

Date: 24 June 2016



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

To: **Members of the Executive**

Mr MA Hall (Chairman)
Mr K Morrell (Vice-Chairman)
Mr CW Boothby
Mr C Ladkin

Mr M Nickerson
Mr SL Rooney
Mrs MJ Surtees
Ms AV Wright

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear member,

Please find attached a report which was omitted from the agenda for the meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** on **WEDNESDAY, 29 JUNE 2016 at 6.30 pm.**

I would be grateful if you could place this with your papers for the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Owen
Democratic Services Officer

LATE REPORT

- (a) Voluntary & Community Sector arrangements - end of year progress report 2015/16
(Pages 1 - 22)

To inform members of progress and outcomes arising from our locality voluntary and community sector (VCS) arrangements during 2015/16.

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Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

Executive 29 June 2016

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH VCS ARRANGEMENTS – END OF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT 2015/16

Report of Deputy Chief Executive – Community Direction

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To inform members of progress and outcomes arising from our locality voluntary and community sector (VCS) arrangements during 2015/16, and specifically,
- VCS commissioning outcomes 2015/16, and
 - Proposed focus for VCS commissioning 2016/17.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Note the progress, achievements and outcomes 2015/16.
- 2.2 Endorse the proposed focus for VCS commissioning 2016/17.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 Historically Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) has supported a number of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations within the locality, through grant funding and 'in kind' arrangements. However, in the context of ever reducing public sector budgets and subsequently grant funding, during 2012, the authority recognised the need to find a more sustainable approach to VCS support, development, and delivery within the Borough, in order to continue to meet the needs of our diverse, and most vulnerable members of our community.
- 3.1.1. Therefore, from April 2013, HBBC commissioned one of our leading VCS organisations, Next Generation, to lead on the development of new VCS arrangements for our locality, with the aim of sustaining our front line VCS service delivery organisations, through the establishment of arrangements to enable **locality based commissioning of the VCS**.
- 3.1.2. The arrangements we now have in place for Hinckley & Bosworth, which are unique to Leicestershire, include:

- An **overarching VCS Development Forum**, comprising 40 VCS organisations (both large and small), enabling learning and development, collaboration, communication, and a key mechanism for listening to and capturing the voice of the local people of the Borough. The Forum meets on a regular basis, to help inform overall developments for our local arrangements, for focused development sessions on topical issues, and importantly, as a vehicle to enable networking and collaboration.
- A **VCS database and Directory** detailing the type of provision and geographical location of VCS organisations across the Borough – comprising approximately 1,200 entries. This provides the key access route for the Borough Council and other key partners, for communicating, engaging and consulting with the VCS.
- A **VCS Commissioning Board**, made up of VCS representatives, (and two HBBC Executive Members – Cllr M Hall and Cllr C Ladkin) which provides a robust, fair and accessible mechanism through which the **local authority and other sectors can commission the VCS**
- To date, three rounds of **VCS Commissioning over 3 years, totalling £94,300, allocated to 42 projects**, to deliver a range of front line VCS service provision. From 2013/14/ HBBC has ring fenced £20,000 annually, to support VCS Commissioning, aligned to health and wellbeing priorities. In addition WLCCG and Public Health have also commissioned the VCS through our local arrangements. Full breakdown as follows:

Period	Commissioning Brief	Funding Source	Funding allocated	No. of lead Service Providers supported
2013/14	To sustain good mental health & wellbeing in the community	HBBC	20,000	10
2014/15	To reduce the impact of social isolation and loneliness	HBBC	15,000*	6
		Early Help	3,000	5
2014/15	Staying Healthy Community Grant	Public Health	13,000	7
2014/15	Bespoke Befriending Scheme	WLCCG	10,000	1
2015/16	To support delivery of priorities set out in the H&B Health and Wellbeing Strategy	HBBC Public Health	20,000 13,300	13
Total			94,300	42

*Please note during 2014/15 £5k of the £20k HBBC funding was allocated to support a part time mental health co-ordinator role (jointly funded by HBBC, WLCCG and Public Health), a dedicated resource to undertake mapping of mental health provision and pathways of support, within Hinckley and Bosworth.

