



Annual Report

2014/2015

Underpinning Community Action



Message from the CHAIR

Joy Brown

It is very pleasing to be able to report that in spite of the continuing difficulties with the financial climate, HPCVS has been able to deliver the service that you, our members, recognise is our commitment to you.

We have explored every opportunity to ensure our financial strategy supports the achievement of our objectives.

Our enthusiastic team of staff, under the leadership of General Manager Nigel Caldwell, have made this happen.

It is good to look back at a year that has succeeded in so many ways to deliver high quality support, just where it is needed.

The Overview of the year 2014/15, as written in the Report of the Board of Directors, gives us all a reminder of the many endeavours undertaken by a CVS;

new for us this year is the Wrap Project, and I hope very much it will continue. I must say that I really enjoy our two weekly e-bulletin, and I hope you do, too.

We now look forward to the coming year, expecting to see new ideas take shape, in response to your changing needs, which I hope you will share with us. There is no doubt that change is afoot, but together we will enjoy the challenges it brings.



High Peak CVS Staff List

Nigel Caldwell

Jane Corke

Esther Jones

Liz Fletcher

Jackie Donnelly

Rachel Harman

Claire Mitchell

Rachel Clark

General Manager

Finance Manager

Sustainable Development Adviser

Small Groups Project Coordinator

Print and Database Officer

Can Parent Development Worker

IT and Information Officer

Can Parent Development Worker

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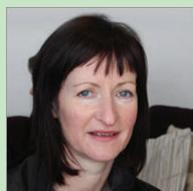
claire@highpeakcvs.org.uk



Jane Corke



Esther Jones



Liz Fletcher



Jackie Donnelly



Rachel Harman



Rachel Clark

Message from the **GENERAL MANAGER**

Nigel Caldwell

This year has been both challenging and active – challenging because core funding for infrastructure is still restricted; active because the demand for our work with groups continues to grow.

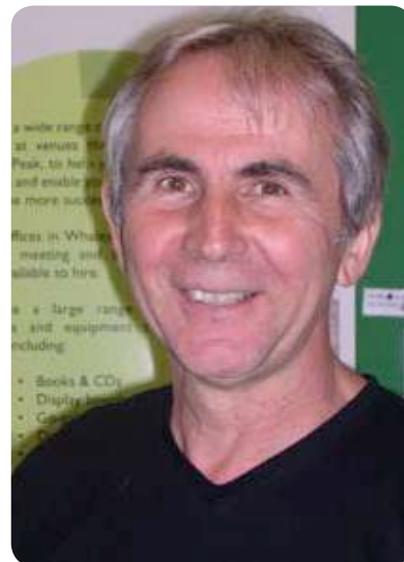
High Peak CVS's primary focus is to build the capacity of voluntary and community groups to help them make a positive difference to their communities. To this end our staff team deliver high quality support to groups providing information, advice, development support training as well as practical services like print and equipment hire from our base in Whaley Bridge.

This year 164 groups received support from us, 45 used the community print service and 27 hired equipment or booked the training room. We ran our main programme of 19 training courses throughout the year – which included a blend of sector relevant courses led by our own skilled staff as well as external tutors.

In addition we managed several community projects including an unexpected extra year 3 for Canparent, the Government trial that promotes the development of universal parenting classes. More details will be found later in this report.

Representation is the role of a CVS that is not often as visible as our practical and developmental support. This year we have continued to present a voluntary sector perspective at a variety of strategic level forums. We promote the value of voluntary groups' contribution to improving the

quality of community life and press for adequate resources to be invested to ensure the continuation and expansion of their work.



We constantly review the effectiveness and social value of what we provide to the voluntary sector and the communities they serve. However in the current financial climate it is very important that we look to our own financial sustainability so that we can continue our work. We bid for Big Assist support and secured £4000 worth of vouchers to buy in an external consultant to help sharpen our financial strategy and determine positive action to increase income, alongside strategic cost savings. The work will take place in the next financial year with the full involvement of both staff and Board members.

