

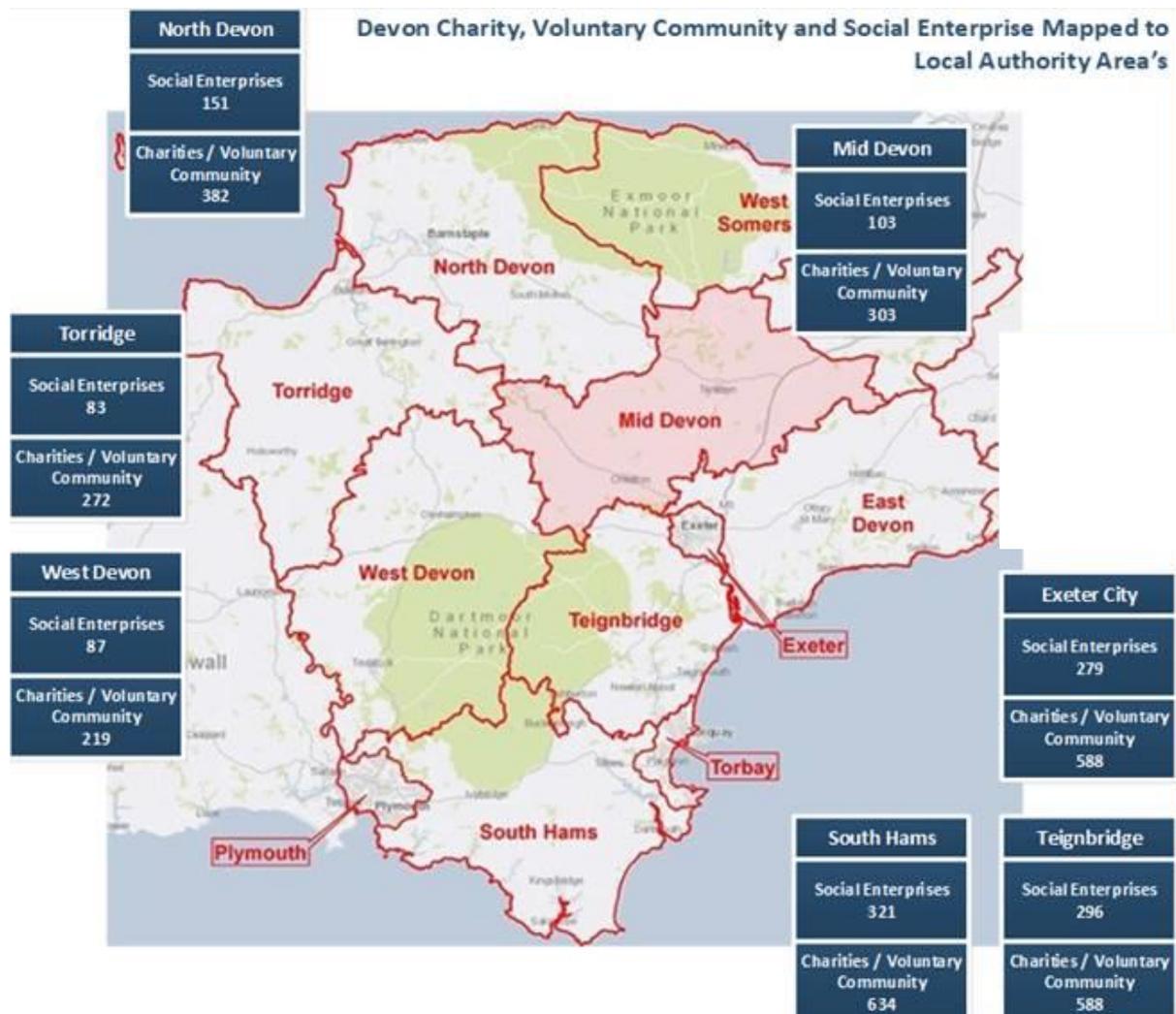
East Devon Community and Voluntary Organisations

East Devon has hundreds, if not thousands, of not for private profit:

- Charities
- Community and voluntary organisations
- Social enterprises

These are termed VCSE groups, which stands for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise.

There are around 627 registered charities within East Devon and 204 registered social enterprises. In addition, there are then the many, many voluntary and community groups and social enterprise type organisations that aren't registered as either of these. The image below shows roughly how we compare to other Devon local authorities in terms of registered charities and registered social enterprises.



To search the national list of registered charities for those in each town / village:

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search>

A high percentage of these VCSE organisations will work with vulnerable people, including people affected or potentially affected by poverty.

The value the VCSE sector adds to East Devon

The VCSE sector in East Devon is, in my experience, outstanding overall. The VCSE sector can, and already does, vital work to help with the council's strategic actions on poverty. The work they do is very wide ranging.

For example taking the points from the one page draft Poverty Plan:

1. Jobs

The VCSE sector can both provide paid jobs for people, and help people get work, for example Exmouth's Glenorchy Work Club: <https://www.facebook.com/glenorchyworkclub/>

2. Education

Volunteering with any VCSE can provide important experience and skills to people.