- Successful establishment of **VCS collaboration** through the development Forum, in submitting joint commissioning bids, and subsequent joint delivery, which has in turn enabled sustainability

- Effective **representation of the interests and offer of the VCS** at key delivery partnerships within the Borough, including: Think Family Partnership, and Health & Wellbeing Partnership, and others as and when required. This has enabled a greater understanding of the opportunities for both commissioning and improved joint working between the statutory and voluntary & community sector.
- 3.1.3. It is important to note that the ongoing development of our local VCS arrangements, is enabled through the commitment of our VCS, who continue to given considerable time to informing, reviewing and developing this model of working.
- 3.2. **Commissioning Outcomes 2015/16**
- 3.2.1. In 2015/16, **£33,300 of funds were allocated to support 13 projects**. (Funding source £20,000 – HBBC, £13,300 - Public Health Staying Healthy Community Grant Fund)
- Appendix 1** provides a summary of the projects commissioned in 2015/16 and key outcomes delivered
- Appendix 2** provides feedback from some of the beneficiaries of projects commissioned during 2015/16.
- 3.3. **Proposed focus for VCS Commissioning 2016/17**
- 3.3.1. In informing the proposed focus for VCS Commissioning for 2016/17, we have reflected on the learning, and outcomes arising from VCS commissioning over the last 3 years. Notable factors include:
- 3.3.2. In terms of service delivery, the VCS are well placed to support the Borough's health and wellbeing priorities, providing cost effective practical frontline provision, that complements statutory provision, and specifically in relation to
- Reducing the impact of social isolation and loneliness
 - Helping maintain good mental health and wellbeing within our communities
- 3.3.3. The VCS are often closest to the community, and based on this insight, have the flexibility to tailor their delivery approaches to meet customer needs, in a timely way, not always afforded by the statutory sector.
- 3.3.4. We have a number of really good examples of work commissioned, where several VCS organisations have worked collaboratively, which has increased capacity, enabled an enhanced offer for the community, and importantly secured sustainability of the work being delivered. Examples of these projects include: The Markfield Mayflower Project, Hinckley Baptist Pathways Journey Well with Dementia Project, and the Hinckley & Bosworth Community Transport and Multiple Sclerosis Project – **detailed at Appendix 1**
- 3.3.5. Therefore, it is proposed that commissioning for 2016/17 should continue to be focused in supporting health and wellbeing related priorities. However, importantly we need to ensure that our approach to VCS commissioning, supports sustainable models of delivery.

- 3.3.6. Following Council's decision to allocate a further £25,000 to the existing £20,000 funds p.a. to support VCS commissioning, it is proposed that this is allocated as follows for 2016/17:
- i). £25,000 commissioning pot to sustain existing/or new 'collaborative models', at a maximum of £5,000 per project (as described in paragraph 3.3.4.)
 - ii). £20,000 commissioning pot to continue to support smaller VCS organisations to establish or grow projects, at a maximum of £3,000 per project, with the longer term aim of building more collaborative and sustainable delivery models
- 3.3.6. In relation to the further £25,000 agreed by Council, to support Community Safety priorities, the focus of this commissioning will be to support vulnerable perpetrators and victims of ASB, offering early intervention and prevention support, with the aim of proactively seeking to address some of the underlying causes.
4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES
- 4.1 This report is to be taken in open session.
5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (TF)
- 5.1 Proposed allocations can be met from existing VCS budgets.
6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)
- 6.1 None
7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS
- 7.1 The contents of the report relate to and support the following strategic aims:
- Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhoods
 - Thriving Economy
 - Safer and Healthier Borough
 - Strong and distinctive communities
8. CONSULTATION
- 8.1 This report has taken account of the ongoing consultation undertaken by Next Generation through the established VCS Development Forum, Commissioning Board, and broader VCS database, to inform the proposals for 2016/17.
9. RISK IMPLICATIONS
- 9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Lack of sustainability of key VCS organisations within Hinckley and Bosworth, resulting in no VCS infrastructure arrangements within the locality, and significant reduction in frontline delivery of essential provision	Sustainability of the H&B VCS locality arrangements	Edwina Grant

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The utilisation of up to date evidence sources and data, informed via the VCS Development Forum, and VCS database, has helped to inform the ongoing development of our VCS arrangements, and approaches to the sustainability. These mechanisms also ensure resources are aligned with Borough priorities, and enables VCS organisations from all areas of the Borough, including rural areas, access to the VCS commissioning arrangements.

