AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

High Peak CVS Annual Report 2018/2019
Hello Everyone!

As my predecessor, Joy Brown, predicted, this year has been both challenging and exciting for High Peak CVS as we entered into a period of reflection, consolidation and new growth.

General Manager, Nigel Caldwell, retired after many years managing the organisation and we will be forever grateful for all his hard work and diligence. We wish him well for the future.

Message from the Chair, Karen Rigg

In turn we were delighted to welcome James Bromley as Chief Executive Officer in March to work with the Trustees and staff in leading the organisation into the future. James brings many new perspectives and experiences to High Peak CVS and will help us to build on our successes and to grow in new and appropriate directions.

The year has seen High Peak CVS begin to develop new projects and partnerships. Of particular note has been the Bereavement Support Group developed and run by Liz Fletcher in Glossop. This will provide solid and firm foundations for future, much needed provision across the wider High Peak.

The small groups project continues to provide much appreciated development support to groups, the core of our membership. Thank you to all our staff, volunteers, members, funders and partners for their continuing support.
Message from the CEO
James Bromley

2018/19 has seen many challenges across the Voluntary Sector and High Peak CVS itself has also been through a substantial period of transition and change. What hasn’t changed is our commitment to supporting community and voluntary groups throughout the High Peak and offering empowerment to new and existing groups that work tirelessly for their local community. We continue to strive to offer comprehensive support, advice, training and other services that help develop groups to tackle ongoing challenges and opportunities.

It has become clear that one of our primary roles is to act on behalf of our members and the sector and represent the views and issues that are being dealt with every day. We have continued to ensure we are active members of strategic partnership meetings and through our community engagement activities we endeavour to share concerns, ideas and good practice that we ourselves have become aware of.

We are proud to work with some amazing individuals, groups and organisations and understand the importance of representing them all to decision makers and funders. High Peak is a unique area, with a number of different voluntary organisations offering incredible services to the local population and beyond. High Peak CVS prides itself on being an independent and transparent infrastructure organisation whose aims and objectives are to develop the local community through support and guidance.

During 2018/19 we continued to engage and work with our membership of 326 organisations. We have directly assisted in successful funding bids totalling over £25,000 which went towards essential costs and services for groups in the High Peak. Funding continues to be stretched across the sector and High Peak CVS is no different in dealing with uncertainty and reduced funding opportunities. However, throughout the difficult times we have continued to be supported by our partners which include High Peak Borough Council, Derby and Derbyshire CCG, Tameside and Glossop CCG and Derbyshire County Council.

The CORE funding we receive from these organisations are essential to enable us to offer our services to the community groups that need it the most.

On behalf of everyone at High Peak CVS, I’d like to pass on my appreciation to our partners for continuing to support our work. Alongside our Statutory Partners, we have also continued to work closely with our colleagues across the sector and in particular our Alliance with Connex, New Mills Volunteer Centre and The Bureau in Glossop. 2018/19 saw the Alliance commit to working together to ensure that, collectively, we can utilise our combined resources, expertise and commitment to offer the support required to all areas across the High Peak. I’m looking forward to working even closer together in the future.

As mentioned previously, High Peak CVS has seen a lot of internal change in the past few months. Nigel Caldwell retired as General Manager in January 2019 after many years working for the organisation. Most of you will be fully aware of the fantastic dedication and commitment Nigel put towards the CVS and there is no doubt he is hugely missed. On behalf of everyone at High Peak CVS, staff, the Board, Members, partners and volunteers, I’d like to say a massive thank you to Nigel for everything he has done and wish him all the best in the future.

Over the next few pages, you can read a little more about the work we carried out throughout 2018/19 and the impact this had on the local community. I am incredibly proud to have become part of the team here at High Peak CVS and, although there are challenging times ahead, I’m looking forward to an exciting period of development for the organisation and working hard to support our members and working positively together in the future.
What Does High Peak CVS Do?

High Peak CVS is a local infrastructure organisation for the voluntary and community sector. As such we provide information, training and development support to charities, community groups and other not for profit organisations that deliver social action. We offer networking, liaison and we act as a voice to represent the sector. We are also members of NAVCA, the national membership body specifically for local support and development organisations in England.

High Peak CVS was set up in 2002 in recognition that there was a need for a specialist infrastructure organisation in the locality to support local people in developing that ‘glue’ of local support and activities which help strengthen and give a voice to communities, build resilience, resolve difficulties and reduce loneliness and isolation.