Lastly I must record our thanks to our statutory partners who once again have maintained the level of financial support through the year. Also of course thanks must go to our hard working and experienced Board of Trustees who are committed to the cause and set our strategic direction. We couldn't exist without them.

"Thank you for your help. You simply are the best!"

"Just a quick thank you for the workshops the feedback has been fantastic, everybody found it very helpful."

High Peak CVS Projects

High Peak CVS provides infrastructure support to the voluntary sector but also manages short term community projects and consultancy work. Here is an outline of some that we ran this year.

Chinley Community Vision

Chinley Buxworth and Brownside Community Association commissioned help from High Peak CVS to carry out a consultation on community needs and facilities. The resulting 'Community Vision 2014' consultation took place between October and December 2014. Esther from CVS worked with the project team to design a survey monkey questionnaire and a series of community conversations. The survey attracted a healthy 286 responses on behalf of just over 600 people.

"WRAP"

As part of Joined up Care initiatives to integrate Health and Social Care, we were approached by the North Derbyshire CCG to run a pilot project to enable health professionals to access voluntary sector services. The focus was to support those older people who are most at risk of losing the capacity to live independently in their own homes. Under the title "Wrap around Care" we researched and developed the concept with voluntary groups working alongside health and social care professionals during the third quarter of the year and WRAP was launched in January 2015. Thanks go to Liz Fletcher who led the project and managed a very busy 3 months where over 20 referrals were resolved successfully. It has proven that joint working can have very positive results and that the voluntary sector has a lot to offer.

"Yes, all of our patients are getting an incredible service from the Wrap volunteers of which they are very grateful."



Unexpectedly the Government Trial (Can Parent) to promote universal access to parenting classes was extended for a third year under the guidance of the Department of Health. High Peak is one of only four areas where the scheme was piloted and High Peak CVS were again entrusted to promote and engage local agencies in extending provision. The task was more difficult this year as the parental vouchers were withdrawn and the emphasis turned to attracting commissioners to invest. Our 2 workers, Rachel Harman and Rachel Clark took up the challenge and despite a difficult financial climate performed exceptionally well, attracting 18 additional local engagement grants to give local agencies like schools and Children's Centres the skills to deliver accredited parenting classes.

Big Energy Savings Network

For the second year running we were awarded a grant to run the Big Energy Savings Network project in High Peak. Esther Jones took the lead as Community Champion, recruiting and training a strong team of volunteers to help deliver training and support to vulnerable consumers and front line workers, so that disadvantaged consumers could be helped to switch to the most economic energy suppliers. With additional funding from High Peak Borough Council we were able to exceed our targets by 25%. A total of 135 vulnerable consumers and 51 frontline staff received training.



Development Support

Development support to voluntary groups is a vital component of High Peak CVS's work and demonstrates our commitment to community development in all parts of High Peak. Our approach is to work alongside groups and to build their skills to empower them to be as effective as they can be in their work. Our development workers can assist with a wide range of issues from initial setting up, governance, funding, business planning, all backed up by our information and training services.

"I now feel able and keen to try out a funding bid. And I feel that I'd be supported in doing so."

Small Groups Project

High Peak CVS offers generic development support to the full spectrum of voluntary groups. However we have always had a specialist project focussing on small, marginalised and disadvantaged groups, delivered through the Small Groups Project Co-ordinator, Liz Fletcher. The project provides specific help to small and emerging groups offering start up advice, help with funding and ongoing support, always working at the pace of the group. Much of the work is with self-help groups, local action groups and those that provide support to disabled people, those with mental health difficulties and older people. Many new groups have been formed by the patient translation of the initial idea into positive action with Liz providing the right support at the right time.

"As a new trustee – very informative of what I need to do to contribute."

"Informative, not too heavy, plenty of opportunities to ask questions, relevant and on task."

