

**High Peak CVS**  
Community & Voluntary Support

# Annual Report

## 2015/2016

Resources for Stronger Communities





## Message from the Chair, Joy Brown

As expected this year has posed many challenges for us; we have continued to deliver our services in the midst of considerable concerns about our grant status. The grant dependent voluntary sector is seriously affected by the current economic austerity, as is well known to you all. We do continue to make valiant efforts to achieve reductions in our expenditure, but it is clear to me that the face of High Peak CVS

will have to change in the coming months. Happily it is expected that our core services will continue to be offered by our excellent team, under the supervision of Nigel Caldwell, our General Manager.

Of course, change in itself is no bad thing, and we have always initiated change when opportunities were presented. This time I cannot say it is welcome. Our organisation is central to the community it serves, and has a proud record of service, as your many letters to us attest.

That said, there is no time for pessimism, there is too much to do!

I am very proud of the HPCVS team, who put heart and soul into the work they do for our community.

Thank you Team, for your brilliant efforts.

## High Peak CVS Staff

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Jane Corke



Esther Jones



Liz Fletcher



Jackie Donnelly



Claire Mitchell

## Message from the General Manager Nigel Caldwell

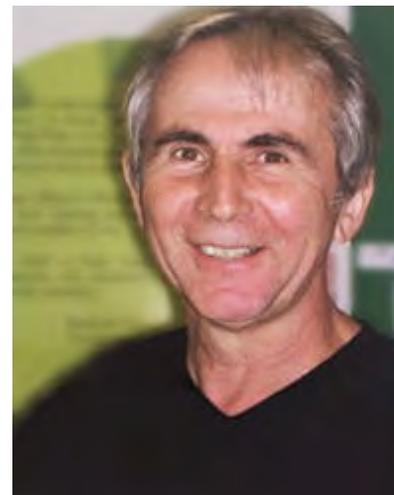
This year has been challenging for many voluntary sector infrastructure bodies and High Peak CVS has likewise struggled to secure adequate resources to support and develop the local voluntary and community sector.

The valuable role played by local infrastructure like CVS has often been overlooked in favour of front line delivery services, or at the other extreme multi million pound commissions to regional or national agencies. Our national body NAVCA initiated an independent commission on the future of local infrastructure under the title "Change for Good" whose report was launched in Westminster in March 2015. The report said "Our research shows that infrastructure will be needed in some form as long as people come together to form voluntary organisations and community groups. New groups and existing ones will still need advice on legal forms, governance, compliance, fundraising and income generation, financial and organisational management and demonstrating their value... We believe the case for investment in voluntary and community sector infrastructure is compelling".

We are convinced from the continued demand for our support services that there is a clear need for our work.

Our small team has had over 200 contacts with voluntary and community groups this year, providing support and direction to groups on matters such as initial setting up, constitutional and governance issues, fundraising, marketing, forward planning and group dynamics. As a result group members develop confidence, skills and experience that help them to maximise the effectiveness of their group's activities that benefit members of their community.

Structured training is a vital component and



this year our main course training programme provided 12 sessions attended by 36 groups, covering courses such as First Aid, food hygiene, fundraising skills and governance, all with very positive evaluation from the participants.

We also ran 2 projects with specific funding. Big Energy Saving Network: Last winter's programme reached 216 'vulnerable consumers' and provided training to 50 frontline staff and volunteers. Our Wrap around Care service enabled health professionals to access voluntary sector services, to help older people to live independently for longer. By the end of the year we had successfully arranged voluntary sector services to over 130 vulnerable older people individuals referred to us by Care Co-ordinators and Multi-Disciplinary Teams.

This project is breaking ground in 'joined up working' and is an excellent example of how High Peak CVS is versatile and thanks to its staff's diverse skills, can respond quickly to set up and run new projects.

