



High Peak CVS
Community & Voluntary Support

Supporting Social Action

High Peak CVS
Annual Report
2017/2018



Message from the Chair, Joy Brown

We remain a small organisation, as funding remains much smaller than we would wish, but as you know this is a widespread problem. I am proud we are still providing services to you, especially concentrating on our Small Groups.

Accommodation is currently under review, but wherever we settle we will continue to be the High Peak CVS that you know.

These challenging times have considerable impact on each and every one of us, but not all change is bad change, in fact I look forward to the future for High Peak CVS.

Hello Everyone!

Once again I find myself writing a brief message to you, at the time of our AGM. This year has been one of mixed blessings for many of us, including myself. Once again the Trustees and I sought to achieve a merger with another organisation, this time with The Bureau in Glossop. We had a very busy few months working through the relevant issues, but unfortunately our plans were unsuccessful, and the merger has not been achieved.

This year I have decided to step down from The Chair. It really is time for us to have the pleasure of a new Chairperson! However my regard for High Peak CVS is such that I sincerely hope to remain a Trustee. I want to thank our loyal and hardworking staff, under the excellent management of Nigel Caldwell. Thank you so much!

High Peak CVS Staff

Nigel Caldwell	General Manager	nigel@highpeakcvs.org.uk
Jane Corke	Finance Manager	jane@highpeakcvs.org.uk
Liz Fletcher	Small Groups Project Coordinator	lizsgp@highpeakcvs.org.uk
Jackie Donnelly	Training and Database Officer	
Jackie Hay	vSPA Officer	jhay@highpeakcvs.org.uk
Claire Mitchell	IT and Information Officer	claire@highpeakcvs.org.uk



Jane Corke



Liz Fletcher



Jackie Donnelly



Jackie Hay



Claire Mitchell

Message from the General Manager Nigel Caldwell

High Peak CVS has been promoting and supporting voluntary sector groups since its inception back in 2002. Our emphasis has always been on the empowerment and resourcing of local people to make a difference in their communities through voluntary group action. We are committed to developing the capacity of groups just setting up and also ongoing support to existing groups who face challenges or seek to expand their work.

Our ethos is to keep a focus on the most disadvantaged in our community and to offer support in the form of information, bespoke training, and development support, whilst maintaining the role of an advocate for the sector through representation at strategic levels.

New groups are helped to form, but they are not directly linked or dependent on High Peak CVS. Instead the emphasis is on building their capacity to be independent and to operate on their own, knowing that High Peak CVS is there to support them as and when a need arises. This approach greatly increases the skills and capacity within the community – the oft quoted “community resilience” that is part of a properly functioning and supportive community.

This year has been another tough year for the voluntary sector with scarce new opportunities for funding, especially for infrastructure organisations like High Peak CVS. We do remain grateful though for the continued support from High Peak Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and the 2 Clinical Commissioning Groups - North Derbyshire and Tameside and Glossop- which gives us a secure platform of core funding.

With this, our small but hardworking team have continued to offer high quality support to 106 voluntary and community groups in the High Peak and we have



maintained a membership of 335 groups. Our partnership in the north Derbyshire vSPA project, which helps health and care professionals link into the local voluntary sector services, provided support to 120 people who were referred to us. Later in this report there are examples of the main aspects of our work in the last year.

As Joy has reported in her message, our Board, with staff support, spent a lot of time working towards a merger with the Bureau in Glossop. Based on shared values we have worked closely together in the past and we are partners in the Bureau Social Prescribing project providing the Asset Based Community development to groups in Glossopdale. In the end our negotiations stopped short of full merger but we continue our close collaboration and joint work.

Our thanks must be recorded for the substantial contribution from our active, well informed and committed Board members who have supported and steered the work of High Peak CVS this last year. Special mention must go to Joy Brown, our Chair who is stepping down after over 8 years of continuous close support as Chair. Joy's contribution has been unstinting and we all appreciate her wise chairing and heartfelt support for the cause.

Civil Society and the need for infrastructure



High Peak CVS is what is commonly termed 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.

"It is the lines of communication that an infrastructure organisation such as CVS opens up, that I think are the most crucial and beneficial."

As this report is being written, the Government have just launched the "Civil Society Strategy – Building a Future for everyone". The Strategy makes specific reference to the important role of local infrastructure in strengthening civil society, by operational and strategic support to voluntary and community groups.

"Infrastructure organisations are like the additional member of a charity's Management team providing representation, distributing information and providing impartial advice and support." From a local High Peak group

The Strategy sets out a clear commitment by Government to strengthen and increase work in partnership with the Voluntary Sector and commit to joint working on policy and programme design.

Representation

Locally we are beginning to see positive signs of closer and more integrated working between statutory authorities and the 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 regular attendee providing a voluntary sector perspective on the value of self care in the community.

High Peak CVS is also part of the 3D County wide infrastructure network for collective action and representation for the sector. Last year 3D made representations to Derbyshire CC Adult Social Care on the potential for 3D to lead on a Social Prescribing initiative across the county. This drew partly on the success of the Social Prescribing project based at The Bureau in Glossop, for which our CVS is a partner providing the skilled ABCD community development input. Sadly no funding was available that year although the concept was well received.