Generic Development Support

Our Sustain project offers generic community support, but also has specialist experience in long term funding for groups, social enterprise as well as environmental sustainability. Esther Jones leads on this development work and also runs a variety of training courses on all aspects of funding, from a Beginners Introduction to Fundraising, through to Gift Aid and Donor Giving, up to diversifying income streams through social enterprise. Esther has also led on a local community consultation and ran a successful Big Energy Savings Network project (see opposite page for details).

"Tutor has a great training style, easy going, inclusive and very clear communication."

Arts Development

The CVS receives funding from High Peak Borough Council to provide 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 festival development. The work also covers strategic input at county level through Arts Derbyshire and the Derbyshire Culture Board and the national Arts Development UK network.

This year the work, led by Nigel Caldwell, has involved membership of the steering group behind planning the Derbyshire Year of Culture ("Made in Derbyshire") initiative as well as contributing to the review of creative industries support in the county.



**MADE IN
DERBYSHIRE 2015**

"Excellent training, thoroughly enjoyed. Interactive, informative and very well delivered."

Training

High Peak CVS is committed to providing voluntary and community groups with the best possible resources to make their work effective. Training is a vital component in our list of support services and this year we were able to run 19 training courses on our main core training programme.

Our courses are run partly by our skilled staff team on topics like Trustees roles and responsibilities and fundraising, but we also bring in external tutors for more practical courses like First Aid and Food Hygiene or how to publicise your group on the High Peak Radio helpline.

We are keen to introduce new courses to meet the needs of groups and this year we developed a specific Gift Aid course which was well received. Any group with ideas for new courses should contact our Training Coordinator Jackie on jackie@highpeakcvs.org.uk

Courses take place at our Whaley Bridge offices in our upgraded training room, but we are also able to arrange tailored courses at a group's own premises.

As well as our main training programme we carry out a lot of informal training with groups in the course of our development support work. Often we run community projects which entail further training like our highly successful Big Energy Savings Network project this year that trained 135 vulnerable consumers and 51 frontline staff.

Community Print Service

Our Community Print Service offers low cost but high quality colour and black and white printing for community and voluntary groups. The printing is computer linked so material can be emailed directly to save travel time. For all print enquiries contact jackie@highpeakcvs.org.uk

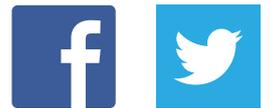
Training Room Hire

High Peak CVS has a training room available for hire at our premises in Whaley Bridge. It is equipped with wi-fi internet access, interactive smart white Board hearing loop TV, Video and DVD player and computer. It has a flexible layout. Enquires can be made via jackie@highpeakcvs.org.uk



The training room – can be hired at reasonable rates.

Social Media Surgery



This year High Peak CVS launched a new social media service for those wanting to brush up their skills or just to start from scratch. Monthly sessions have been held where volunteers with expertise help community group members get to grips with how to get the best out of social media.

The sessions have been well attended with very positive feedback and we have also been able to focus on special themes such as crowdfunding. The sessions are informal and can be booked by visiting the website www.socialmediasurgery.com and search for High Peak.

Information

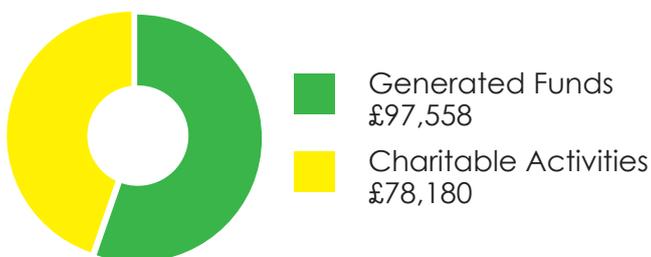
A key aspect of our work is to provide the information that groups need. We do this through our fortnightly e bulletin, newsletters, and our Resource library at our office.

Our website www.highpeakcvs.org.uk is easy to navigate and has a wealth of information including our "How" guides on a wide range of subjects relevant to voluntary and groups.

