



West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service

Annual Report 2012/2013

The Ecumenical Centre
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LOTTERY FUNDED

Chair's Report

I commend these Reports and Accounts to the readers.

As I come to the end of my three years as Chair of WLCVS, I look back with considerable satisfaction on the progress we have made. The attached project reports demonstrate how we have worked to meet the needs of our members and the wider communities in the Borough. The West Lancs Challenge and the Red Rose Recovery Project, a Lancashire wide initiative, have been extended for a further year and both demonstrate the value of partnership working between the public, private and voluntary, community and faith sectors (VCFS) to deliver truly innovative projects. Our Volunteer Centre continues with its core work of recruiting and supporting volunteers in West Lancashire as well as developing new initiatives with partners across the county.

For our members we have continued to develop our partnerships, work and influence with existing bodies e.g. West Lancs Borough Council and Lancashire County Council as well as forging links with the new West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure the VCFS is valued and its essential role recognised.

As do many VCFS organisations, we still face considerable challenges particularly around the economy and sustainability; we will continue to seek alternative sources of revenue for the sector and continue to support our members as they develop their capacity to meet the needs of their users and the people and communities of West Lancashire.

I wish the organisation well as it continues to develop in our changing world.

Elizabeth Blamires

Chair, West Lancashire CVS

Chief Officer's Report

Firstly, a thank you to all the volunteers, staff, trustees, member organisations, communities and associates who contribute to and support our work within the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector (VCFS) of West Lancashire.

As a community sector we have, and still face in the coming year, exceptional challenges in the growing demand for VCFS services balanced against the on-going issue of funding sustainability. This past year it has again been a privilege to witness the sheer hard work, commitment and collective energy that has been harnessed to continue the sectors essential joint work throughout the West Lancashire community.

Thanks and acknowledgements are also due to the continued financial investment and partnership work we receive from all our funders, including the Big Lottery, West Lancashire Borough Council, West Lancashire Strategic Partnership, NHS Central Lancashire and Lancashire County Council along with many others.

The past year has also been one of preparation by the VCFS for the coming changes in the public sector commissioning structures, particularly the new West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). We have, with our member organisations, worked throughout the shadow year of the CCG to ensure they engage fully with our sector as they develop their health priorities and commissioning strategy for West Lancashire and it is reassuring to see that the CCG has acknowledged both the value and the essential role our sector has to play in 'mobilising the community around health' and backed this with additional investment funds for the coming year.

Our asset based community development approach will remain a keystone of our work with both our member organisations and our partners across the VCFS, public and private sector. Through this focus on mapping existing assets and resources and then connecting them to develop cross sector, community wide partnerships and initiatives, we will continue to ensure the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector is recognised for turning identified priorities into local action and supporting the wellbeing of the West Lancashire community.

Greg Mitten

Chief Officer, West Lancashire CVS

The organisation is a charitable company, limited by guarantee (registered in England and Wales No. 2940823) and was incorporated on 27th May 1994.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed by its Articles of Association.

Trustees:

During the year the Members of the Board of Trustees (who are also directors) were as follows:

Mrs. E. A. Blamires	Chair
Mr. L. Boyton	Vice Chair
Mrs. M. Walker	Treasurer
Dr. A. McMinn	
Mrs. M. Baldwin	
Mr. F. H. McClenaghan	(Resigned November 2012)
Mrs. A. Abram	
Mrs. S. M. Bailey	(Appointed November 2012)

Company Secretary:	Mrs. E. A. Blamires
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Chief Officer:	G Mitten
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Company Registration Number:	2940823
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Charity Registration Number:	1039563
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Registered Office:	Ecumenical Centre Northway Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 6LU
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Achievements and Performance

2012/2013 saw an excellent year of high-quality service delivery by the Council for Voluntary Service West Lancashire across a variety of fields within the limitation of the funds available to the organisation. The Council for Voluntary Service West Lancashire delivered the key objectives of its Business Plan with notable highlights being as follows:

Basis 2 Programme funded by the Big Lottery

The project underpins the core work of the CVS by funding resources into key areas which will grow and increase the capacity of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) in West Lancashire. The BASIS 2 team continues to work in the following areas:

- Training and Development in governance, finance, management and other subjects
- Funding Advice
- Publicity, Marketing and Information Management
- Partnership Development (Community, Rural and Faith)

The project has already led to an increase in the number of members of the CVS and in the coming years of the programme, the injection of resources from the Big Lottery will enable the CVS to become more proactive in providing for the needs of the VCFS in West Lancashire, enabling it to recruit more members who in turn will benefit from the increased support available. 30 new CVS member organisations have been recruited over the year and in that time WLCVS has helped organisations to secure much of the £612,185 obtained by the VCFS sector in West Lancashire in grants and contracts. The Basis 2 project is currently in year four of the five year project.

