

WARWICKSHIRE & SOLIHULL

CAVA



COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION



Annual Review
2022/23

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Our Vision

Continue making a positive impact within communities by promoting and advocating the impact of volunteering and support delivered by the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE). Working collaboratively with all partners to reduce inequalities, tackle disadvantage whilst embedding and celebrating the diversity of the sector, its people and its value to society.

Our Values

Approachable, Inclusive, Empowering

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR





A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Gabbitts".

Andrew Gabbitts

Chair of CAVA's
Trustee Board

Welcome

A message from our Chair

We live in uncertain and turbulent times. Armed conflict and climate and environmental disasters have brought death and destruction to many nations and their peoples. Those events have had consequences far outside their geographic boundaries. It must often seem that there is little we can do to cope with these disasters. Across the world, however, volunteers have eased the suffering and brought aid to those affected.

We, in the United Kingdom, have not suffered to the same degree and extent as the worst affected. Many people here have, however, suffered indirect disruption and economic hardship. Again, it is volunteers and their organisations who have eased the hardship and social pressures on those less able to withstand them. All the bits of volunteering are the grains of sand which make a better world.

CAVA's mission is to support, speak for and promote all charitable, voluntary and community organisations in Warwickshire and Solihull. To help us fulfil our role we will, in the very near future be launching our new Strategy. We look forward to sharing this with our members, supporters and stakeholders.

It remains for me to thank our trustees, staff, volunteers and funders for all their help and support over the past year.

Warwickshire Infrastructure

We are contracted to deliver infrastructure support to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector groups across Warwickshire by Warwickshire County Council (WCC), Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC), Rugby Borough Council (RBC) and Warwick District Council (WDC).

Elements of our WCC, contract namely Social Enterprise and Social Action are delivered in partnership with Coventry and Warwickshire Co-operative Development Agency (CWEDA) and Grapevine.

In the past 12 months 933 unique organisations have received support from us on 1,433 specific activities. In addition, 1,090 organisations have been supported and upskilled when engaged at workshops, training and events. In total we supported 2,023 organisations.



Thank you so much for all your help. It has meant we can still continue our service and reach out to those people most in need!

- CAVA Service user



Warwickshire Infrastructure Cont'd

Between April 2022 and March 2023, we organised 87 events and contributed to 193 others reaching over 9,668 people and upskilling 1,090 organisations.

We have advised 348 organisations on funding and supported 250 applications since April 2022. £2,288,600 was applied for and £1,769,573 has been awarded. Our involvement on grant panels saw a further £129,241 bought in to Warwickshire.

ACHIEVEMENTS



933

unique organisations have received support from us



£2,288,600

of funds applied to, £1,769,573 has been awarded



87

events held, and contributed to 193 others, reaching 9,668 people

Case Study

North Warwickshire Sports Funding Webinar

Due to the growing demand for funding advice and assistance from the voluntary and community sports clubs/ groups/ organisations and Parish Councils in North Warwickshire for developing facilities, participation opportunities and green space facilities for use by communities. In response North Warwickshire CAVA set up a Sports Funding webinar which took place on the 21st February 2023 to meet this demand for funding information and introduce potential opportunity agencies to contact.

This was a collaborative approach between North Warwickshire CAVA, Think Active, Sport England, The Football Foundation and the Birmingham Football Association, with the desired objective of giving interested parties an overview of potential funding opportunities out there and the chance to talk to the agencies involved and understand application processes and objectives all in one webinar.

Initially the webinar was solely for the interest coming from North Warwickshire. However it became obvious early on when promoting the event that Warwickshire wide interest was being created with relevant agencies very interested to sign up and find out more, so it was subsequently opened up as a Warwickshire and Solihull event.

51 individuals, from a range of groups and organisations, signed up to attend the event with 33 actually attending the webinar on the evening.

Further discussion has now taken place with some agencies and the funders and the successful sign up and turn out showed there is a need for this sort of intervention approach.

The collaborative approach by all presenting agencies has also shown that cooperation in this form can be seen as proactive and something to build on.

The webinar presentation/event was sent to all who attended and is now on the CAVA YouTube channel for future reference.



Scan this code with your
smartphone QR reader to
watch the webinar.

WARWICKSHIRE
CAVA
COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION

Working for a
stronger
voluntary and
community
sector in
Warwickshire

VOLUNTEER

Volunteering

Volunteering can help you to:

- Gain experience
- Meet new people
- Develop your skills
- Give back to your community
- Make a difference

What do volunteers do?

- Support people in need
- Help with fundraising
- Organise events
- Provide services
- Offer advice
- Provide companionship
- Offer transport
- Offer housing
- Offer food
- Offer clothing
- Offer furniture
- Offer other services

Giving Rugby a lift.



Case Study

Triple funding success for Nuneaton group

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) released two grants in 2022/23, the COVID Impact Grant and Green Shoots funding. WCC particularly wanted more groups from Nuneaton and Bedworth to apply.

Our Funding and Groups Development Officer, Michelle, started to promote both funds to groups in the two towns. In particular she sent them to the Sikh Mission Resource Centre. Michelle had met with the group earlier in the year and suggested funding with them in the past, but they hadn't really got the capacity to fill out the application forms. They missed the previous COVID Impact grants round, which was a shame because they could have utilised the funding within their building for the people in their community.

Michelle sent them the information and then arranged to meet with members of their committee who she hadn't met before. Michelle sat with them and went through the application process for the COVID Impact Grant and then mentioned the Green Shoots funding, which they also thought they had an idea for. After the meeting about the COVID Impact Grant Michelle was put in touch with Daljit who was going to start filling out the application form. Michelle then met with her to talk about the application again and go through the questions.

Another meeting was arranged to go through the Green Shoots questions. The group had some great ideas for the funding and started filling out both applications, keeping in touch with Michelle so they could go through sections together. At the start of November, the group heard they had been awarded £10,000 from the COVID Impact Grant for a Wellbeing Hub and at the end of the month they had received an email to say they had been successful with the Green Shoots funding and would be receiving £25,000 for wall and ceiling insulation.

Daljit said "I couldn't believe it when we heard we were successful in getting £10,000 for the COVID Impact grant. Although I filled out the application, I wouldn't have been able to do it without Michelle's help. She guided me through the questions and gave me example answers, as well as showing me how they would like to see the budget."

Case Study

Warwick District Cost of Living Network Event

CAVA in Warwick District, in partnership with Warwick District Council (WDC), planned and delivered a Cost of Living Network and Information event in October 2022. The event had been organised to understand cost of living challenges and pressures on VCSE organisations, and to explore solutions and opportunities to respond, particularly through greater partnership working, to tackle key fundamental issues around the crisis.

The event took place at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church Hall, Leamington and was attended by 37 people from 26 different VCSE organisations.

There was a Market Stall Exchange at the event so organisations could share information and leaflets. Stall holders included Healthwatch Warwickshire, Helping Hands, Warwickshire Libraries, Brunswick Hub, Christians Against Poverty and Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire.

There was also a Case Study Presentation from Transforming Communities Together on Warwick's 'Warm Rooms' initiative – where 10 frontline organisations within the CV34 postcode area are working together to deliver Warm Rooms. Mapping is being done to identify gaps with a view to filling those gaps, and they are engaging local community groups and businesses in the scheme. There are hopes that there will also be a coordinated 'Warm Rooms' approach in Kenilworth, Leamington and Whitnash.

There were also two breakout sessions as part of the event, where organisations worked with facilitators to share their challenges and concerns around the cost of living crisis, both from their own organisations' perspective and the communities and individuals they help.