Whether it’s a community choir, a mental health group, a foodbank, a support group for new parents, a children’s playing field or an organisation tackling issues of inequality and inclusion, these organisations are the lifeblood of every community.

High Peak CVS helps people bring their ideas to life and, in working with the membership, is able to represent the rich and diverse views of the High peak voluntary sector and its multitude of small locally based groups at a wider strategic level.

This communication and representation role is a two way function. The CVS also helps the local authority, health organisations and other statutory partners communicate effectively with local communities. Our CVS has a unique and essential role in providing this expertise to over 300 charities, community groups and other not for profit organisations that deliver social action.

Representing the High Peak Voluntary Sector

In High Peak the PLACE Alliance is a successful multi-disciplinary network meeting, promoting greater collaboration and partnership working.

High Peak CVS is a member of the High Peak Alliance providing a perspective and voice for the voluntary sector.

In addition, High Peak CVS is a member of the 3D Third Sector Support, a County wide infrastructure network for collective action and representation for the sector.

Third Sector Support for Derbyshire

We regularly attend and participate in strategic partnership meetings with funders and statutory organisations to help shape the future of Voluntary Sector funding and development.

“High Peak CVS does a fantastic job with the small groups, inclusive, supportive and directive. It’s very positive working with CVS and I wouldn’t want to lose this support for our communities.”

Scott Hallam, Derbyshire County Council Children and Young People’s Services
Group Development

Peak VIP (Visually Impaired Persons) Group from Dove Holes

Setting up a group isn’t easy. It involves knowledge and skills that many people don’t initially have. Just as for a new business the right support in the early days can mean the difference between success or disaster. Having the professional, knowledgeable support of a community development worker makes sure a new group does the best possible for its beneficiaries - and manages its legal and financial responsibilities properly - right from the start.

New groups often need advice and guidance on legal and financial structures, governance, meeting skills, help with finding funders and writing funding bids, business planning, monitoring and evaluation and, on occasions, help when things go wrong. Even established groups often need support from time to time as they continue to grow and expand to meet increasing demand.

Many of these groups fill a key gap in community support. These range from older people’s lunch clubs, health condition support, social groups, groups for people with a disability or a mental health condition, community groups in areas of rural isolation, groups in deprived areas and much more.

While providing advice, training and support to over 350 CVS membership organisations plus non/members, we have directly assisted 209 new or developing groups with specialist guidance and support which has helped develop and sustain their service to the local community.

Small Groups Advisory Committee

We are delighted to still have the essential contribution of the Small Groups Advisory Committee which offer us a direct insight into the community and helps direct our focus. Meeting regularly, the committee is made up of several representatives of small groups who together act on behalf of our members. This enables us to ensure that the development of our services meet the needs of the local groups and continue to be relevant and vital to their sustainability and impact in the local community.

“The Small Group Project advisory group provides a valuable view from the users of the service to influence and inform the work, we get a chance to offer advice, see how other groups are working, swap skills, and solve problems, it’s a very good networking opportunity too. It’s good also to be working alongside CVS board members as we then get a deeper view of how the whole CVS operates and an insight into a variety of current issues in the voluntary sector.”

Dave Bennett
Chair of the SGP Advisory Committee

Tea and Chat from Chapel-en-le-Frith

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Funding

High Peak CVS fully understands the challenges voluntary sector organisations face in funding for their projects. As part of our work, we continue to support community groups through the journey of identifying and accessing funding opportunities that play a pivotal role in their development. During 2018/19 we helped to bring in £29,281 of public and grant funds to support the High Peak groups and their fantastic work.

Understanding Our Work

As a local infrastructure organisation, our role is to adapt our support to the needs of the local community. All our work is focused around local voluntary and community groups but our projects can vary throughout the year dependent on funding and identifying gaps in provision. Here are some of the additional work we have been involved in throughout the year:

Crompton Woodcock Award

We feel it’s important to celebrate the success of the groups we work with and the dedication they put in to supporting the High Peak community. Throughout the year High Peak CVS sends out a regular E-Newsletter with stories and updates from our members.

In addition, we have our annual Crompton Woodcock Award that is open to nominations for community groups that have made a real impact over the last 12 months. Last year the award was deservedly won by Glossop Men’s Gang in recognition of their very successful older men’s social group.

The group currently has over 30 members with an average age of around 80 years old. The members attend regularly and have worked tirelessly to help reduce isolation and increase wellbeing in a hard to reach group.

