



## **South Hams Community & Voluntary Services Report to SHDC Scrutiny Committee**

### **1. Introduction**

This report sets out the work of South Hams CVS across the whole area and our continuing growth, new partnerships and delivery during these difficult times. It also highlights some areas where we could develop our services alongside members and other partners, in particular filling gaps identified in areas of the district where we can work together on strategic and innovative community solutions to local needs.

### **2. Background Information**

As councils have to increasingly review and restructure the delivery of their own services, the value and importance of communities working together and supporting each other becomes increasingly evident. The support that community groups and voluntary sector organisations want is changing too and South Hams CVS is vital to support them in continuing their services within this ever changing landscape.

South Hams CVS provides the infrastructure for voluntary & community activity. It helps groups connect, develop and influence and individuals to engage in order to help build resilient communities.

The office at Follaton House is a vibrant community hub for core CVS work and the various projects which are delivered through the CVS; reaching out across the District. Workshops, meetings and outreach sessions are regularly available across the South Hams, bringing together groups to meet statutory and other providers, network and share good practice. CVS outreach including volunteer support sessions are delivered monthly in 3 local libraries and meetings are held across the district.

### **3. Supporting the work of SHDC**

South Hams CVS supports the vision of the district and is a key partner in the delivery of Our Plan, linking the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and being in touch with over 500 local voluntary & community organisations (VCOs).

Our work supports many of the topics of 'Our Plan' and there are clear opportunities for us to help deliver the priority actions. Our links with Our Plan given in the following tables 1&2:

**TABLE 1 - SHDC 'OUR PLAN' - TOPIC: OUR WELLBEING**

<b>SHDC/SHCVS SHARED Objectives</b>	<b>SHCVS ADDED VALUE</b>	<b>EVIDENCE OF WORK</b>
to deliver positive health and well being outcomes for communities	Very close working with VCOs delivering health and well being outcomes supporting them with funding, governance & development advice; recruiting volunteers and co-ordinating VCS representation on health teams	2015/16 Q1 – 173 new referrals made to VCOs through SHCVS co-ordination of representatives on Community Health & Social Care Teams (CH&SCT)
to reduce health inequalities and social isolation	Working with statutory partners and VCOs, identifying gaps in services and supporting the development of new services to improve them; liaising on their behalf with statutory authorities	2014/2015 £43,500 secured funding for 3 Caring organisations from South Devon & Torbay CCG to support people coming out of hospital over 2014/15 winter. 2015/16 conversations underway
to ensure local people have access to housing, employment, services, facilities & activities that improve health outcomes and promote healthy lifestyles	Enabling the prevention of worsening health conditions through support organisations, volunteering opportunities, co-ordinating activities. Enabling VCOs to share ideas, good practice and filling gaps across the area	2015/2106 completing and reviewing the integrated care plans developed in 2014/15 with Plymouth Community Healthcare CIC in Kingsbridge & Ivybridge areas

**TABLE 2 - SHDC 'OUR PLAN' - OTHER TOPICS**

<b>'OUR PLAN' TOPIC</b>	<b>SHCVS ADDED VALUE</b>	<b>EVIDENCE</b>
<b>Our Communities</b>	Enable and support the sustainability of existing VCOs; empower local people and social activists to develop new ideas for their communities and support them to develop new projects & SEs	2015/16 Q1 33 VCOs took part in capability & learning opportunities 17 VCOs received direct one to one development/governance support 22 other interventions with over 500 VCOs in South Hams
<b>Our Homes</b>	Arranging meetings with partners looking at specific issues; providing training to housing associations; mapping services; supporting VCOs eg Refurnish, CAB, foodbanks	2014/15 evaluation of SCHVS led Welfare Task Group is considered a valuable (quarterly) meeting by both the VCOs and other agencies that attend, enabling better communication between VCOs & statutory agencies. VCOs can provide better services to their clients through greater awareness of what others do
<b>Our Economy</b>	Governance & legal structure advice for social enterprises. Participation in LEADER funded activity (SDCLAG)	VCS employs 2.7% of the total UK workforce and contributes 0.7% of GVA in the UK, similar to Agriculture
<b>Our Infrastructure</b>	SHCVS core service provision to Village halls, Play areas Community transport, Sports and recreation, volunteering opps and support to create new services	2015/16 Q1 322 volunteering opportunities advertised
<b>Our Environment</b> <b>Our Heritage</b>	Support to environmental & heritage projects in particular through promotion of specific grants and volunteer recruitment; Partnership involvement with AONB	
<b>Our Resources</b>	Support for community energy initiatives; promotion of national energy saving campaigns etc	2014/15 – advice and information specifically provided: funding to install solar panels legal structure for community energy project volunteer management on self build initiative