Main concerns were capacity of the sector to respond to the cost of living crisis, lack of volunteers and volunteer time, increased running costs, staff burnout and the impact on their own wellbeing, food provision/food banks running low on food, digital poverty, working poor (times/dates of services not suitable to those who work), the sustainability of initiatives (particularly those reliant on funding) and not overloading services.





Cost of Living Network Event Cont'd

Some of the opportunities identified were peer networks, encouraging long-term lifestyle changes in communities and in people's behaviour, mobile provision to where it is needed most and approaching local businesses and improving relationships with the business sector, for instance around transport schemes.

Working together to find solutions, those groups presented identified partnership funding and joint bids, using libraries as central hubs, funding for core rather than project costs, having a library loan service for household equipment e.g. slow cookers, spreading best practice and having a 'one stop' approach rather than multiple referrals.

The event ended with a summary session with a view to relaunching the Warwick District Poverty Forum as the Warwick District Community Alliance, with meetings and events themed around current priorities. There will also be ongoing communications and updates on cost of living issues, including Warwick District Council's Cost of Living Action Plan and further networking events will be explored in the new year.

Solihull Infrastructure

CAVA has completed its fourth year of delivering the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) infrastructure contract for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC).

This year we have increased the number of VCSE groups we have supported through advice on funding, governance and organisational development. Post COVID-19 we have increased the support we offer around strategic development and thinking. We regularly promote funding opportunities, particularly local opportunities through newsletters, meet the funder events, and social media. CAVA sits on a number of funding panels and influences the design of future funding.

We have increased our profile in the borough and our knowledge of the VCSE through the delivery of 80 events and a contribution to other partners' events. Highlights have included an introduction to SMBC funds, a range of events on 'cost of living' support and training on topics such as 'DBS eligibility' and 'Measuring Impact'.



It's great to have this independent support to draw on during a very significant and time pressured process.

- CAVA Service user



Increasing understanding of VCSE needs

CAVA's State of the Sector survey takes place on a bi-annual basis. We continue to share VCSE trends and issues with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), based on interactions with organisations and individuals and supplemented by national research from NCVO and the National VCSE Data and Insights Observatory.

Strengthening Networks & Partnerships

CAVA continues to work closely with the SMBC Community Development team in identifying community needs and has been an active member of the VCSE engagement group as part of a co-ordinated response to the cost of living crisis. We also support some key networks and forums:

North Solihull Voluntary & Community Alliance

The alliance has been refreshed post COVID with good attendance from groups and specific outcomes such as the organising of '*Singing for the brain sessions*' at Seeds of Hope as a result of a review of dementia support in the north of the borough.

Solihull Faiths Forum

CAVA holds funds on behalf of the forum and supports the governance aspect of its AGM.

ACHIEVEMENTS



146

organisations supported



£240,330

of funding has been awarded



80

events held with 3,793 attendees

SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE

Volunteer Managers' Forum (VMF)

The Volunteer Managers' Forum continues to be highly valued as a place where organisations can share good practice around volunteer management. The forum feeds into the annual volunteer celebration tea which was attended by 70 volunteers.

We have also been working with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) to map VCSE involvement on strategic boards and forums.

Integration of the VCSE into the BSOL ICS (Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System)

CAVA facilitates VCSE engagement into the ICS through place-based meetings which link to a BSOL VCSE Leadership Alliance providing a single point of contact for VCSE engagement. We are increasingly working with health partners to develop better integration at a neighbourhood level.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

This has been a significant area of growth after the restrictions of COVID with CAVA staff attending a range of networking events such as the Solihull Business Network. CSR reached a total of £23,550 from a range of large Christmas events, sponsorship of the Civic Awards and other events. One day volunteering opportunities and longer-term relationships between businesses and VCSE organisations have been brokered.

Volunteering

This year we have increased the number of volunteer-involving organisations that have been given bespoke support and the number of groups that have registered their volunteer opportunities on our volunteering portal – Simply Connect. There has also been an increase in the number of volunteers who have registered on Simply Connect.

Significant investment has been given to outreach in order to promote volunteering. A series of flyers have been produced to promote opportunities, including targeted volunteer recruitment around volunteering gaps such as volunteer drivers. Volunteer engagement events have been held including the promotion of volunteering at Christmas.

Our Volunteering Coordinator provides one-to-one support with individuals interested in volunteering. CAVA is committed to inclusive volunteering, working with those who face barriers to volunteering. Many of the people who enquire about volunteering have additional support needs, primarily learning difficulties and mental health challenges.

CAVA has been working in partnership with SMBC and the National Trust to enable refugees, asylum seekers and British Nationals Overseas to try out volunteering opportunities at Baddesley Clinton. (see page 18)

Partnership working has also taken place with the placement and work experience team at Solihull College to match students on vocational courses to access relevant volunteering opportunities in Solihull.

In order to broaden engagement into volunteering, we have developed a number of volunteer tasters and short- term volunteering opportunities. This has included targeted work around the '*cost of living crisis*' and support for Foodbanks.

We co-delivered a West Midlands regional assembly with NCVO on '*Inclusive volunteering*', highlighting our approach to increasing access to volunteering.



Case Study

New Communities - Volunteering Taster and Heritage Experience

Solihull is currently a home and new community to a number of refugees, asylum seekers and British Nationals Overseas, some of whom reside in hotels. The challenge was to introduce a volunteering opportunity that took groups away from towns into green spaces to volunteer and experience the heritage and culture that the town has to offer.

We worked collaboratively with the National Trust at Baddesley Clinton to create an opportunity that included a volunteer taster of being a tour guide, and volunteer gardener. Solihull Community Development team supported with getting people to sign up and ensuring that everyone had appropriate clothing and a packed lunch for the day. For simplicity, transport was organised via taxi from a central location in Solihull.

The taster experience was very popular for the group, that was predominantly made up of men between the ages of 20-30. Most were professionals including teachers, classroom assistants, agricultural workers and university students. Most had limited English, but managed to communicate very well and support each other. All involved were very keen and excited about the taster day. It was notable how much interest they took in their surroundings and how much they seemed to appreciate the experience as a whole. In comparison to the average visitor to a historical/heritage site, they took lots of pictures asked many questions and really paid attention to the stories and information being shared by the volunteer tour guide, for whom they had a lot of respect for. They also very much appreciated her time and enthusiasm, and gave a very hearty round of applause at the end of her tour.

Lucy Simpson, Head Gardener at Baddesley Clinton said: *"The whole team were so enthusiastic and hardworking that about half an hour into the task I had allocated, I quickly had to think of more as they were getting things done so quickly. Despite the language barriers, not only did we get lots of work done but we had fun, especially when transferring the pumpkins to the greenhouse which soon became a game of pumpkin catch – quite tricky with the bigger ones! All in all, a fantastic day that really helped us look after the gardens."*

Big Local

Big Local is an exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to create lasting change in their communities; each area has had at least £1m to use over 10 years.

In Warwickshire we have two Big Local areas, Ansley, Old Arley and New Arley in North Warwickshire and Hill Top and Caldwell in Nuneaton. With only 3 years left of the programme, CAVA continues to act as their *'locally trusted organisation'* to administer and account for the distribution of the funds and employ 5 members of staff on behalf of the resident-led Partnerships.



Thank you so much for helping our family in such an enormous and generous way.

- CAVA Service user

BIG LOCAL: HILL TOP AND CALDWELL

Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local (HTC)

The final Big Local area Plan was adopted in 2022 after a significant period of local engagement and consultation; this Plan will see them deliver activities until December 2025 when the national programme closes out.