Arts Development

We receive 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 festivals



The work also covers strategic input at county level through Arts- Derbyshire. It was great to offer help to the ever growing Chapel Arts group and congratulations to them on achieving charitable status.

Small Groups Project

The Small Groups Project is at the heart of our work supporting small disadvantaged and marginalised groups across High Peak. Led by Liz Fletcher this project gives really valuable development support to new and existing groups, helping them with all aspects of setting up and running effectively. Groups get help writing a constitution, clarifying aims, understanding the roles and responsibilities of committee members and useful guidance on all aspects of groups working well.

Much of the work this year was with self-help groups supporting older people, those with long term health conditions or who are experiencing mental health difficulties.

"The CVS, Liz Fletcher in particular, has been invaluable in helping us at People of Whitfield setting up our group for food redistribution and other community activities. Without that help we could not have done it. "

Liz gives practical help and advice on all aspects of funding sources and how to make a successful application. Small amounts make a big difference to groups and this year Liz helped 12 groups gain the funding they needed and this resulted in raising over £18,000 in total.

We also value the contribution of the SGP Advisory Committee, made up of several representatives of small groups who together act as a sounding board for the Small Group Project and ensure our work is grounded in what groups really need. They act as a critical friend to guide the work and their input has been invaluable this year in protecting the values behind the empowering approach central to all SGP work.

High Peak CVS has supported the Furness Vale based group Community Organising Green Space (COGS) in their campaign to turn a neglected open area into a valuable public space for all the community. This group's persistence in the face of barriers has been exceptional and they were the



COGS

winner of The High Peak CVS 2017 AGM Celebrating People's Award for their outstanding contribution to their community. We are delighted to say that they didn't stop there and went on to win the coveted National Field Trust Award for "Most Improved Site". The picture above shows them receiving the award at Lords cricket ground

Liz's work has been particularly focussed on Glossopdale this year delivering our part of the ICFT funded Social Prescribing initiative. As well as building the capacity for existing groups she has also been leading on 2 important areas where a clear gap in services has been identified. Younger adults' mental health was a clear issue and Liz gave several months of close support and guidance to build up a peer support group with clear aims and a structure to work within.

Bereavement support was the second major gap in provision and Liz was able to forge an effective partnership with both Blythe House and Co-op Funeral service to develop not in this case a self-help group, but a valued service for the many people seeking help in coping with their bereavement.

" Being able to make a positive difference and improve people's lives, is at the heart of most groups' mission. However, without the knowledge, resources and skills that can be drawn upon at CVS, many opportunities to successfully fulfil their aims would be lost. "

Projects



Future in Mind

It is commonly said that one in four of us will have mental health issues in our lifetime. There is however increasing concern about the rise in young people experiencing mental health problems. This year High Peak CVS became an active partner in the national Future in Mind mental health initiative, which aims to improve children and young people's mental health services. Our role is to help groups that work with children and young people, become more aware of the early signs of mental distress and the appropriate support that can be offered and to know when a referral to local professional services is needed. To this end we ran a free mental health training course attended by 15 people, with follow up forums to share common concerns and also good practice.

vSPA

High Peak CVS continued to deliver vSPA as a single point of access service, that allows health and social care workers to refer their clients into local voluntary and community services for support. This promotes greater self care and improved wellbeing through better connections in their neighbourhoods. It is much less well funded than its predecessor, the CVS WRAP project, but last year we still helped 120 people receive appropriate help in their community. The future of vSPA is uncertain as this report goes to print, but we hope key elements of its work will be kept albeit maybe in a different format.

Training

CVS no longer has a formal training programme, but we do respond to specific requests and this year training was provided for 15 groups on courses such as Emergency First Aid, Food Safety, Chaining skills and Safeguarding Children.

Of course, informal bespoke training happens throughout our usual development work. Additionally, this year we were also approached to plan and facilitate separate Review day sessions for two Buxton based groups – one to plan its future direction as a newly independent group and the other a full "Awayday" for staff and trustees taking stock of achievements, mission and future direction. CVS are happy to do this work in the role of honest broker with no specific interest other than to see the best for the group's future.

"That was a really excellent session last night with some clear outcomes. Thank you very much for facilitating so expertly and supportively."

Footnote

We can't end this last year's report without reflecting on the sad passing of Mike Crompton, one of our most committed and valued member of our Board of Trustees. Mike was a former Chair of the Board and could always be relied upon for his wise advice drawn from a wealth of experience, along with his passionate support for community development. Not only that but he had a wicked sense of humour and meetings are just not the same without him: he is much missed.



Finances

We are very conscious of the challenge of the current climate of economic uncertainty, particularly in public sector finance and the increasingly competitive funding climate. We are working hard to ensure that we can continue to deliver services to the High Peak voluntary sector within our available resources and the recent restructure and downsizing of the accommodation have assisted with this.