11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data Protection implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

Contact Officer: Edwina Grant, Ext 5629

Executive Member: Councillor M Hall

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Evaluation Report – Commissioned VCS Projects 2015/16

Commissioned Work and Costs	Key outputs/outcomes	No. of hours of direct delivery	No. of beneficiaries	No. of volunteers supporting delivery
<p><u>Markfield Mayflower Project</u> - (Markfield Community Association) - £1,500</p> <p>To build on the success of the existing Mayflower Club - Provision of co-ordinated support for vulnerable people over the age of 50 and their carers, to enable improved health, happiness and wellbeing. By extending membership to people of all ages who have disabilities, those who are often housebound as well as those who, for whatever reason, are experiencing isolation and loneliness. Continuing to provide a coordinated rural information and support service as well as social activities through the Mayflower club sessions</p>	<p>Membership has risen to 54 members with an average attendance of 21 people per session</p> <p>11 new members either have disabilities, are housebound or suffering from loneliness</p> <p>4 members have been referred to other agencies for help, advice or support</p> <p>10 agency or activity talks provided</p> <p>14 external agencies and support services involved</p> <p>3 members are actively involved in volunteer work at the project</p> <p>Production of a Project Guide and Directory that can be used by others who may wish to develop a similar project</p>	50	79	3

<p><u>Kingscroft Bowling Club, Earl Shilton - Bowls Development - £2,561.60</u></p> <p>Kingscroft Bowls Club are looking to attract more junior members along with parents, grandparents and carers to participate in the game. This will be achieved by working in partnership with local schools, the local authority, youth clubs, community house and other organisations. There will also be indoor facilities available throughout the winter.</p>	<p>Provision of diversionary activities for young people, and creation of inter-generational learning and development, in a friendly setting.</p> <p>The club has gained 5 new bowlers for the coming season</p> <p>As a result of engagement with schools to promote this opportunity, we have been invited to take this project into schools, starting with 3, between April – July 2016, running each session over a five week period.</p>	53	36	6
<p><u>Hinckley Baptist Pathways – Journey Well with Dementia £2,646.80</u></p> <p><u>Aims of the project</u></p> <p>To widen the remit of the dementia respite care (Take a Break) that we already offer in relation to specific behavioural issues and personal care needs. To enable potential new clients to overcome anxiety and stress that stops them accessing our service.</p>	<p>Ability for the carer to feel secure in knowing their loved one is with people they trust.</p> <p>Carers get time on their own for a break from caring.</p> <p>Seeing the relationship between the carer and the person with dementia bloom as they recall their personal life story.</p> <p>Enabling the client to engage in activities that enhance their sense of self, of who they are and what they have achieved in their lives.</p>	106	161	7

<p>To offer new reminiscence therapy sessions both within existing work in the Pathways Centre and in the wider area of Hinckley & Bosworth.</p>	<p>Feeling they are in a relaxed environment where they are accepted for who they are and not being judged.</p> <p>Carers began to engage with other carers resulting in peer support.</p> <p>We have a much larger variety of activities which will be continued to be used in our Dementia work. This enables us to cater for a wider variety of people.</p> <p>Having increased our client base for a day respite, and we are now sustainable to continue to employ a second worker</p> <p>We can continue to take our Journey Well with Dementia activities further afield than the town centre and undertake activities in surrounding communities</p>			
<p><u>Emmaus Leicestershire and Rutland – The Workshop</u> <u>£2,950</u></p> <p>The aim of the project is to enable companions to be motivated to be engaged in working and to help them to undertake activities that will promote confidence, self-esteem, and improve their</p>	<p>Companions feeling more positive and with increased confidence in their work.</p> <p>Increased collections of donated furniture and sales in the social enterprises.</p> <p>More electrical appliances being tested and reused and fewer ending up in landfill.</p> <p>Emmaus Companions, volunteers and staff</p>	160	25	5

