

## 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.”*