2022 saw the 'community hub' in New Hill Top become a key focus for the delivery of the activities and services for local families, but also the basis for their shared legacy of continuing to make the area a better place for residents. The Hub is a welcoming place, open 4 days a week where residents can meet, get advice, share skills and learn new ones; with coffee mornings, holiday activities for children and young people, an Afternoon Tea with the Grinch at Christmas, games nights and a base for accessing free or affordable food for families, as well as a weekly 'soup social' during the winter months.

The Partnership, via CAVA, continued their commitment to commissioning local organisations who could actively deliver on their behalf. Bedworth Rugby & Nuneaton Citizens Advice Bureau (BRANCAB) provided targeted outreach at the Hub and Wembrook Community Centre, Nuneaton & Bedworth Leisure Trust offered weekly youth clubs, and Ediblelinks provided monthly Food Bags for £1. They continued to discuss with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council about a large investment in improving local parks, which will hopefully come to fruition soon.

ACHIEVEMENTS



1,700

newsletters distributed
to local households



Popular and active
Facebook pages



200

local families enjoyed a
community Fun Day

BIG LOCAL: HILL TOP AND CALDWELL

Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local Cont'd

Events and publicity have been a really important way for the Partnership to ensure that residents know about HTC. They distributed newsletters to the 1,700 households, have 2 active facebook pages encouraging local discussion and self-help, and the shop window they have at the Hub is always filled with posters and information about things happening locally. A community fun day was held in the Summer and, despite the rain, it saw over 200 local families enjoy some free fun. Two coach trips were organised to Chester and Skegness, litter picks alongside Ronalds Rangers from the local McDonalds, and a bat walk to improve local understanding and care for the green spaces.

The Partnership have invested in building their capacity, attending numerous courses and part of the national Leadership Academy, and will continue to review itself and what they want as their legacy to look forward to their final phase as a Big Local Area.



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to visit their Facebook page.

Arley and Ansley Big Local

Arley and Ansley Big Local are in their second year of their final Community Plan 2021-2024. The Community Plan is developed by a resident led Partnership Board after consultation with the residents and community groups of New Arley, Old Arley and Ansley Village in North Warwickshire. The Community Plan outlines what the community needs and wants for their area and what priorities the Big Local should focus their resources on to become a better place to live for all.

This has included working with Arley Parish Council to investigate and progress plans of building a Sports Pavilion at Hill Top Playing Fields, continuing their delivery of community events and youth work, alongside investing in community groups, businesses and assets through their grants programme. They are also keen to develop their legacy; ensuring there is long lasting support, opportunities and pride in the community, creating a place where people enjoy living, working and volunteering. They aim to increase their volunteer numbers and support new and existing community groups to develop.

At its last open meeting 3 new members joined the board, and this year the Partnership Board dedicate their priorities to a number of subgroups this year those have included events, environment and grants.

During the year 2022-2023 Arley and Ansley Big Local continued supporting the Leys Youth Project, delivering youth clubs in Old Arley, New Arley and Ansley Village. The youth project (open to young people aged 8-18) has been working hard to tackle anti-social behaviour in the community; connecting with the local PCSO team and providing positive activities for young people to engage with, including a boxing project. They have also supported a group of young people to complete bikeability training, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and a first aid course. The youth project also hosted a family trip to Weston Super Mare.

Arley and Ansley Big Local have a 'Community Chest' grants programme and have been keen since the start of the project to support local residents, groups assets and businesses to access financial support that will build their capacity and improve the area for everyone.





Arley and Ansley Big Local Cont'd

They have delivered two grants workshops this year that have invited local groups, businesses and assets to learn about the Big local programme, meet the grants panel and ask questions. The workshops were supported by CAVA's Funding and Group Development Officer who provided information about other local grants and how to access support from CAVA.

This year they have awarded a total of £21,370, awarding £7,548 in community grants, £3,848 in asset grants and £9,974 in business grants.

Through their grants programme they have supported:

- Hood Lane Farm Coffee Hut
- Arley Primary School Trim Trail
- Ansley Toddler Group
- Pawesome K9 Lean to
- Reforged Blacksmith
- Ansley Morris Dancers Day of the Dance
- PA Alton Hedge Care
- Knit and natter group
- Arley Community Centre Covid recovery support
- Ansley Gardening group
- Ansley Parish Council for the Queens Jubilee
- Arley Royal British Legion
- Arley Parish Council for the Queens Jubilee



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to visit their Facebook page.

Three Villages Youth Project

The Three Villages Youth Project (The Ex-Mining Villages Partnership) has been delivering a weekly youth club in Hartshill, Dordon and Hurley for young people aged 11 to 18. They have worked with approximately 60 young people across the year 2022–2023. The project is currently funded by Warwickshire County Council Youth Work Fund to raise young people's awareness and understanding of knife crime, exploitation and anti-social behaviour. Through informal workshops they have supported young people to engage in conversations, debates and activities to learn about the dangers of carrying knives, how to keep themselves safe online and out and about and the effects of anti-social behaviour on their own lives and the wider community.

The youth club provides a safe space for young people to access information, positive activities and to spend time with friends outside of school.



Without the help and guidance of CAVA, the project wouldn't be in a position to help all the children it does.

THREE VILLAGES YOUTH PROJECT

Three Villages Youth Project Cont'd

Alongside our themed workshops we have also taken part in arts and crafts such as spray painting, hydro dipping and tie dying, cooking, sports and team building activities.

One of our young people successfully applied for a £500 grant to be able to arrange a trip for the young people to attend to help combat the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic and isolation periods. Young people took part in canoeing, archery and team building. Young people attended from all 3 youth clubs, which provided an opportunity to tackle rural isolation and build relationships between different communities.

We have taken many opportunities to encourage young people to attend activities in other villages, such as a knife crime workshop, first aid training, girls nights, boys nights and Easter themed activities, again supporting young people to build new friendships and reduce the feeling of rural isolation.

We have worked with our local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who have attended sessions so that young people can get to know them, ask questions and understand the law and legal consequences at different ages. We have also worked with Compass who have delivered sessions and support around substance misuse.



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to visit their Facebook page.

Newtown Centre

National Health Service (NHS) community services are a huge part of the daily footfall at the Centre, seeing around 250 daily for retinal eye screening and blood test appointments, but it was also great to welcome back a number of groups who had paused some of their activities during the pandemic, for instance Warwickshire Vision, Community Learning and also the over 50s Ladies Exercise group. We were also very proud to be able to host Nuneaton's main Christmas Day lunch for those who would otherwise be on their own.

We were proud to be the recipient of a defibrillator at the Centre, donated and fitted through funds raised by a local family. In March 2022 we were thrilled to be told we had been successful in our grant application for funds from the Warwickshire Council Council's Social Impact Fund, being awarded £93,000 towards some essential maintenance and refurbishment costs. We got straight on with the urgent work, and had a whole new main roof and flat roof, seeing us for the first time without buckets to catch the drips from the leaks in the 50+ year old roof!



The Newtown provides a valuable connection between health and wellbeing services and the community.

Newtown Centre Cont'd

Following our success with a grant from Warwickshire County Council's Social Fabric Fund, 2022 was all go at the Newtown Centre on phase 4 of our refurbishment works, with new roofs, ceilings, lighting, flooring throughout the Centre, as well as a new conservatory. The feedback from all the user groups about the improvements made it all worthwhile. On top of this we also received a small grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to replace the automatic front doors which has made both the access and appearance of the much loved 60's building a lot better.