mental health and wellbeing. A variety of tools and PAT testing equipment will be acquired to enhance the project.	having the necessary tools to do their day to day work. Increased efficiency.			
<u>Green Towers – Young People Staying Healthy with Modern Dance</u> <u>£625</u> Young People staying healthy with modern, street and alternative dance classes. The aim is to engage young people who ordinarily would not be able to afford such dance sessions, support them in their learning of a new skill or improving upon skills already learnt whilst keeping healthy and having fun.	YP's learning new skills in a supportive environment Encouraged health and fitness in YP's YP's performed in an end of term show for the parents/friends Affordable and available to all (inclusive not exclusive) Attendance grew significantly as word got out - 259 attendees over the 19 sessions was extremely encouraging	25	259	3
<u>Burbage Youth Project- BYP Classic Car Restoration</u> <u>£2,745</u> Delivery a range of activities around car maintenance and classic car restoration, for young people that enables the young person to gain skills and knowledge, raise self-	The project has resulted in: 1 Full time apprenticeship 2 college placements and 1 securing of employment at a local garage	44	10	7

awareness, self-esteem and confidence, increased opportunity with apprenticeship, training / employment and work experience in a safe controlled workshop.				
<u>St Mary's Parish Church</u> <u>Hinckley- Community</u> <u>Production of Joseph and the</u> <u>Amazing</u> <u>Colour Dreamcoat.</u> <u>£2,990.57</u> To delivery a community production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, to be performed in St Mary's Church. This will be performed by a main cast of teenagers and young adults. They will be supported by a live band of mixed ages, a children's and youth choir, and a community choir of all ages. There will also be a back stage technical and front of house team.	Built a community that gives inspiration and opportunities through community drama Increased physical activity, built confidence and self esteem, contributing to good mental health and wellbeing through teamwork Enabled positive and constructive interaction and relationships between a varying age group - 5 years to retirement years Directly reduced isolation and loneliness for many participants, who have made new friends through a shared experience, and established a sense of belonging for many participants As a result the children's choir has been formed, and will continue to run with the support of a volunteer, to keep creativity and positively flowing with young people. This	54	93	7

	has it's first meeting in April 2016 and was very well attended			
<u>ACCEPT- ACCEPT Allotment Project Barwell</u> <u>£3,000</u> To promote wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem and reduce low lying mental health such as feelings of stress, anxiety and depression. This will be achieved through providing opportunities to form new friendships, connect with nature and develop skills including gardening, cooking, growing fruit and vegetables and other outdoor related activities in which individuals are interested.	Individuals with mental health issues, many of whom were previously isolated and inactive, have reported a number of benefits, including: An improvement in physical health through participating in regular physical activity, healthy eating and being outdoors on a regular basis. An improvement in mental health and greater levels of confidence and self-esteem, with a reduction in anxiety and depression. Experiencing acceptance and belonging in place of isolation and stigma. Confidence in their own abilities through having opportunity to use / develop existing skills / pass knowledge on to others: Learning new skills, including gardening, cooking and a variety of other outdoor related skills and knowledge. Improved confidence in interacting socially, having formed reciprocal friendships with other group members and meeting outside of project times. Seeking further opportunities to be involved in the community, as a result of being involved:	132	10	7