On a personal note we experienced another challenge when I had to undergo surgery and have extended leave for several months. I have to praise our Chair Joy and the Board, for their extended contributions to steer and support the work during this time and thank the staff for their great efforts to cover the workload at a difficult time until I returned mid-March.

## What we do

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. Our staff deliver high quality support to groups across the High Peak, providing information, advice, development support and training, as well as practical services like printing and equipment and room hire. This year our small team has had over 200 contacts with groups.

Development support to voluntary groups is central to what we do. Our small staff team support community groups, charities and social enterprises in the High Peak to get started, develop and thrive.

## Development Support

Esther Jones leads our work with larger groups and those seeking new ways to secure sustainability. Esther offers funding advice from Beginner's stage to Gift Aid, Donor Giving and Social Enterprise activity.

The new Funder finder database that CVS acquired has been particularly helpful in guiding groups, often prompting discussion on organisational development too.

CVS is keen to keep updated and Community Shares offer an alternative means of raising capital funding for community projects. This year Esther was invited by the Community Shares Unit to train to become a licensed Community Shares Practitioner, able to award the Community Shares Standard Mark, which launched in May 2015.

There has been a noticeable increase in groups seeking information on incorporation and charity registration and Esther helped several groups to consider in the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the Community Interest Company in particular.

## Small Groups Project

Ever since CVS was founded in 2002 we have placed emphasis on supporting the small, disadvantaged and marginalised groups in our High Peak communities. This is delivered through our Small Groups Project which is led by Liz Fletcher. Groups can get help writing a constitution, understand the roles and responsibilities of committee members and access tailored informal training and advice on running effective meetings. Much of the work this year was with self-help groups catering for people with long term health conditions, older people and those with mental health difficulties. Liz gives advice and support, particularly on how to find funding sources and follow that up with practical help and guidance in making applications. Thousands of pounds are raised for groups in this way bringing money into the area from Trusts, Lottery and other funds to support this important work.

Much of the added social value of the work is the ability to give close support to groups over a period of time and to help them through occasional crises and keep them on track. Tailored training for groups also keeps the learning specific to groups' needs.



Twice a year Liz also produces a Small Groups newsletter, "View from the Peak", that keeps groups informed and up to date and celebrates their many achievements.

## Arts Development

High Peak 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.

Nigel Caldwell leads on this aspect and covers strategic input at county level through Arts Derbyshire, the Derbyshire Culture Board and the national Arts Development UK network. This year has seen the continuation of the Made in Derbyshire brand and a growing recognition of the social and economic impact of community festivals in Derbyshire, often led by the commitment of local community groups.

*"Dave contacted me yesterday to tell me that we had been awarded another Grant! Yey, two out of three applications that I submitted (with your input) is not bad."*

## Project Management

For the third year running High Peak CVS was selected to run the Big Energy Savings Network in High Peak. Again Esther was our Community Champion recruiting and training volunteers to deliver support to vulnerable consumers.

Last winter's programme exceeded targets and reached 216 'vulnerable consumers' and provided training to 50 frontline staff and volunteers. 73 consumers took up the offer of 1-1 help to look at what individual savings they could make to their fuel bills and 29 switched supplier with, or as a result of our help, each receiving an anticipated saving of over £200 per year. Those who switched saved in total £9132.

## Representation and liaison

As a local infrastructure organisation for the voluntary sector, High Peak CVS carries out representation of the voluntary sector perspective at strategic forums, mainly in association with public sector statutory agencies. It is particularly needed in these times of structural changes and public sector funding restrictions so our role is often to press for adequate resources to be invested to ensure the continuation and expansion of the voluntary sector's valuable work.

The work with Tameside and Glossop CCG led to us being commissioned, alongside Glossop Volunteer Centre, to facilitate community engagement to influence the move towards integrated care and alternative community provision.

## Wrap Around Care Service

This is a social prescribing style service to enable health professionals to access voluntary sector services to help their patients to live independently for longer. Liz Fletcher leads the project, ably assisted by Jackie Hay, providing access to voluntary sector services for vulnerable people at risk of losing their capacity to live independently in their own community.