Bereavement and Loss Support Group

In November 2018, after a hugely successful Pilot, High Peak CVS received funding from Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust and with support from The Bureau in Glossop, we set up a Bereavement and Loss Support Group in response to a clear gap in support for those dealing with grief.

The group offers daytime and evening meetings to accommodate as many people as possible. Working alongside NHS England as a delivery partner on this work, the service has gone from strength to strength developing into an effective and much needed resource in Glossop. We are incredibly proud of this service and are actively looking at ways to develop the offer to other areas across the High Peak.

“I looked forward to going which seems a strange thing to say about a bereavement group, but I felt so much less alone, I was with people who could understand as they were in a similar situation..... I always felt comfortable in the group and safe. I felt heard and understood and listening to others I gained some perspective on my situation. It was the right place for me to be.”

“The set discussions really worked for me, especially those on coping and taking care of yourself and forgiving yourself. Forgiving myself what not something I realised I needed to do, but when we talked about it, I did, and others in the group did. I felt much more supported being in the group.”

Owen Russell and Grenville Castree accepting the Crompton Woodcock award at the 2018 AGM from CVS chair Karen Rigg.
Grant Administration

An important part of our work is supporting groups to access funding. We continue to administer both the Small Grants and 5 Ways to Wellbeing funding on behalf of Derbyshire County Council Public Health.

These funds are available to community groups and organisations that work to improve the health and wellbeing of the local area. We use our unique links within the community to target potential beneficiaries and support all groups through the application process.

Voluntary Sector Single Point of Access (vSPA)

This project was a North Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) funded service to enable health and social care professionals to access voluntary sector services.

This enabled their patients to receive local voluntary sector support to help them to continue to live independently and better connected with their local community networks of support.

The funding for this project has now ended in March 2019 but our role helped support over 120 people access community services across the High Peak.

Asset Based Community Development

High Peak CVS have continued to work closely alongside The Bureau in Glossop to enable health and social care professionals to refer into voluntary sector support services. Glossop was the early pilot project for this Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust initiative drawing on the strengths of the voluntary sector to provide community based support.

Our contribution concentrates on Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) to build the capacity of voluntary groups and support their development to take referrals. As well as developing existing small organisations and self-help groups, the work involves identifying gaps in provision and working proactively to develop services that can provide for the unmet needs.

Children and Young People

High Peak CVS worked on this Future in Mind project to support voluntary groups working with children and young people in High Peak. This is a part of a national programme that aims to increase group’s awareness of early signs of mental distress and gives guidance on intervention or signposting to appropriate local support services.

As part of this we ran a really successful Mental Health Awareness Training session to a number of organisations and groups.

Arts Development

Throughout the year we provided an arts development service to support a range of arts activities in the community as well as focus on support to creative industries and community festivals.

Although the funding for this has now ended, the work also included strategic input at county level via Arts Derbyshire which covered a particular focus on Arts and Health.

In the latter half of the year the work moved to concentrate more on supporting the plans to develop an Arts Performance centre in the Victoria Hall and to develop use of the building to promote community cultural events and performances.
Financial Overview

High Peak CVS relies on funding and support from various sources and we’d like to place on record our THANK YOU to everyone that has supported us over the last year and continues to do so.

Our top four grant funders during 2018/19 were High Peak Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and the two Clinical Commissioning Groups that operate in High Peak – NHS North Derbyshire CCG (now NHS Derby and Derbyshire) and NHS Tameside and Glossop CCG.

There was a minor reduction of 12.5% in our grant from NHS North Derbyshire CCG but other than that all statutory agencies were able to maintain our grants at the same level as the previous year. We made representations in support of our work and supported groups in the same position.

This is a welcome endorsement of our work and the value of our strategic partnerships.

Despite the challenging and uncertain future for funding across the sector, our priority remains that of providing voluntary groups with extensive support and guidance and maximise the impact across the local community.

Total Incoming Resources
£102,795

- £99,563
- £3,232

Charitable Activities
Generated Funds

Total Resources Spent
£102,010

- Development Work £73,095
- Power House £25,185
- Governance Costs £3,730

We hope you have enjoyed reading this annual report.

If you would like to know more about the High Peak CVS please contact our staff 01663 735350.

Alternatively you can go to our website www.highpeakcvs.org.uk where you can access a wide range of information, advice and guidance for voluntary and community groups.

www.highpeakcvs.org.uk
Thank you to our funders!

NHS
North Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group

High Peak Borough Council
working for our community

DERBYSHIRE County Council
Improving life for local people

Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group

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