	<p>1 member volunteering at Barwell Community House and sharing skills learned at the Allotment Project.</p> <p>1 member volunteering at a local church.</p> <p>2 members joining college courses and 1 providing a presentation about the project.</p> <p>3 members joining an ACCEPT Adventure climbing group.</p> <p>2 members applying for their own allotment</p>			
<p><u>Hinckley & Bosworth Community Transport and Multiple Sclerosis Society (Hinckley & District Branch)</u></p> <p><u>£2,990</u></p> <p>The aim is to continue to provide access to existing/developing social and health groups for those affected by Multiple Sclerosis by providing affordable and accessible transportation. Thus ensuring that those with MS are not socially excluded by their condition.</p>	<p>Provision of exercise groups and monthly social drop-in groups and advice and information</p> <p>Reduced social isolation and maintenance of independence resulting in an improvement in both mental and physical health (wellbeing).</p> <p>Establishment of new contacts and friendships</p> <p>Access to affordable, accessible transport.</p> <p>Respite for cares whilst those affected by MS attend events and activities.</p> <p>Provision of meaningful volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Wider awareness of MS and the services</p>	300	150	25

	provided by both HBCT and the MS group			
<u>Next Generation Community Connect– Next Direction (Emotional Health and Wellbeing Project)</u> <u>£2,934.36</u> To offer a free holistic professional adult counselling service within our community to those who are vulnerable, at risk and require immediate vital support. In conjunction with this, Next Direction level 1-2 workshops will be offered to people who need additional support to the counselling, and / or support to break down barriers, gain self-worth and confidence and take their lives forward in a positive direction.	Evidence of clients gaining confidence and self esteem during the Next Direction therapy sessions. Some clients have moved on to attend college, or community courses. Some clients have become volunteers helping others. Clients have started to break down the barriers that prevented them finding their next direction in life.	208	40	2
<u>Green Towers – Developing Young Volunteers</u> <u>£1,575</u> To support the emotional wellbeing and mental health of young volunteers both current (12 at present) and future	Implementation of Young Volunteers training packs which included understanding of Club Policies, Safe Guarding, Codes of Conduct, Fire and First Aid Procedures, Health and Safety Policies Young Volunteers completing session plans and risk assessments for activities	99	912	32

volunteers aged 14-17 to advance their sustainable learning programme, offering opportunities through supportive monitoring, coaching and mentoring.	<p>Young Volunteers completing external courses (e.g. Foundation First Aid; Kirby Roberts, Jessica Clarke, and Josh Lucas) and internal training courses (e.g. Fire procedures quiz)</p> <p>Young Volunteers being able to really feel valued in their role (mental and emotional wellbeing) and not only assist with the operation of the Youth Club but actually make a difference</p>			
<p><u>Hinckley Running Club Juniors- New Equipment/Uniforms</u> <u>£1,005.06</u></p> <p>Our two equipment purchases will be used by a wide variety of athletes, they are fun to use and their use will not feel like exercise to the athletes. Sometimes athletics can be seen as elitist but these pieces of equipment can be used in a variety of ways to further enhance our ethos of being all inclusive to all children. The uniform will promote a more professional appearance and make the coaches instantly recognizable to parents and</p>	<p>We have become a more professional club , which will continue to grow organically whilst providing value for money exercise for children of all abilities.</p>	30	66	6

children alike.				
<p><u>Hinckley Swimming Club- Junior Volunteer Teacher Training</u> <u>£2,300</u></p> <p>To encourage members between the ages of 14 and 18years to maintain their participation in the sport and continue to benefit from positive health and wellbeing that physical activity brings. To give these members a sense of responsibility, to improve their confidence, their social skills and provide them with the opportunity to find employment. To give younger members positive role models to aspire to.</p>	<p>All five beneficiaries completed their training and have gained vital experience in teaching. They have grown in self-confidence and are ready and eager to take on further responsibilities within the club and It has enabled them to find part-time employment while continuing to be a club volunteer.</p> <p>The training of the Junior teachers has provided the club with 5 new qualified teachers who are keen and knowledgeable and who are key in continuing to provide a much needed service which in turn will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of those within the club and the community as a whole.</p>	260	10	5

Appendix 2

VCS Commissioning 2015/16 – Feedback from beneficiaries

Markfield Community Association - Markfield Mayflower Project

One of the main aims of the project is to get people out of their homes and reduce the risks of loneliness. Feedback we have received from members, carers and family demonstrate that we are achieving this and members really look forward to each week's session. Some anecdotal feedback:

- One member regularly visits the local chip shop and tells members of staff how much he enjoys the club and what he is looking forward to next. He has been lonely since his wife died and his family are so pleased with the change in him since he has started coming to the sessions.
- Three members are new to the village and had no friends or activities to occupy them. Their family have brought them along to sessions. They now attend on a regular basis, have made new friends and their families are delighted.
- One lady has gone through a difficult divorce and had to move to Leicester BUT she continues to come back to the club to meet her old friends, make new ones and it helps her to cope.
- Three members are virtually housebound and without the help of carers and members they would be confined to a lonely lifestyle. For the carers and family the club provides some respite and the members really enjoy and look forward to club sessions.