By the end of the year we had successfully arranged voluntary sector services to over 130 vulnerable older people individuals referred to us by Care Co-ordinators and Multi-Disciplinary Teams. This project was initially funded until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and as a result of its success has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016. Wrap is breaking ground in 'joined up working' and is an excellent example of the versatility of High Peak CVS and how, thanks to its staff's diverse skills, it can respond quickly to set up and run new projects.

## Training

Provision of structured training is a vital component of the support and capacity building that High Peak CVS offers local groups.

From this year's training evaluations, we know that by attending courses, group members have developed confidence, skills and experience that have helped them to maximise the effectiveness of their group's activities, which in turn benefits members of their community.

This year our main course training programme provided 12 sessions attended by 36 groups, covering courses such as First Aid, Food Hygiene, Fundraising Skills and Governance.

Our courses are run in part by our experienced staff team for courses on governance, fundraising etc., but we also bring in external tutors for more specialist courses like First Aid, Food Hygiene and how to secure media coverage through quality Press releases.

*Thank you for the course last Thursday, "Fundraising for Beginners". I really enjoyed it & found it very informative.*

## Information

A key aspect of CVS support is to provide the information that groups need to carry out their work. We do this in a number of ways. The most immediate is via our highly regarded e- bulletin which goes out to nearly 300 subscribers. The bulletin gives up to date information on funding, events, training and any matters relevant to the sector. The bulletin is geared to go out fortnightly but often there is enough for a weekly issue.

The e-bulletin is supplemented by our regular Facebook presence keeping groups abreast of current issues and also helping to publicise the work of local organisations.

Our other major source of information is the interactive website [www.highpeakcvcs.org.uk](http://www.highpeakcvcs.org.uk) It is easy to navigate and contains a wealth of information and guidance including a range of "How" guides on funding, policies, constitutions and asset transfer that can supplement our development team's input.

*These newsletters are fantastic with great content...*

## Community Print Service

This year we have continued to run a low cost, but high quality print service for local voluntary and community groups. Jackie is our print specialist and has provided posters, newsletter, publicity brochures and tickets for a wide range of organisations throughout the year. With direct computer linked printing groups have saved travel time by emailing their print work directly to Jackie.



*Many Thanks to High Peak CVS for your prompt, high quality and cost - effective print service.*

## Finances

Public and voluntary sectors are experiencing unprecedented pressures on funding in the current economic austerity with more groups chasing less funding.

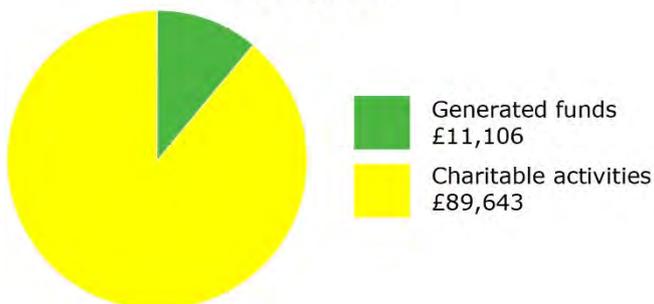
This year we were awarded a £4000 Big Assist voucher to employ a consultant, Adrian Masters, to work with Board and staff on ways forward to secure a sustainable future. His research and evaluation was developed in two constructive joint Board and Staff Away Days, focussing on identifying a clear plan for a future financial strategy on how we fund our core activities and identify opportunities for expanding our work.