We continue to be open 7 days a week, and are welcoming old and new groups alike, now with 23 regular activities each week, from health services and dance classes, to peer support groups and ESOL classes. Also, for the third year running we hosted the Nuneaton Community Christmas Day Lunch, whose volunteers prepared a delicious 4 course meal, provided gifts and transport for over 80 people who would otherwise be lonely or isolated at Christmas.



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to visit their Facebook page.

Stratford Social Inclusion Partnership

The Stratford Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) Project for the year 2022-23, has achieved impactful work in collaboration with Stratford-on-Avon District Council and voluntary and community groups.

Enabling Social Impact Through Collaboration

CAVA plays a vital role in promoting social inclusion within the District by employing a dedicated part-time Development Officer, funded by Stratford-on-Avon District Council. The primary objective of this role was to provide support to voluntary, community, and social enterprises (VCSE), thereby empowering them to have a greater impact on SIP priorities.

CAVA re-applied for this funding and has secured funding for a further 5 years from Stratford-on-Avon District Council.



These groups play a vital role in enhancing the physical and mental well-being of people while creating lasting connections within the community.

- Cllr Jo Barker

Stratford Social Inclusion Partnership Cont'd

Impressive Funding Success

Over the course of the third year, CAVA achieved remarkable success in securing funding for VCSE organisations, with an impressive total of £384,505. This achievement represented a very pleasing 62% increase in funding secured compared to the previous year (2021/22). Since the initiation of the project in 2020, an impressive cumulative sum of £771,446 was secured for VCSE organisations by the end of the reporting year.

Sustainability and Growth Support

The project also focused on facilitating the sustainability and growth of VCSE organisations, enhancing their capacity to make a lasting impact on SIP priorities. The Development Officer worked closely with over 44 organisations, providing valuable assistance in areas such as governance support, strategy development, and efficient project delivery.

Celebrating Milestones

One of the highlights of the year was the celebration organised jointly by the Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Social Inclusion Partnership and CAVA. This event announced the milestone of the project securing over £700,000 in funding since its inception.

ACHIEVEMENTS



£384,505

secured for VCSE organisations during the partnerships third year



62%

increase in funding secured compared to the previous year



44

organisations have received close support from our Development worker





Celebrating Milestones Cont'd

Councillor Jo Barker, Portfolio Holder for Homes, Health, and Wellbeing, praised the project's success in enabling more residents to benefit from the invaluable support offered by local voluntary and community groups. These groups, she said, play a vital role in enhancing the physical and mental well-being of people while creating lasting connections within the community. The additional funding support came at a crucial time, providing aid to local communities facing challenges related to the cost of living.

Success Stories

The year also saw some inspiring success stories, showcasing the positive impact of the project on various VCSE organisations:

Warwickshire Reminiscence Action Project (WRAP)

A long-standing service provider for people with dementia, WRAP faced considerable challenges due to the COVID pandemic. With the help of the project's Development Officer over a period of 6 months WRAP successfully identified key issues and devised a transitional action plan. This plan facilitated a successful application for National Lottery Awards for All funding and explore other funding opportunities.

STRATFORD SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP (SIP)

Success Stories Cont'd

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership: Community Developer

This Partnership continued to expand its services with the support of the project. The Development Officer played a crucial role in securing funding for a new Community Developer paid role within the Partnership, contributing to its ongoing growth and development.

Wixford Village Hall

The project provided essential guidance to Wixford Village Hall, helping them secure funds for the rebuilding of their beloved community hall. Assistance was offered in their Community Infrastructure Levy application, UK Shared Prosperity Fund application, and securing £175,000 from a Community Ownership Fund application, culminating in sufficient funds to commence the rebuilding process in 2023. The Community Ownership success was particularly pleasing as it was a highly competitive national fund involving a considerable amount of work by the Hall committee with application guidance from the project.

Promotion of Community Infrastructure Fund

The Development Officer actively promoted the Community Infrastructure Fund to the VCSE community across the District, which was a first for the district and provided guidance on four applications from organisations that lacked the capacity, skills, or awareness to apply otherwise.

Supporting a Thriving Community

Numerous other projects received support throughout the year. These included Warwickshire County Council's Councillor grant scheme, the loneliness and isolation fund, Green Shoots, emerging communities at Meon Vale and Upper Lighthorne, Men Shed Stratford Upon Avon, Bishopton Community Centre, the Ken Kennet Centre, Southam Community Summit and the potential development of the old Youth Centre in Studley. The project also lent its support to the Stratford Activities meeting, which aimed to enrich the lives of individuals seeking asylum in the District.

Supporting a Thriving Community Cont'd

This year marked the initiation of the Community Builder post in Clopton and Bishopton, an initial idea by the Development Officer and brought to life through initial funding partners in 2020. We were delighted to welcome Rachel to the Stratford CAVA team. Although this report only covers a few months of the Community Builder project, it is evident that this role has significantly impacted local communities. It has fostered strong synergy between the role and the project, particularly in funding and governance aspects, resulting in successful funding applications. The Community Builder post has proven to be an invaluable addition, enhancing these communities' development and overall well-being.

We extend our thanks to Stratford-on-Avon District Council for their continued support and the invaluable contributions of all partners and stakeholders. Together, we like to think we have made a significant difference in promoting social inclusion and enhancing the well-being of the community.

We look forward to continuing this journey and achieving even greater milestones in the years to come.

Bishopton & Clopton - Community Builder

The Bishopton and Clopton Community Builder role is commissioned by a partnership of organisations in Stratford comprising Stratford District Council, Orbit, Stratford Town Trust and Stratford Town Council.

The funding enables the worker to support the communities of Bishopton and Clopton, working towards the following priorities:

1. Community Safety & Housing

Residents feel safer in their neighbourhoods.

2. Environmental Action

The areas are cleaner and greener, with more people enjoying their environment.

3. Community Activities

There are more & varied activities available for residents of all ages to engage in.