Volunteer Centre (VC)

The Volunteer Centre aims to link the skill, experience and time of local people seeking voluntary work to local organisations who need volunteers to help develop their services. It also acts as an information hub and encourages good practice amongst volunteer involving organisations.

The Volunteer Centre has worked hard to increase community participation in volunteering. In total 441 volunteers were recruited and referred by the VC to volunteer involving organisations. In addition, VC staff worked with organisations to develop 41 new volunteer placements leading to a total of 452 registered volunteer opportunities on the VC database at the end of March 2013.

The Volunteer Centre ran a number of training and support sessions during the year both for new and existing volunteers, as well as for organisations looking to recruit, support and develop their volunteer base.

The main area of development for the year was maintaining our brokerage activity and developing links with VCFS and public sector agencies to support the development of volunteering locally. The Volunteer Centre was also successful in attaining Quality Accreditation again in December 2012 for the delivery of the five key volunteering functions.

Little Digmoor Fair Share Trust Programme

The aim of this programme is to provide lottery funding to support activities aimed at improving the quality of life for those residents living on the Little Digmoor Estate in Skelmersdale.

The final year of the ten year Little Digmoor Fair Share Trust Programme started in April 2012 and the project ended in March 2013.

During the 12 months to March 2013 work has continued in pursuing projects aimed at meeting the five priority areas identified by residents: -

- The Environment
- Youth and Leisure
- Community Safety
- Traffic and Road Safety
- Community Development and Support

By the end of March 2013, all £880,805 set aside for the project had been spent in line with the projects requirements.

Highlights of the final year of the project were many, including:

In July 2012 the Fair Shares Trust Protector, appointed by the BIG Lottery, received a tour of the estate by local residents. He remarked on what a transformation had been achieved since he last visited in 2004 in not only the appearance of the estate but also in the people whom he met. He went on to say that the project in Little Digmoor was a template of a successful Fair Share Trust area.

A celebration and awards evening held in March 2013 at which over 100 residents and representatives from groups who have worked on the project came together to celebrate the achievements of the programme.

A DVD film was made by local residents and groups involved in the project during 2012/13. It seeks to tell the story of the project from the point of view from those who have been closest to it over the past ten years.

And finally, to commemorate the ten years of the FST programme in Little Digmoor, a sculpture of the Little Digmoor Family was commissioned and sited in the grounds of the Little Digmoor Primary School at the entrance to what was the old FOLD Centre which provided a home for much of the FST supported activities before it was demolished in the summer of 2012.

This project is funded by The BIG Lottery through the Community Foundation UK.

Community Involvement in Health Project

The project, funded by NHS Central Lancashire PCT, aims to promote and facilitate relationships with health facing organisations and support the cascading of health information into the West Lancashire community.

West Lancashire CVS is supporting its members to develop in line with the changing health structures by engaging with public health and the developing West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to ensure that they are fully aware and responsive to the VCFS contribution to health and wellbeing. It is positive to note that as the West Lancashire CCG officially takes up its responsibilities from the 1st April, 2013 it has acknowledged the role the VCFS has to play in delivering health improvements for the community and allocated funds which will become available in the coming year. Partnership work has also continued with our Public Health teams throughout the year to ensure connection and informed joint work on health promotion and partnership work on the identified public health priorities for West Lancashire.

During the year we have continued to develop the West Lancs Health Network based on a quarterly forum event and regular cascading of health and well being related information. The network has become a key element working across all the health economy stakeholders in the VCFS, public and private sectors to ensure consultation and participation as the new health structures emerge.

With our commissioners and member organisations West Lancashire CVS has continued to develop work programmes using the Asset Based Community Development model, to create a sustainable impact on health inequalities through community empowerment around health and wellbeing initiatives.

One Workforce Network (OWN)

The One Workforce Network is a network of VCFS, public and private sector organisations that deliver services for children, young people and their families throughout West Lancashire. The aim of the network is to provide sector specific capacity building around issues such as safeguarding and participation, while developing communication across sectors and organisations. The network also engages in the work of the local Children and Young People's Trust. At the end of March 2013 the network had 73 member organisations. The network meets quarterly.

West Lancashire Challenge

The West Lancashire Challenge is a partnership project between CVS West Lancashire, West Lancashire Borough Council, Young People's Service (LCC) and West Lancashire College. The main aims of the project are:-

- To provide a holistic approach to increasing community wellbeing through individual action planning
- To provide support to engage people in employment, education, training and volunteering opportunities
- To engage businesses and social enterprises to develop training, apprenticeship and work experience opportunities for local people
- To increase knowledge of healthier lifestyles, health awareness and asset based community approaches

The project started in April 2011 and is funded until March 2013. In its first year an innovative tool has been developed, the West Lancashire Passport, which allows a range of professionals and organisations to develop and support action plans for individuals who sign up to the programme. The Passport allows people to set aims across a range of areas of an individual's life to increase engagement, opportunities and wellbeing.