## Main Funders

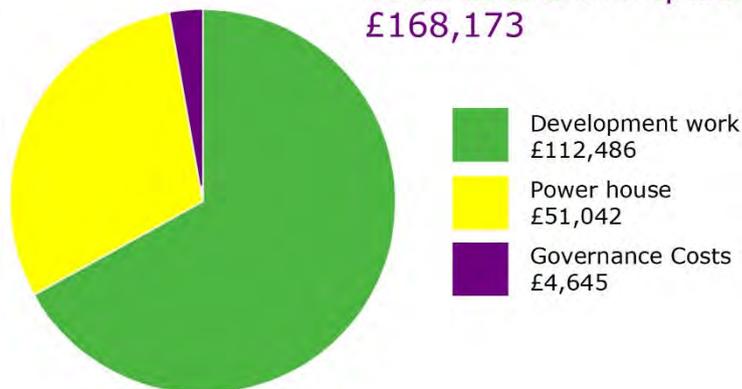
Our top four grant funders were High Peak Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and the two Clinical Commissioning Groups that operate in High Peak – NHS North Derbyshire CCG and NHS Tameside and Glossop CCG.

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 the value of our strategic partnerships. This obviously still reflects a reduction, once inflation is taken into account. The other income sources reflect a range of income – earned income from the community print service, room and equipment hire plus occasional short term pieces of consultancy and one off commissioned work.

Total Incoming Resources  
£100,749



Total Resources Spent  
£168,173

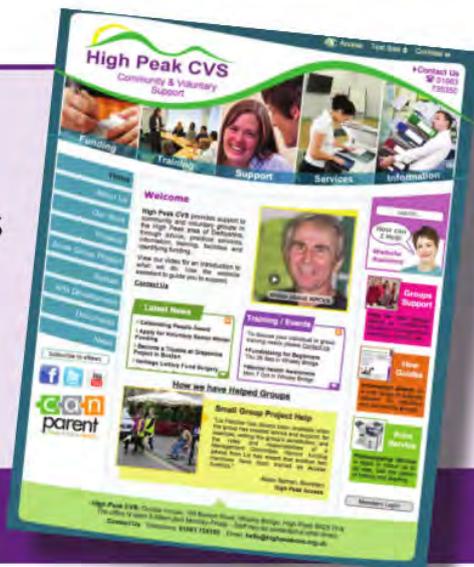


*We hope you have enjoyed reading this annual report.*

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](http://www.highpeakcvs.org.uk) where you can access a wide range of information, advice and guidance for voluntary and community groups.

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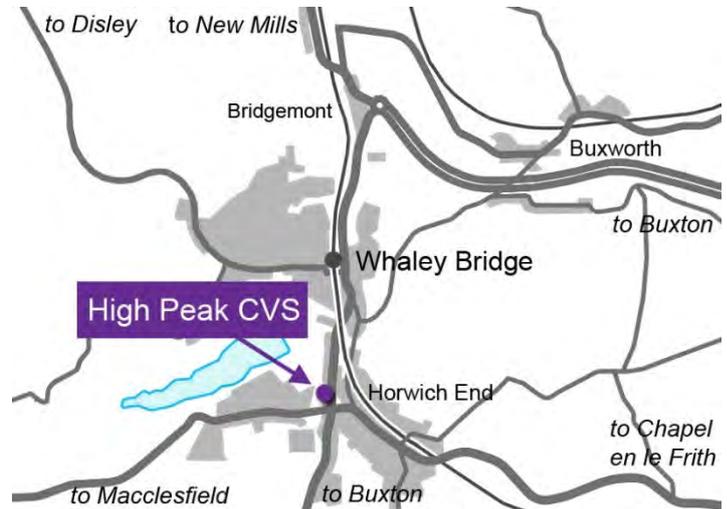


# High Peak CVS

Community & Voluntary Support



High Peak CVS Offices, Whaley Bridge



Thank you to our funders!



High Peak Borough Council

*working for our community*



**DERBYSHIRE**  
County Council  
Improving life for local people



**Tameside and Glossop  
Clinical Commissioning Group**



**North Derbyshire  
Clinical Commissioning Group**



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PLEASE CONTACT US FOR A COPY IN EITHER OF THESE FORMATS

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