4. Health

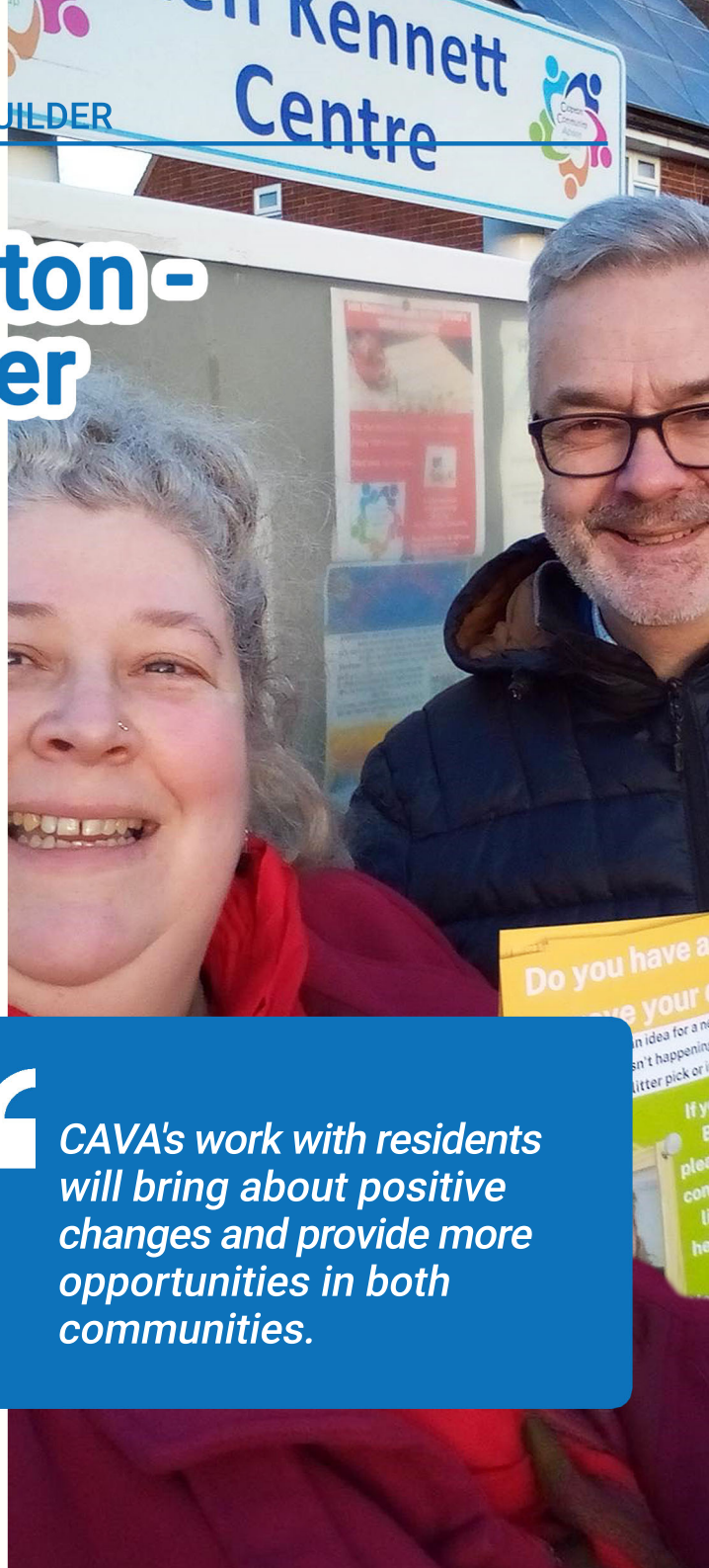
Residents feel more able to help themselves to improve their health and wellbeing.

5. VCSE Resilience

There is greater involvement of residents in local formal and informal community action.



CAVA's work with residents will bring about positive changes and provide more opportunities in both communities.



BISHOPTON AND CLOPTON - COMMUNITY BUILDER

Community Builder Cont'd

Since starting the project in November 2022 the Community Builder has undertaken a range of activities including door knocking, engagement with the Warm Hubs and Community Connects. We've undertaken radio interviews and targeted social media activities, engagement in communities, working with residents to identify projects and supporting applications for funding to support these, all to make the area an even better place for all to live.

In partnership with Barnardos, Police Community Support Officers, Orbit, Timebank, CAVA, Town Councillors, WCC Community Workers and Bishopton community members, a programme of door knocking was deployed to 935 homes, resulting in 200 conversations and a number of responses to an online survey.

The role supported the establishment of 2 Warm Hubs in both Clopton and Bishopton which have carried on as Community Connects to continue with the partnership working started already. With our support, WCC Cost of Living grants and Community Mental Health Transformation funding was secured.

A number of exciting new projects have been agreed and will be implemented across the next year starting with Bishopton Brook Project and the Hodgsons Green Project in Clopton, and also a summer trip.

ACHIEVEMENTS



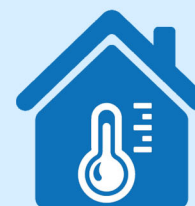
935

homes were visited through a programme of door knocking



200+

doorstep conversations were held resulting in additional responses to an online survey



2

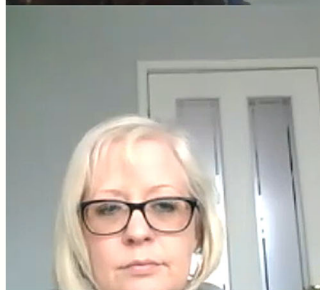
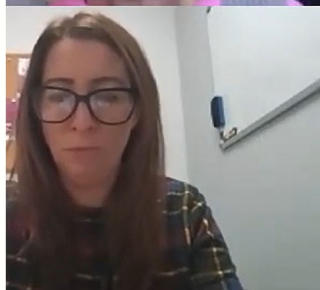
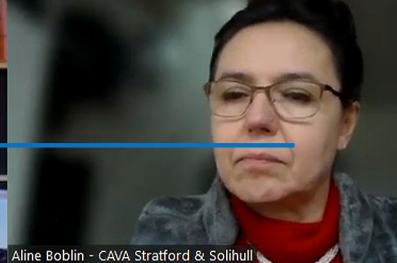
Warm Hubs have been established in both Clopton and Bishopton

Health & Wellbeing

As a local infrastructure organisation we frequently participate in a variety of health and wellbeing forums, boards, and networks to gather pertinent information to share with our members, to influence decision makers, and to raise the voice of the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE) at a local neighbourhood, place, regional and national level. This has included the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action's (NAVCA) health and wellbeing forums and the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership.

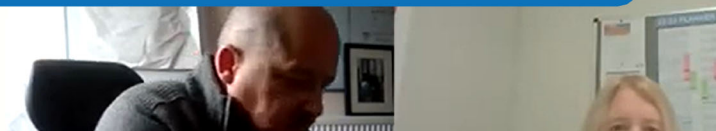
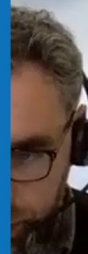
On the 1st July 2022 Integrated Care Systems (ICS) were launched across the UK. CAVA are working with Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) and NHS Birmingham and Solihull on the programme of embedding the VCFSE sector into Birmingham and Solihull's ICS. CAVA has hosted quarterly online events open to all VCFSEs, with various guest speakers. Insightful discussions have been facilitated covering a range of topics including: Birmingham & Solihull ICS developments; the Fairer Futures Fund; and other general VCFSE sector updates.

In Warwickshire our CEO, Karen represents the VCSE on the ICS and ICB and operates a leaders group to ensure the sector voice is heard.



“

I am thankful for this partnership that I find supportive and proactive.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Social Prescribing

CAVA have been part of the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP)'s thriving communities programme, aligned to their funded Midlands wide learning together programme. Representing the sector at a regional level CAVA are on a number of working groups aligned to social prescribing and VCS development. As well as feeding in to regional discussions, updates from Thriving Communities are shared on our website, via newsletters and on our social media platforms.

CAVA was an active member of the Warwickshire Social Prescribing Network - and its working group - presenting to social prescribers, VCSEs and other stakeholders at the last meeting in April 2022 about some of the examples of ConnectWELL's partnerships and co-production approaches.

Local infrastructure organisational support has been available to the various providers of community, hospital, Primary Care Network, and children and young people social prescribers, individual social prescribers, recipients of social prescribing, and the many VCFSEs they can be linked to across Warwickshire and Solihull.

Volunteering in a health and care environment

Helpforce called on CAVA's expertise when creating their free online training offer for all volunteers within health and care environments in the UK. The modules cover: factors that affect health; health inequalities; preparing for contact; support needs; and supporting yourself and others.

Volunteering in a health and care environment

Back to Health is a volunteering project in Warwickshire North Place which continues to develop as it progresses in its offers of volunteer intervention to improve health and wellbeing to patients at various stages of their pathway, ranging from waiting lists to post-discharge. CAVA have supported George Eliot Hospital and Helpforce with this work to better support patients before they go into hospital and after they leave. Patients who are identified as needing more intensive support can be supported by local voluntary and community groups in their homes and/or within community venues.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a key focus of our work here at CAVA, ensuring that our delivery and the organisations we work with offer safe activities and support for children, young people and vulnerable adults across Solihull and Warwickshire. We recognise staff and volunteers need to clearly understand their roles and responsibilities aligned to safeguarding. VCFSEs have had the opportunity to attend several training opportunities to improve and refresh awareness with an experienced safeguarding practitioner.