Merger talks with the Glossop Bureau have been ongoing during the latter half of the financial year but later in May 2018 both Boards agreed to an end to these discussions, concluding that alternative options for cooperation, short of full merger were in the better interests of both organisations and the communities they support.

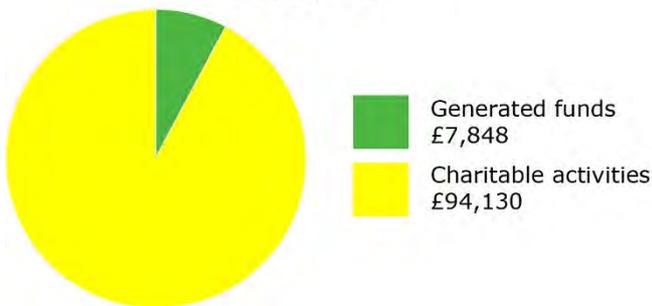
As a continuing independent charity we will intensify our drive to secure additional income sources to support our work.

Main Funders

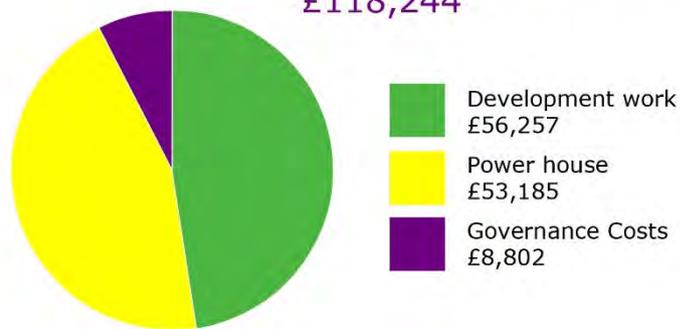
Our top four grant funders were High Peak Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and the two Clinical Commissioning Groups that operate in the High Peak (North Derbyshire and Tameside and Glossop CCG's). North Derbyshire CCG were facing financial difficulties and so made a minor reduction of 3% in our grant half way through last year. Apart from that all statutory agencies were able to maintain our grants at the same level, despite the potential threat of cuts.

The other income sources included a range, including training fees, room and equipment hire plus occasional short term consultancy such as Future in Mind and administering Public Health Small Grants programme. The Board regularly review costs of a responsible wind down and designate a reserve to protect these funds.

Total Incoming Resources
£101,978



Total Resources Spent
£118,244

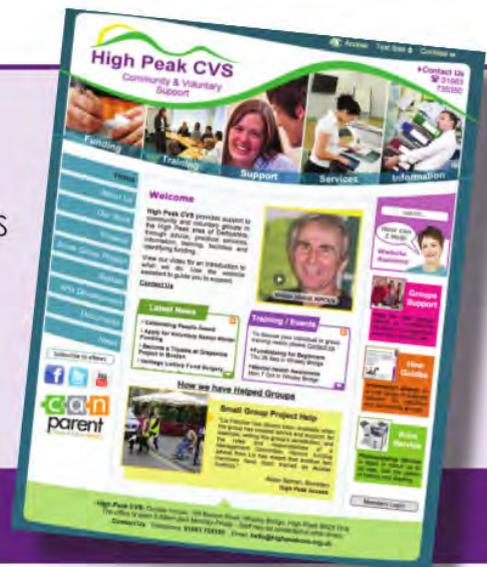


We hope you have enjoyed reading this annual report.

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

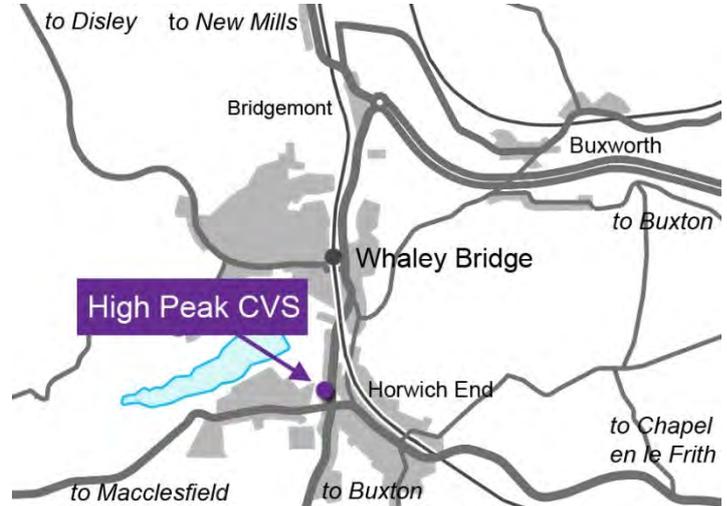


High Peak CVS

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



**North Derbyshire
Clinical Commissioning Group**



**Tameside and Glossop
Clinical Commissioning Group**

THIS REPORT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT:
PLEASE CONTACT US FOR A COPY

High Peak CVS

Tel: 01663 735350

hello@highpeakcvs.org.uk
www.highpeakcvs.org.uk

105 Buxton Road
Whaley Bridge
High Peak SK23 7HX

Co. No. 4600635
Charity No. 1096462

Layout & Design
Steve Essex
Printed by HPCVS