Kingscroft Bowling Club- Bowls Development

"A weekly enjoyable game of bowls, can we do it again in the future"

"We beat Mum and Dad – High five !!! We are the champions !!! (Won 5 out of 6)"

"These small bowls are great for the children. It is so easy for them"

Hinckley Baptist Pathways – Journey Well with Dementia

"The memory box days are a good way to bring the person out of themselves. I'd certainly recommend these days to other people. We felt we had fun and included together. It was a lovely morning and great to alternate it with the singing group. As a carer I feel really supported by being part of this group"

"I felt good about myself during the session and we had fun"

"Excellent morning for both carer and the person with dementia. Good interactive things. Good to also have music and singing. Excellent selection of things. Organisers and helpers were very welcoming"

Emmaus Leicestershire and Rutland – The Workshop

“I now have the right up to date equipment to carry out PAT testing and am able to test more appliances for sale in the Emporium”

“It’s good to have the hand tools for me to refurbish/repair furniture”.

“With the Sat Nav I don’t struggle getting to the right address”.

“We now have safety gear for visiting the recycling centres and not having to borrow them”.

Green Towers – Young People Staying Healthy with Modern Dance

“I really enjoyed learning new stuff and dance routines. Had lots of fun and made a couple of new friends too”.

“I liked learning new moves and new dances. I also like doing the shows in front of my mum and dad. I really like our teachers Harry and Nate as they are really friendly. I’ve had lots of fun”.

“Thank you for having Street Dance at GreenTowers. Our three girls thoroughly enjoy dancing every week with Harry and Nate. They have become more confident and have made new friends. Harry and Nate are excellent teachers and have brought out our girls confidence”

Burbage Youth Project- BYP Classic Car Restoration

Parent – “Having this practical experience behind him has enabled him to get through the interviews for his apprenticeship with something others haven’t got. He got chosen for a placement out of the final 90 candidates”.

Parent – “He has been disruptive at school and home, but coming to BYP has focused his attention on something positive in his life”.

“I like coming to mess around with the cars it’s really interesting. I want to work in a garage when I leave school”

“We have renovated some interesting cars my favourite has been the MGBGT”

St Mary's Parish Church Hinckley- Community Production of Joseph and the Amazing

"Thank you for giving me something to look forward to! It's been so much fun!"

"What an AMAZING production. Thank you so much for letting us be part of it."

A Member of the Audience spoke at St Mary's Church about the performance, he had paid £10 to see a play festival but the production of Joseph was worth at least twice that.

ACCEPT Allotment Project Barwell

As a result of growing in confidence one lady is taking an English course and had to give a presentation, which she chose to do about the project. She sent this e-mail, after she had given the presentation:

"In fact, one person actually started to cry because of how it has helped me in my own development and how much it has helped with my own mental health. I would like to say a huge thank you. I am not sure if you realise the difference your projects make to people's lives, but you are an inspiration to many."

A couple, who described themselves as isolated, said that they had been waiting and hoping for a project like this and that it feels like family meeting together each week. As a result they have forged new friendships and have met with other group members outside of the project meeting

Hinckley & Bosworth Community Transport – Multiple Sclerosis Society (Hinckley & District Branch)

"If I didn't go with Dial-a-ride or exercise class, I would only get out once a week with my PA and I would miss out on so much. I usually get my nails done at the drop-in but sometimes when I'm very tense or stressed I have a neck/shoulder massage and that feels so lovely and relaxing. I don't think I have ever gone to an exercise class or drop-in where I haven't laughed at something. Although I sometimes really don't fancy going to exercise class, I'm always glad (although very tired) that I went. Thank you for making this possible"

