

**VCS Commissioning Funds to support key VCS Community Hubs 2020/2021**

**1. Hinckley & Bosworth Community Transport and Dial a Ride service – September 2020 – March 2021**

At the onset of lockdown began to collect and deliver medication and shopping for those on the ‘shielded’ list, and other members of the community who had no other source of support to draw on. The door-step deliver of food, other essentials and medication also meant those shielding/self -isolating had contact with a volunteer on a regular basis, (often their only contact) which ensured any other emerging needs could be picked up and referred on as appropriate.

Continued to transport people to hospital and GP appointments, at time when other community transport providers in Leicestershire, had stood down their offer. From January 2021 supported the national vaccination programme by transporting vulnerable people/those who need assistance to attend their vaccination appointment.

The above was carried out following a thorough risk assessment, ensuring staff were operating within Covid regulations. The VCS Commissioning Funds enabled the purchase of PPE.

Type of support	Number of journeys
Medication collection and delivery	1503
Shopping collection and delivery	785
Lifts to hospital appointments	353
Health appointments/GP appointments	1049
Vaccination centre appointments	750
Total	4440

**2. Green Towers Hinckley Club for Young People – September 2020 to March 2021**

The Centre started 2020 with a healthy financial position, however, like most sporting and hospitality facilities, lockdown changed this, with very significant loss of income experienced, as centres had to close their doors.

From August 2020 Green Towers (adhering to guidance and the rule of 6) allowed some outdoor sports, non-contact and some indoor sport to recommence. This much reduced offer resulted in only bringing in 40% of income generation when compared to previous years.

From October 2020 with easing of lockdown restrictions Green Towers was able to reopen, following safety guidelines, staff training, PPE, etc. The VCS Commissioning Funds helped to support this restart activity, without which the Centre may have had to permanently close. It also gave breathing space for the Centre Manager to apply to other funding bodies to sustain the centre going forward.

<b>Type of activity</b>	<b>No of groups/individuals supported</b>
Indoor climbing	15 people session
Skateboarding	60 young people per day
BMX	60 young people per day
Roller skating	60 young people per day
Crafts	15 people per session
Indoor games	15 people per session
Yoga, pilates, line dancing on rotation	15 people per session

### **3. Markfield Community Centre**

The VCS Commissioning Funds enabled the community centre to become the 'community hub' in relation to the extensive community effort during lockdown including:

- Storage of food and other essential supplies, from which the Markfield Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers and other community volunteers, could collect and deliver supplies door to door for those most in need.
- Volunteers also collected prescriptions, supported the Post Office to remain open by acting as volunteer marshals, telephone check up and chat
- Virtual hub for the co-ordination and distribution of information, advice and guidance on all matters relating to community health and safety re Covid 19, and the development and distribution of 'Here to help' leaflets and posters. This included responding to concerns about the vaccine, and distribution of clear, easy to understand information, resulting in really good take up in the elderly and most vulnerable obtaining the vaccine
- Virtual social meetings, quizzes, etc
- Laptop appeals for home schooling
- Collection of items and delivery of Christmas hampers to those most in need
- All of the above delivered within guidelines, with appropriate PPE for volunteers, etc.

### **4. Sport in Desford**

VCS Commissioning Funds focused on supporting Sport in Desford with all related PPE to enable the Centre to reopen safely, including: cleaning, hand sanitisers, signage, etc. which was a considerable task given the size of the centre, which includes a gym. In addition to this, VCS funds supported the restarting of some key activities, having suffered considerable income generation losses, and similarly to Green Towers, this gave space for other funding grants to be accessed to ensure the sustainability of the centre.

### **5. Westfields Community Centre**

Similarly to Markfield Community Centre, Westfields is a key community hub and responded overnight in reshaping their service offer to support the most vulnerable

members of the community. VCS Commissioning Funds supported the following provision:

- Storage and delivery of food and other essential items door to door
- Delivery of a hot meals service over an 8 week period during Winter 2020
- Collecting and delivery of shopping
- Collection and delivery of prescriptions (please note the Hinckley Motorcycle Training scheme which is based at the centre made its motor bikes and instructors available to support)
- Delivery of books, jigsaws and toys to individuals and families
- Transport to and from medical appointments
- Transport to and from vaccine appointments
- Check up and chat calls
- Provision of a mobile minor First Aid Service, including use of defibrillators (following upskilling of volunteers)
- A source of ongoing information, advice guidance and support

**A total of £43,737.20 VCS Commissioning Funds** in were allocated to our key VCS hubs to support the above delivery, in 2020/21.