The project has helped to develop 199 apprenticeship opportunities in West Lancashire, supported 190 young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) into work placements, apprenticeships or employment with training. The project has supported the recruitment of 37 trustees and engaged 947 people in health and wellbeing events and workshops.

SAS Scheme

The West Lancs Challenge secured further funding via the West Lancs LSP to deliver a Supported Apprenticeship Scheme commencing in May 2012 under which the target was to create between 8 – 12 apprenticeships within VCFS organisations who were in a position to offer a higher level of support to candidates. To date, 18 young people have been recruited onto the scheme. The first group are coming to the end of their apprenticeships with some very positive indications regarding ongoing employment. Additional funding has been provided by West Lancs Borough Council in order to extend this scheme.

As part of the SAS project the young people on the scheme were encouraged to develop their own community project. Their work and fund raising has led to one of the apprentices receiving an award from the High Sheriff of Lancashire and the group recognised for the

£2,000 funds raised for Myeloma UK, who have adopted the approach as part of their national fund raising strategy.

Asset Based Approaches to Community Development

West Lancashire CVS continues to work towards the development of asset based approaches to community development on a local and regional footprint. This concept revolves around defining communities by their strengths rather than their needs, and building on these. CVS West Lancashire is delivering capacity building services in this area, including project development and training.

Best Foot Forward Project - Dr Defib

The Best Foot Forward project is the method by which we link with children and young people and encourage their participation in the asset based approach model to help them recognise their individual and collective gifts, capacities and skills. The latest theme for Best Foot Forward has been working with Lancashire Defibrillator Campaign and helping children to gain an understanding of heart health, with a children designed character called Dr Defib. Over 14 schools have taken part in the project.

VISIT Project

The aim of this project is to support the use of sustainable transport in connection with tourism across West Lancashire and Sefton. The project involves various partners including Sefton MBC, West Lancashire Borough Council, Sefton CVS, CVS West Lancashire, Mersey Travel and British Waterways. The project started in December 2011 and is funded until March 2015.

The main objectives of the project are to: -

- increase the use of park and ride facilities
- promote cycle hire across the two boroughs
- increase the number of people cycling and walking through improved routes and facilities
- to promote the visitor attractions

CVS West Lancashire will focus on engaging the local community in the activities of the project and participating in using sustainable transport to access local visitor attractions.

Red Rose Recovery

Red Rose Recovery (RRR) is a project working with the Lancashire Users Forum (LUF) that gives people in recovery from addiction and/or a past history in offending the chance to contribute positively to their local communities by taking part in education, employment, volunteering or mentoring. The project is designed on the asset based community development model and the RRR team work with communities in East, Central and North Lancashire to build links within charities, leisure groups, colleges and local businesses, to create real opportunities for people in recovery to rebuild their lives, whilst giving something back to the community.

West Lancs CVS as part of the Lancashire Association of CVSs, was commissioned to deliver the project. The staff and volunteer teams are based at CVSs across Lancashire and the project is jointly funded by Lancashire County Council, Drug and Alcohol Action Team and the Lancashire Probation Trust alongside investment from the private sector. During the last year the RRR project has become a limited company and is working towards registration as an independent charity in the near future.

Representation and Strategic Engagement

CVS West Lancashire continued to take a role in representing over 330 voluntary, faith and community groups currently in its membership through attendance and support at borough and/or county wide partnership groups.

CVS West Lancashire has continued to work as a representative member on the West Lancashire LSP Executive Board and attended all of the LSP Thematic groups including the Community Cohesion thematic group which it provides the secretariat for. CVS West Lancashire also provides the secretariat for the West Lancashire Children and Young People's Trust.

During the past year the CVS has worked with its VCFS membership and its public and private sector partners to refresh the design of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). Building on the success of the LSP, its thematic groups and forum, the CVS has played a key role in the development of a new partnership body, One West Lancs, which will be officially launched in the coming year, facilitated by the CVS.

Through the past year the CVS continued its support for urban and rural community partnerships and continued its active support for additional thematic networks to increase civic participation across the borough e.g. Faith Network, Community Food Growing, and the OWN (One Workforce Network) for individuals, groups and organisations working with children and families.

Countywide, CVS West Lancashire supported the Lancashire Association of CVSs and is a core member of the consortiums of One Lancashire and Third Sector Lancashire as well as being a board/forum member of different Lancashire County Council partnership groups to ensure that the West Lancashire VCFS have a voice and strategic connections across the county. CVS West Lancashire continued during 2012/2013 to work with NHS Central Lancashire to promote health equality and well being throughout the Borough as well as linking with strategic regional health initiatives. CVS West Lancashire also continued to be a key member of the West Lancashire and Lancashire Asset Based Community Development working groups, the purpose of the groups is to promote, encourage and develop asset based approaches within our community.