Better Health & Wellbeing for the CAVA team

CAVA Inform staff newsletter

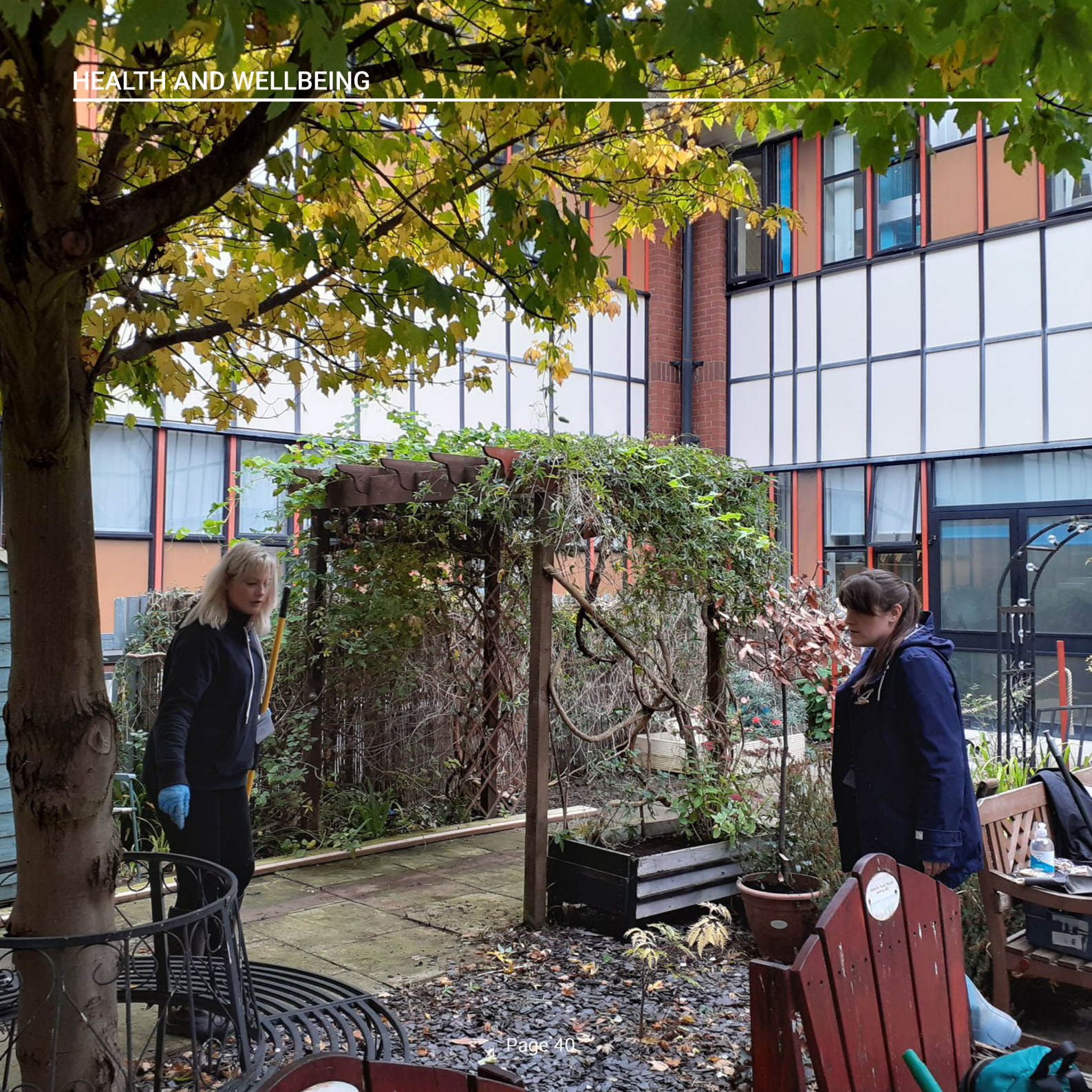
Staff health and wellbeing has always been a priority of ours. We continued to send out quarterly wellbeing newsletters to all employees and volunteers with advice and top tips on self-care: various seasonal focuses on topics of nutrition, the 5 ways to Mental Wellbeing, managing symptoms of common conditions (e.g. hayfever); infection control (e.g. minimising spread of COVID-19); stress management self-help techniques; and local opportunities for engaging with nature and being physically active.

Cost of Living

Supporting both staff and those we work with around the cost of living remained prevalent, with multiple events and updates around support options. There were also dedicated e-grapevine editions to communicate support options available.

Employee Assistance Programme

Valuing the wellbeing of the CAVA team, the Employee Assistance Programme continues to be available for those wishing for emotional support and practical guidance. The programme has a range of options to access such as structured counselling, and legal advisors providing guidance on non-work issues such as: writing a will; property and partnership rights; and motoring issues.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

CAVA Health and Wellbeing Events

CAVA regularly holds staff events each year. At our latest Away Day, staff were able to give feedback about the strategy and ideas for the future in line with CAVA's overarching Vision and Strategic priorities for 2023–26. To deliver the strategy, working groups are being created to enable expert input from the team, including one around health and wellbeing, and another around equality, diversity and inclusion.

Listening to feedback, CAVA intends to meet as one team more often, increasing meets from twice yearly, to quarterly; an opportunity to link in with others, be one organisation, hear updates, review progress and participate in training, having guest speakers as appropriate. In addition, there are plans to have two 'non work' sessions, to foster connections, and gain ideas to increase wellbeing and health.

Disability Confident Standard

CAVA is an equal opportunities employer – 'Putting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion into Practice'. We are a Disability Confident Employer level 2 accredited and actively promote this through our recruitment to encourage applicants from anyone living with a disability. CAVA staff who have a disability or long term health condition are provided with support through reasonable adjustments and flexible working to enable them to effectively remain in post.

Accessibility Passports

As part of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, CAVA are committed to supporting discussions around removing any barriers and maximising the potential of each employee and volunteer in the workplace. This reporting year, consultation has occurred around the introduction of Accessibility Passports, a discussion document for conversations between a new member of staff or volunteer with a disability, long term health condition, impairment, mental or physical health condition including menopause.

Take a Pause

The Take a Pause meetups, exploring the topic of menopause, have continued this year. Led by our Menopause Champion, people were able to increase their understanding of issues related to the menopause and symptoms management. The sessions, open to all, also welcomed various guest speakers. For example, the author Kate Codrington shared the empowerment of looking at menopause as a Second Spring, a positive journey into a new stage in life. Psychologist Simona Stokes presented the benefits, for some people, of CBT (Cognitive Behaviour Therapy) to address some menopause symptoms.

A selection of empowering resources are available to our employees and volunteers in our online health and wellbeing library. There are also regular updates distributed to our team by our Menopause Champion via email and newsletter.





Make a Difference Day

There are well known benefits to volunteering for both recipients and the volunteer. Every year CAVA staff mark Make a Difference Day by volunteering for local causes. This year contributions included: our Northern CAVA teams revamping an old shed as a new home for some goats at Oldbury Cottage Care Farm, which supports people with learning disabilities and/or dementia.

Elsewhere, CAVA supported the Scenic Design team at Rugby Theatre.