#### 4.Value for Money

The grants which we receive from SHDC & DCC enable us to provide the core of our services, enabling us to rent the office, have resources on loan for groups, sustain our core staff roles providing local community support. From this position we can also go out to other funders and take on projects which help develop & sustain the resilience of local communities, making them good places to live and work.

Our core funding has decreased in recent years, from £73,550 in 2013-14, to £64,117 in 2014-15 and to £60,179 in 2015-16 (which comprises £42,616 from SHDC and £17,563 from DCC). In each year, with this core basis, we bid for national and local funding to run additional projects and make up our operating costs. A small amount of income is generated through memberships, loaning resources etc. In 2014-15 we generated £41,369 of project work, all of which enhanced the service levels we were able to provide and directly benefitted South Hams communities. In 2015-16 we estimate achieving project income of circa £40,000.

Approximately two thirds of our time is spent on interventions with voluntary and community organisations and volunteers, as shown in the table below, with the remaining third being spent on strategic, partnership and policy work.

<b>South Hams CVS Service Delivery Figures 2014/15</b>	
Number of:	
Existing Groups sustaining services	524
New Groups & services established	15
Groups supported one to one	66
Workshops & Events held	38
Individuals participating in Workshops & Events	>400
Mandated representatives	5
New Volunteers (total registered)	114
Organisations offering opportunities	164
Volunteering opportunities	324

Based solely on two thirds of our core funding in 2014-15 (£42,744.67) each of the 5,773 interventions we had with organisations and volunteers across the year equated to £7.40 per intervention. However, a more complete picture is based on two thirds of our operating costs for 2014-15 (£87,890), where each of the 5,773 interventions equated to £15.22. Each intervention with a group has a ripple effect, multiplying the number of individuals who benefit – either because they are beneficiaries, staff or volunteers of the organisation.

## **5.Looking Forward**

There are a number of areas where we can see South Hams CVS supporting SHDC in achieving its future delivery.

Some of these are outlined below, tying in with the SHDC draft 2016/17 Priority Actions & Opportunities

### **HOMES**

Many VCOs in the South Hams work with vulnerable people, often specific groups eg Carers or those with a learning disability. We can act as a communication channel across the VCS, consolidating their information and delivering SHDC information to them. We can also

- Map VCS services and create directories, enabling better signposting
- Identify gaps in support or activity and help develop new initiatives
- Conduct and support research projects
- Collect evidence on the impact of initiatives on the vulnerable beneficiaries
- Bring VCOs together in forums, focus groups or facilitated conversations
- Organise training workshops for VCOs

### **ECONOMY**

South Hams CVS supports the growth of social enterprises and supports community bids such as Leader where VCS input is vital.

### **BUILT & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

South Hams CVS works with community groups to support the delivery of sport and recreation facilities in town and villages, advising on

- Management structures
- Funding applications
- Community consultations
- Evidencing need
- Buddying & Mentoring
- Networking opportunities

### **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

When taking a systematic review of SHDC's provision and assets, SHCVS can indicate potential opportunities to the council for sharing with VCS partners and enhancing community benefit.

VCOs are notorious for their reuse and recycling of materials which may otherwise go to waste. SHCVS could help the council look at options for closer working with the VCS

### **HEALTH & WELL BEING**

SHCVS would be a valuable partner in the coproduction of a strategic framework for Health & Wellbeing, helping provide a more integrated approach to health across the district.

September 2015