Community Food Growing

The successful West Lancashire Community Food Growing project which started in 2009 aimed at increasing opportunities for community based food growing projects was further extended into 2012/13 with ongoing funding being provided from NHS Central Lancashire. Additional support was also provided by the West Lancashire LSP and the Red Apple Community Trust to enable raised beds to be installed in an additional seven primary schools bringing the total of primary schools now equipped by the project with raised beds in West Lancashire to 25. Mentoring support from a team of three allotment enthusiasts was also provided to those schools in need of support with their allotment projects.

The focus on creating more community food growing sites and allotments across the Borough continued with 301 plots available at the end of March 2013 up by over 194 from the starting point of just 107 in 2009.

The West Lancashire Allotment Federation, set up by the National Society for Allotments and Leisure Gardeners [NSALG], has continued to develop as a key success factor for the project. They were recently awarded the Prescott Trophy for Community Involvement by the NSALG at its recent national AGM.

West Lancashire Social Enterprise Hub

The aims of the project are to raise the profile of and support social entrepreneurial activity in West Lancashire.

The Hub's 25 paid up members continued to receive regular information updates on opportunities for social enterprises including grant funding and training offers. In addition, the West Lancashire Challenge Project targeted SE hub members for support around the provision of funding contributions for apprenticeships hosted within Social Enterprise organisations to ensure they benefited directly from the Supported Apprenticeship Scheme.

Financial Report

	2013	2012
	£	£
Income		
Grants	658,932	569,134
Fund generation:		
Subsidiary company activities	19,510	79,021
Other activities	15,954	34,458
Donations	-	-
Investment income	2,921	2,638
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Total Incoming Resources	697,317	685,251
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Expenditure		
Subsidiary company activities	19,477	57,123
Governance costs	3,024	2,880
Charitable activities	648,133	561,567
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Total Resources Expended	670,634	621,570
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Surplus for the year	26,683	63,681
	=====	=====
Balance Sheet		
Bank balance	721,133	348,102
Debtors	17,857	15,383
Creditors	(22,012)	(37,269)
Deferred Income	(410,428)	(46,349)
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Net Assets	306,550	279,867
	=====	=====
The funds of the charity		
Restricted funds	151,504	116,724
Unrestricted funds	155,046	163,143
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	306,550	279,867
	=====	=====

Thank you to our funders.

A full set of accounts is available on request.

Plans For 2013/14 and Beyond

Funded by the Big Lottery the initial success of the core project, Basis 2, was built upon during the last year. The work programme is reviewed and flexed annually to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the VCFS in West Lancashire. Supporting the VCFS to develop their sustainability and resilience through these challenging economic times will remain a key objective for the project.

The coming year will be a challenge for many local organisations and CVS West Lancashire will work closely with organisations, providing more intensive support around funding and sustainability. Particular emphasis will be given to ongoing work to increase opportunities to develop consortia and partnerships, across organisations and sectors, to build on the strengths of each organisation and develop innovative and effective ways of cost and resource sharing in partnership working.

A key part of our continuing work will be to build the relationships and influence with the newly emergent public sector bodies and commissioning organisations to ensure the value and ability of the VCFS to delivery, is recognised and invested in.

CVS West Lancashire will continue developing the asset based approaches framework to build local capacity and encourage community engagement and civic participation, particularly in local neighbourhood volunteering. We will look to focus on marginalised groups with project areas including:

- Children and young people
- People living with disabilities and long term conditions
- Communities in rural areas
- Areas of high health inequalities and economic challenge
- People in recovery from addiction and offender histories

The approach will be to empower and mobilise communities to be part of local solutions.

CVS West Lancashire aims to identify national, regional and local strategies and ensure the local VCFS is well placed to influence the investment of funding resources into West Lancashire.

CVS West Lancashire aims to maintain and build networks with Voluntary, Community and Faith, Public and Private sector organisations in West Lancashire and across Lancashire. We will support cross sector partnerships in public service delivery across VCFS organisations and sectors and this will include the facilitation of the new 'One West Lancashire' partnership.

Work will be ongoing to increase voluntary activity in the borough, with a particular focus on neighbourhood volunteering and increasing the number of trustees available to the sector. This will include encouraging employers to promote volunteering within organisations to release skilled personnel, to support local charities.

Further work is required in the coming year to upgrade our communications facilities and capacities including the use of social media, not replace face to face support and contact but rather to complement it and enable organisations to access a variety of support functions with a greater degree of flexibility.