The Warwick District team supported Warwick District Council with their toy drive campaign for vulnerable families in Warwick District.

The Solihull CAVA team thoroughly enjoyed planting bulbs and weeding at Castle Bromwich Graveyard with Castle Bromwich Youth & Community Partnership and Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. The team came away feeling that they had made a difference by volunteering. The opportunity also made a difference to the team being able to meet together in a beautiful green space, and improve their physical and mental well-being

Volunteers for Carers

Volunteers for Carers, delivered by CAVA, started in July 2021 and the delivery ran through to the end of September 2022, with final reporting and administration to the 30th November 2022. The impetus for the project is the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on unpaid carers, many of whom lost their support networks overnight and are struggling to rebuild these in the current climate. With this in mind, the aim of the project was to develop volunteering programmes through existing Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (VCSOs) to support carers, particularly in relation to loneliness and social isolation.

Summary of achievements

At the close of the project the key achievements can be categorised as follows:

1. Developed and established 3 new volunteer programmes - with recruitment of 35 volunteers to deliver the programmes;



I know my visits and support make a real difference. It is almost as though a cloud has lifted.

- Volunteer carer

VOLUNTEERS FOR CARERS

Summary of achievements Cont'd

2. Recruitment of volunteers for 10 existing services delivered by local voluntary organisations - 70 interested volunteers identified and referred to these organisations.
3. 42 volunteers trained in a range of skills to enable them to be effective in their respective roles.
4. Small Grant funding programme developed with 22 groups awarded funding of between £250 and £1,000 to offer carers a break or activity - £18,120 distributed.
5. Information disseminated on volunteer support available to carers through 2 newsletters (Help at Hand, issues 1 and 2); development of web pages linked to partner sites; production and distribution of flyers; 60 Facebook posts promoting support to carers in Warwickshire by partner organisations. Finally, by working with service providers to encourage and help them upload their service details onto 'SearchOut Warwickshire'.
6. Delivery of 2 hour session at the BeWell conference to disseminate information on support to carers to wider group of professionals working in the health and social care setting within Warwickshire.

ACHIEVEMENTS



42

volunteers trained in a range of skills to enable them to be effective in their respective roles



£18,120

of funding has been distributed



22

groups awarded funding of between £250 & £1,000 to offer carers a break or activity

Case Study

Time for You - Doris and Christine

Doris lives in Rugby with her husband David. David was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease during Covid and his condition has deteriorated rapidly. Doris is a full-time carer now to David, having given her job up to spend more time with him. She gets help with David's personal care for one hour a day in the mornings but she does everything else for David during the day and at night.

Doris was identified by the Carers Trust as someone who would benefit from receiving visits at home from a volunteer befriender, recruited through the 'Time for You' service.

Doris was matched with a befriending volunteer, Christine, who provided a regular friendly face each week and gave Doris the opportunity to chat freely about whatever was bothering her, or indeed about her interest outside of her caring responsibilities. Doris said:

"The carers come and we talk about David and his needs. Christine comes and we do still talk about David but we also talk about other things and this helps me to leave my worries behind for a while. I so look forward to her visits and that makes a hell of a difference to how I feel!"

Vaccinations Project

Over the course of the year 56 CAVA volunteers provided 2151 hours of volunteer support to 4 vaccination sites across Warwickshire:

Bedworth - 6 volunteers provided 628 hours

Rugby - 1 volunteer provided 284 hours

Southam - 6 volunteers provided 51 hours

Stoneleigh - 43 volunteers provided 1,188 hours

Meeting and greeting all to the site, CAVA volunteers operated both indoors and outside, through all weathers providing a warm, reassuring welcome to all.

September 2022 was particularly challenging with all the rain we had, as Stoneleigh operated a drive through clinic at this time, requiring volunteers to be outside at all times, directing traffic and ensuring the safety of all.

Whilst Rugby was not part of the original project brief, Basil, one of our registered volunteers happily took on the task of supporting the Rugby clinic and on his own provided 284 hours of volunteer support.



“

I felt I needed to help in some way, so I applied to volunteer through Warwickshire CAVA.

- CAVA Volunteer

Community Mental Health Transformation

The Community Mental Health Transformation (CMHT), Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Team began in April 2022. It is a joint programme with Voluntary Action Coventry (VAC) to cover the whole of Coventry and Warwickshire. Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust wanted to look at transforming Community Mental Health Services and wanted the involvement of the VCSE.

The key benefit of the CMHT is that people with serious mental health illness will get easier and faster access to a wider range of health, social care and voluntary and community services, delivered in their local neighbourhood.

The Transformation is co-produced, including Re-Think, Grapevine, Experts by Experience and Experts by Training.

The VCSE Team acts as a link between the VCSE, CMHT and co-production workstreams.



The service you provide has been a lifeline - I'm not sure where I would have ended up without your support.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION (CMHT)

Community Mental Health Transformation (CMHT) Cont'd

The VCSE Team acts as a link between the VCSE, CMHT and co-production workstreams.

The work streams include:

- Eating Disorders
- Personal and Complex Trauma
- Enablement (recovery)
- 18-25 year olds
- Older People (over 65's without dementia)
- Social Care Interventions
- Physical Health of people with a severe mental illness

As part of the programme, £300,00 was ring fenced for VCSE organisations to address local health and life inequalities for people with severe mental illness. The Innovation Fund offered grants from £3,000 to £25,000. The fund was able to support 14 organisations that deliver across Coventry and Warwickshire.

The Team has:

Made connections with 166 people from 138 organisations across Coventry and Warwickshire. Mental Health Liaison Officers have visited organisations to speak to employees, volunteers and participants.

Delivered scoping and ideas workshops to VCSE organisations to establish what is the current situation regarding mental health provision in the area and what gaps there are in that provision. This information has been fed back to the CMHT Board.

Set up bi-monthly forums for VCSE organisations, in person and on-line, to encourage networking, sharing best practice and developing ideas on how to work more effectively with CWPT.

Highlighted to CWPT, the variety of Mental Health services within the VCSE and advocated on their behalf.

Brought 20 counselling organisations together to support them to form a consortium.

Connected Occupational Therapists and Mental Health Workers with VCSE Organisations to look at how they can work together to support people with Serious Mental Health Illnesses.

South Warwickshire Place

South Warwickshire Place focuses on improving the lives of people within the areas of Warwick District and Stratford-upon-Avon District through partnerships and collaboration from organisations supporting health and care needs (such as local government, health, housing, social care, Healthwatch and VCSE's). CAVA represents the VCSE at South Warwickshire Place Board and Delivery groups.

Our VCSEs play a vital role in the health of communities. South Warwickshire Place is supported by a diverse and vibrant voluntary sector. Using civil society calculations CAVA estimates there are 2,200 Stratford District groups and 2,400 Warwick District groups. These vary from grassroots organisations led by volunteers to large charities.

The South Warwickshire Place Board supported a programme of VCSE engagement work which ran for one year until 31st August 2023.



“

It was very informative and a useful networking opportunity - thank you!

- Event attendee

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE PLACE

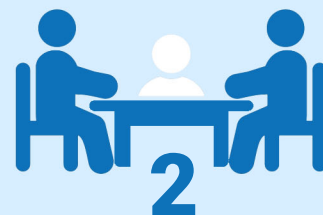
South Warwickshire Place Cont'd

This is enabling a meaningful and collaborative approach with the VCSE sector aligned to engagement on South Warwickshire Place's health priorities, and developments around partnership working.