"The only things I say about Dial-a-ride are all positive they enable me to relieve isolation and allow me to socialise with people I wouldn't normally see giving me a bit of my life back. Thank you Dial-a-ride"

"The transport is a lifeline which allows me to attend much needed support and social events which otherwise I would be excluded from. The new venue is very good. It has good parking and accessibility"

"The venue has encouraged some of the chaps to go to the club and play snooker in the afternoon. I am told they walk miles around the snooker table. It is usually hard to get men to join in with things as they are normally outnumbered by women. The transport has been a godsend for those who don't have transport, it means they are able to get out and be with others instead of being stuck at home"

Next Generation Community Connect– Next Direction (Emotional Health and Wellbeing Project)

"Coming to Counselling has helped me to unravel my problems and learn how to cope with my feelings of anxiety".

"I have loved coming to the Next Direction project. I have tried all these new activities whilst having fun and making new friends. I now feel much better about myself".

"I came to ND feeling pretty low with little or no confidence due to emotional abuse. I have met others in the same situation and we have helped each other to gain self-confidence. I have recently booked myself onto a college course that I would never have believed possible".

"I loved the Art Therapy and I am now volunteering at a local Art group to help other people".

Green Towers – Developing Young Volunteers

"I have very much enjoyed the Young Volunteers program, it has taught me a lot about how to engage and communicate with the Young People.

I have also learnt how to keep them safe and what to do in case of an emergency. So many activities and sessions taught me new things that were vital to know when working with Young People"

"Whilst I've been at the Youth Club I have learnt a lot from communication through to climbing and running the tuck shop too.

Now we have started doing the Young Volunteer training program I have started to learn a lot more about how the building needs to be operated and have completed fire safety, safe guarding, conflict and how to handle it. I think it is good that are able to learn about things like this because it gives us an opportunity to learn more about what can happen whilst within an environment from a range of ages. Also we have completed first aid training".

"I found the Young Volunteers induction course to be very helpful. I have learnt important skills and qualities that will support my CV and help me become a better Volunteer. Whilst

we were in the meetings Anne (Young Volunteer Mentor Worker) made the activities fun and engaged us all, ensuring we were motivated and as a result absorbed the information"

Hinckley Running Club Juniors- New Equipment/Uniforms

"The new equipment has made coaching easier as we now feel that we can coach in a safer fashion, but also provide our athletes with a better hours exercise as we can use it in a variety of ways. Also our coaches hoodies and t shirts make us instantly recognisable and give us a more professional look"

"My sons love the high jump equipment , it enables them to enhance their physical fitness and improve their co-ordination and confidence"

"I like to use the foam javelins as the old ones were very tatty and we had to wait quite a while to have a go, also the high jump set has allowed me to try out an event that I had never tried before"

"It was nice to be able to tell instantly who the coaches were as they were all dressed the same , and although they all do a great job the new equipment has opened up new events for all of the children".

Hinckley Swimming Club- Junior Volunteer Teacher Training

"I successfully completed the ASA Level 1 Award in teaching Aquatics July 2015. I have been a member of Hinckley swimming club since the age of 7 and have been a volunteer coach for the last few years. As a swimmer I reached the Nationals in 2014 so I have practical knowledge of swimming, however the course I attended has given me a lot of confidence in teaching children from a young age.

I understand the importance of getting the community involved in sport, hoping that young swimmers will still be swimming as adults. My swim coaches are still a big part of my life and want to give back to the club what I received as a young swimmer. I will be heading off to University in September and having that qualification will give me more opportunities with other swimming clubs during my time away, but look forward to continuing coaching at Hinckley when I am home."

"From completing the course I've gained experience in not only how to teach kids how to swim but teaching kids in general, in all areas. It's allowed me to participate in more coaching sessions and has gave me more confidence when teaching to a bigger group. I believe this confidence and these skills will be very beneficial in the future in whatever field of work due to the fact I've learnt to deal with a lot of different situations from the moment I gained the qualification."

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