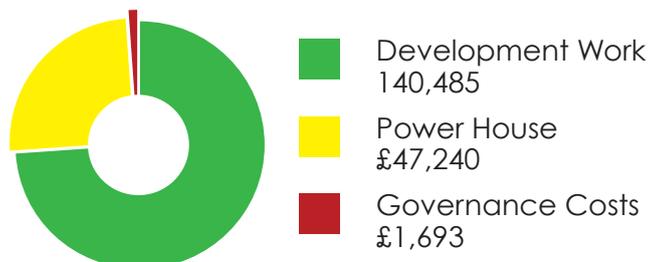
Finances

High Peak CVS was set up in 2002 to be a development agency with a mission to "improve the quality of life for individuals, groups and communities, by enabling a vibrant and sustainable Voluntary and Community Sector". We undertake this infrastructure role with a committed and experienced small staff team, with a principle of empowering groups to be effective and successful. Naturally we can only achieve our aims if we can secure adequate financial resources to deliver the service.

Total Incoming Resources £175,738



Total Resources Spent £189,418



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

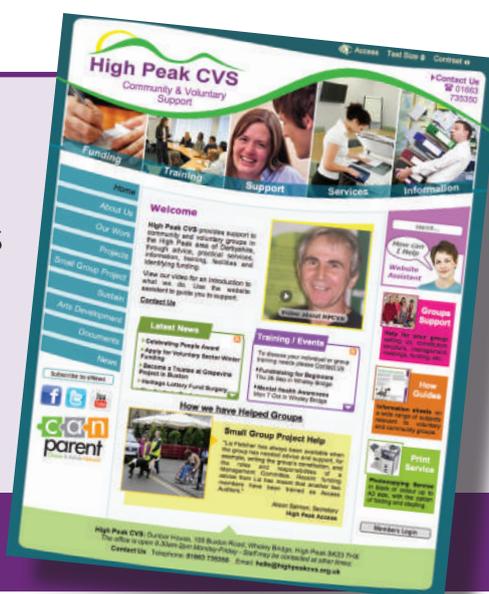
In a tough financial climate we maximise all potential for new funding streams and hone in on cost savings wherever possible. This year we have secured £4000 worth of vouchers from the Big Assist which will allow us to buy in a consultant to help us to develop a sustainable financial strategy and increase our income. The consultant was appointed in March and work will take place early in the next financial year.

Main Funders

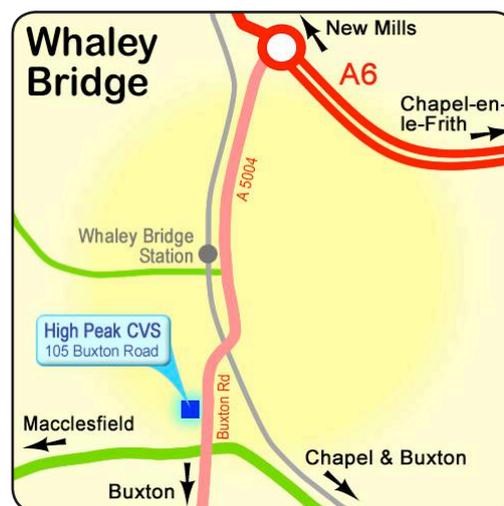
Our top four grant funders were High Peak Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and the two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) that operate in High Peak – North Derbyshire CCG and Tameside and Glossop CCG.

All statutory agencies were able to maintain our grants at the same level as the previous year which is a welcome endorsement of our work and recognition of the value of our strategic partnerships. The other income sources reflect a range of income – earned income from the community print service, room and equipment hire plus occasional short term consultancy and one off commissioned pieces of work.

A full set of High Peak CVS accounts can be obtained from Jane Corke, our Finance Manager. Please contact Jane on **01663 736434** or email jane@highpeakcvs.org.uk



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Thank you to our Funders



High Peak Borough Council
working for our community



DERBYSHIRE
County Council
Improving life for local people



North Derbyshire
Clinical Commissioning Group



Tameside and Glossop
Clinical Commissioning Group

THIS REPORT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT AND IN BRAILLE:
PLEASE CONTACT US FOR A COPY IN EITHER OF THESE FORMATS

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