The engagement work has so far included CAVA creating: a specific webpage to provide focussed information about South Warwickshire Place; news articles; specific updates in newsletters and on social media channels; a virtual event and some in person events across South Warwickshire. Topics of the events have included: informative explanations and updates on South Warwickshire Place from Public Health Warwickshire, and South Warwickshire Foundation Trust; an introduction to the Tribe App with BronzeLabs; exploring the challenges, opportunities and threats for the VCSE sector and the communities we serve aligned to health; VCSEs, health and the environment; consultation about South Warwickshire Place's draft vision and strategy; and exploring the best way forward for ongoing engagement around South Warwickshire Place. There have been additional opportunities within the events for networking, where successful engagement and connections have been made. This has increased knowledge of partner's referral pathways and improved understanding, providing mechanisms for future collaboration.

Particular input and support from CAVA was given to a successful collaborative funding application to address respiratory health as part of the levelling up agenda in Lillington.

ACHIEVEMENTS



engagement sessions were held,
increasing knowledge and understanding



41

different organisations
registered an interest in attending



100%

of respondents found the
engagement sessions to be useful

South Warwickshire Place Cont'd

Future engagement sessions have a focus on partnership working, opportunities for collaborative bidding for emerging and existing pressures. As further developments around South Warwickshire Place's thematic priorities develop, there is the aim to further involve the VCSE with these.

There has been successful engagement and connections made, supporting groups to increase knowledge of partner's referral pathways and improving understanding, providing mechanisms for future collaboration.

The impact of this work continues to be fed back to South Warwickshire Place Board to inform them of the current and evolving local VCSE landscape. This will continue to shape future plans, such as the approach to the roll out of Tribe.

Case Study

Partnership working and collaboration

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust joined CAVA for an online event in March, to help facilitate VCSE's to further explore: climate and environment (one of South Warwickshire Place's priorities); opportunities for partnership working and collaboration related to this topic; and how nature can support and improve employee and volunteer's wellbeing. Through the discussions with 18 different organisations we were able to collate: some of the barriers the communities they work with experience when accessing outdoors; suggestions for breaking down the barriers; and resources which would be appreciated for VCSEs to support greater engagement with the outdoors.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE PLACE



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
	£	£
Income	745,641	714,817
Expenditure	<u>(706,360)</u>	<u>(691,551)</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>39,281</u>	<u>23,266</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
	£	£
Income	0	0
Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
	£	£
Income	799,389	587,686
Expenditure	<u>(709,858)</u>	<u>(734,079)</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>89,531</u>	<u>(146,393)</u>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 2023

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Property	520,539	472,039
Other	<u>16,406</u>	<u>16,449</u>
	536,945	488,488
Current Assets less Liabilities	<u>526,773</u>	<u>451,161</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>1,063,718</u>	<u>939,649</u>
Unrestricted Funds - General	394,919	355,638
Unrestricted Funds - Designated	24,548	24,548
Restricted Funds	453,945	364,414
Endowment Funds	<u>190,306</u>	<u>195,049</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,063,718</u>	<u>939,649</u>

The financial Summary figures in this review have been extracted from the full audited accounts. A copy of the full audited accounts are available from www.wcava.org.uk/reports-publications/

To obtain a printed copy contact **Ruby Sarkaria**, Finance Manager on **07966 380442**.



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to read this report online.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you...

We are extremely grateful to all those local communities, individuals and funders who have pledged their support and given generously. We would especially like to thank the following for their kind support:

- Big Lottery Fund
- Bishopton and Clopton Community Centres
- Children In Need
- Coventry and Warwickshire ICS
- Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust
- Local Trust
- North Warwickshire Borough Council
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
- Orbit
- Place Partnerships
- Rugby Borough Council
- Rugby Health Network
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Warwickshire CCG
- Stratford District Council
- Stratford Town Council
- Stratford Town Trust
- Warwick District Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Warwickshire North CCG

Equality Statement

If you require this publication in a different format or language, please contact us on 01926 477512, email: information@wcava.org.uk or write to the address below:

**Warwickshire Community And Voluntary Action, 4&6 Clemens Street, Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire CV31 2DL**

Acknowledgements

© Arley and Ansley Big Local (Page 23 & 24) Arley and Ansley Big Local Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/arleyansleybiglocal>
@Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (Page 54) Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/wildlifetrusts>

Membership

What does being a Member involve?

CAVA is a registered charity but it is also a limited company and so being a member is a bit like being a shareholder in a company anywhere. Like a shareholder, you will not run the Company on a day-to-day basis.

As a member, you delegate this role to a Board of Trustees who will be responsible for running the Charity. The Board will be expected to keep you up-to-date with its decision-making.

The Board of Directors has an obligation to call a General Meeting at least once a year, involving all the members. At this meeting members will be asked to decide on things like voting on resolutions put by the board, electing the directors to the board, electing the auditors, and approving the accounts.

Membership Benefits

- Support around HR, IT, Accounting, Telecoms and Payroll needs through BOSS (Back Office Support Services)
- Discounted rates and priority bookings for training and events
- Have voting rights at our Annual General Meeting
- Access our Resource Library
- And best of all, membership is FREE!

To find out more about becoming a member, or to see if your organisation has already registered, please visit: www.wcava.org.uk/membership



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to register as a member online.



Karen Winchcombe
Chief Executive

Looking to the future

The Annual Report for 2022-2023 highlights the breadth of activity and engagement completed by CAVA. This cannot happen without our funders or the passionate, diverse and resilient VCSE that we have the pleasure of working with. A HUGE thank you to our amazing staff and volunteers who work extremely hard to deliver our services.

This is my first formal contribution to our Annual Report having taken over as CEO of CAVA in 2022.

Our sector continues to see changes and, as we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, we found ourselves facing further pressures for our communities around the challenges aligned to inflation and the ongoing war in Ukraine. The climate for the VCSE aligned to funding and volunteer capacity remains a challenge and our work to represent and support the sector across Warwickshire and Solihull remains key.

As we move into 2023-2024 our focus will be on delivering against our new 3-5 year Strategy which is all about supporting the VCFSE and the impact they make across their communities.

CAVA will also continue to build on its current priorities and look at identifying needs so that we are able to respond by fostering support, build skills and find solutions to help address emerging issues. The cost of living crisis remains one of the key challenges for the sector and we will continue to work in collaboration with our partners to ensure the VCFSE are able to help co-design support for communities as well as directly with groups and organisations.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our Vision and Strategic Priorities

Make a positive impact within communities by promoting and advocating the impact of volunteering and support delivered by the VCFSE. Work collaboratively with partners to reduce inequalities, tackle disadvantage, celebrate the diversity of the sector, its people and its value within society.

- 1** An **ENGAGED** organisation that understands the **DIVERSITY** of the sector and uses its **VOICE** to **ADVOCATE** on behalf of the wider **VCSE**
- 2** A **COLLABORATIVE** organisation that works in **PARTNERSHIP** to find solutions that positively impacts communities
- 3** A **VISIBLE** organisation that showcases the **DIVERSITY** and value of **VOLUNTEERING** and the **VCSE**
- 4** A **FORWARD-THINKING** and **RESPONSIVE** organisation that **INVESTS** in the future for itself and the **VCSE**
- 5** An organisation that **VALUES** and invests in its **PEOPLE**

I look forward to working with our staff team, volunteers and partners over the next year to evolve our new strategy and support our vibrant VCSFE across Solihull and Warwickshire.

WARWICKSHIRE & SOLIHULL

CAVA 

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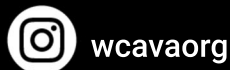
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