of the evaluation work in our next report. We will also be exploring how this new service can with work with Basildon Hospital to minimise patient pressures.

### **Volunteer Centre**

he year has been very productive. The attainment of ISO9001 accreditation, the establishment of a new volunteer manager's forum, growing volunteer numbers, continuing work with other Volunteer Centres across Essex on the development of the Volunteer Essex website and an expanding Timebank. These were just some of the highlights for the Centre this year.

Our brokerage work continues to grow and, last year, over 382 new volunteers registered with the Volunteer Essex website. This meant that 645 potential volunteers were referred to volunteering involving organisations. We continue to work in close partnership with a wide variety of agencies to develop local volunteering.

New volunteering opportunities can only be developed through good partnership working. In addition to working with the Homelessness Working Group, work has also been undertaken to facilitate the placement of a group of volunteers from Ford Motor Company. By working with Fords and a local Scout group, the Volunteer Centre was able to facilitate the placement of this group at a campsite to undertake some much needed repair and maintenance work at the site to enable its continued use for the benefit of young people in the borough.

We continue to work in close partnership with a wide variety

of agencies to develop local volunteering. Timebanking is one way for individuals groups and organisations to share their skills, time and resources in a mutually beneficial way. "Time Credits" are earned for each hour of help or support given. These can then be spent by the volunteers or organisations to receive help and support with things that they need assistance with.

In February 2017, the Volunteer Centre took on the management of the Wickford Timebank with a view to expanding it into a borough wide "Basildon Billericay & Wickford (BBW) Timebank". Expanding the scope of this project will enable a greater number of people and organisations to participate and benefit from this unique type of volunteering.

The Volunteer Centre has been active in developing new ways to promote volunteering. With the continued growth of electronic communication, a lot of work has been done on increasing our presence and raising our profile on various internet-based platforms. We have established a fortnightly bulletin to highlight upcoming events, new volunteering opportunities and provide information about organisations that are looking for volunteers.

Some of the other means of marketing our work have been:

Involvement in the Volunteer
 Essex Development Group which
 is responsible for the management

"This meant that 645 potential volunteers were referred to volunteering involving organisations."

of the Volunteer Essex Website

- Providing presentations to partner organisations
- Volunteers Week Events

   Organised 5 days of
   events involving 18 different
   organisations including the Active
   Basildon & Active Brentwood
   Valuing Volunteers event.
- Attended external events such as the Basildon Council Volunteer Awards, "What's On in Wickford" (WOW), a Youth Volunteering Event hosted by Essex Youth Service, the Heart of Pitsea project Health Awareness Day to promote the health benefits of volunteering.

Internally, much of the focus of the Volunteer Centre network was on obtaining ISO 9001 accreditation. This was achieved in January 2017. The Volunteer Centres are rightly proud of this achievement and we will be working to ensure that this good practice is embedded into all our work in Basildon.



## Financial review of activities

he total income for 2016/17 was £317,796 against total expenditure of £318,228.

At the end of the financial year, £89,874 remained as restricted funds. The organisation's free reserves reduced from £171.367 to £150.455.

### **Policies and Reserves**

We continue to obtain our core funding from Essex County Council and Basildon Borough Council. However, we remain committed to diversifying our sources of funding and are pleased to report that over 82% of our funding in 2016/17 came from other sources. As well as our core funders, this year we received funding from the Big Local Trust, the Peoples Health Trust, Essex County Council for our Warm Homes Grant and the Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group.

We are only too aware of the financial pressures experienced by our funders and, as such, the trustees wish to thank our core funders for their continued support.

The strategy of the organisation remains one which aims to have core funding from local authorities and income generation and to enable on-going development through project funding from large funders like the Big Lottery, and charitable trusts.

As a Board, the trustees are committed to:

- Keeping the reserves policy under review to ensure it meets a charity's changing needs and circumstances.
- Ensuring that the level of reserves is monitored throughout the year.

Our aim is to ensure that we can give confidence to stakeholders that the charity's finances are being managed and can also provide an indicator of future funding needs. In the development of this policy, the Board is mindful of risks identified in the services risk assessment and action plan.

Following an earlier review, it was recommended that the reserves be set at the equivalent of 18 months' core costs. This will enable provision to be made for the risk of unforeseen emergency or other unexpected need for funds, - for instance, providing cover for unforeseen day-to-day operational costs, changes or a reduction in a source of income (e.g. a grant, not being renewed enabling funds needed to give the trustees time to take action if income falls below expectations) and to make provision for redundancy costs.

Year ending	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13
Incoming Resources	£317,796	£245,111	£231,909	£140,985	£134,040
Resources Expended	£318,228	£255,744	£187,884	£121,919	£137,790
Surplus / (Deficit)	-£432	-£10,633	£44,025	£19,066	-£3,750
Fund Balance	£240,329	£240,761	£251,394	£207,369	£188,303



### **OUR STAFF AND TRUSTEES**

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### **OUR THANKS...**

As a CVS we recognise the important role our partners can play in assisting us to improve and develop our services. As a result we have continued to work with other providers and community and voluntary groups.

This year we would like to thank a number of partners. The following list is not exhaustive but our thanks to:

- Leah Douglas and William Crossman at Basildon Borough Council
- Helen Lax at Essex County Council
- The Heart of Pitsea residents
- Colleagues from the Essex CVS network and local Volunteer Centres with especial thanks to Colchester CVS for their work on Strengthening Communities
- Pearl Figueira, Grants Support Officer at The People's Health Trust
- Emma Branch and David Fazey at the Basildon and Brentwood CCG

We are indebted to the support of our volunteers so a big thanks to all the volunteers that started with us during the 16/17 financial year:

- Mandy Workman
- Gill Morrell
- Jay-Marie Nair
- Robert Wheeler
- Robin Athur
- Anita Hagen
- Amanda Nicholls
- Arabella Smith
- Iris Goodwin
- Robert Hendy
- Tricia Marshall
- Jackie Warren
- Lawrence Hill



Supporting our local charities

www.bbwcvs.org.uk