3. Money

East Devon Citizens Advice Bureau helps provides free, impartial and confidential advice and information on a range of issues, including benefits and financial issues.

4. Health

There are main VCSE groups related to improving health in each of East Devon's main towns. The East Devon Community Network is a network set up to help the main health VCSE groups to network, support each other, apply for joint funding and share best practice.

5. Food

East Devon's multiple foodbanks and community larders provide food to those in food poverty.

Who are the VCSE organisations?

Although the registered charities and registered social enterprises can be found as they're on national databases, unfortunately there is no accurate list of VCSE organisations within East Devon. This can be achieved to a certain extent through networking and mapping. Due to the thousands of groups this would take significant resources. However, as some groups move on, close, open and change details fairly rapidly this information would be out of date as soon as it's created. Devon County Council have struggled for years to create and keep an accurate and up to date database of VCSE groups. The one they use at the moment is out of date and incomplete but is still a great resource: <https://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk/>

Recently, some of the VCSE groups have been creating and updating their own lists of certain categories of VCSE groups in their area. This ensures they are more local and well maintained. However, this takes them time and resources, and there is no overarching list. An example of this is Sid Valley Help's list: <https://www.sidvalleyhelp.co.uk/organisations>

Examples of just a few of the numerous amazing VCSE organisations within East Devon that do work that influences the poverty agenda:

1. Parental Minds CIC: <https://www.parentalminds.org.uk/parental-minds-counselling/>

Parental Minds CIC was set up by a local resident and is going from strength to strength. It aims to improve communication & collaboration between mental health services in East

Devon & nationally and ensure the voices of Mental Health Caregivers are heard and valued. They provide well-being workshops, using their own resources to aid prevention and early intervention of mental health issues within families, promoting open communication, self-care and acceptance. They also provide safe, secure wrap-around care to Mental Health Caregivers at Honiton's Parent+ Support Hub, including access to low cost Talking Therapy.

2. Project Food: <http://halff.org.uk/>

Project Food (formerly known as HALFF) is about good food and good health. It's based in Axminster but covers a lot of East Devon. It is about the importance of cooking, eating and sharing real food on a budget. It is also about improving people's understanding of the links between the food they eat and the health they get to enjoy. They adapted recently to provide online support to people, and expanded their fresh food delivery service.

3. Ottery Help Scheme: <https://www.otteryhelpscheme.org.uk/>

The Ottery Help Scheme are based in Ottery St Mary but cover quite a bit of East Devon. They work closely with many other organisations with the aim of sharing best practice to enable them to provide thoughtful and joined up support to our community. Their aims are to unite and mobilise the goodwill of our community, offering support to local residents where it is needed most in times of illness, difficulty or life-changing circumstance. They mainly support older people.

4. Honiton TRIP: <https://www.tripcta.org/>

TRIP is the Honiton-based charity dedicated to relieving rural isolation and loneliness in East Devon by providing affordable services - transport, specialised disability equipment and a personal befriending service. During the Coronavirus pandemic they took on extra responsibilities for delivering free, hot / freshly prepared meals to people in need, amongst other things.

5. Exmouth Foodbank: <https://www.exmouthfoodbank.org.uk/>

The Exmouth Food Bank was set up in 2012 by a group of churches in Exmouth, including the Brixington Community Church, Holy Trinity Church, the Salvation Army, Holy Ghost Church and Exmouth Chapel. It was created to help individuals and families in crisis by providing free emergency food help. The majority of the food they distribute is donated; they then use cash donations to buy what else is needed to provide nutritionally balanced food parcels.

The outstanding work of East Devon VCSEs during Coronavirus

The recent Coronavirus pandemic has really highlighted the large and vital contribution that East Devon's VCSE sector makes, and can make to the local community and shines a spotlight on what they achieve. If the VCSE sector (including town and parish councils) had not existed, adapted and stepped up quickly there would have been major, unmanageable gaps in support for residents during Coronavirus.

All other local authority areas within Devon have a Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), East Devon doesn't have one. At the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, these CVSs in most cases, if not all, mobilised, supported and co-ordinated the response effort to support their communities through the pandemic.

However, in East Devon, the VCSE groups themselves did this, in a few cases with help and support from EDDC. The rate at and success with which most of them got their individual town / parish responses off the ground was overwhelming. Within weeks every area of East Devon was covered by some sort of community response, EDDC gathered in this information and put it on our website and helped fill in any gaps. Residents can find the information for themselves on our website, or they can call our Coronavirus Community Support Hub and the team will refer them: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/community-support/community-contacts-in-east-devon/>

For example:

- In Honiton a wide variety of over 27 VCSE groups and other relevant organisations got together on 17 March 2020, led by the voluntary sector, and set up all aspects of their community response to help residents through Coronavirus. They decided what they were going to do, and had a leaflet printed within 5 days detailing how residents could get help in terms of foodbanks, prescription delivery, free hot meal delivery etc. This leaflet was then delivered to all households in Honiton. They successfully dealt with thousands of support requests.
- The Random Kitchen was set up in Honiton, and was using the Rugby Club kitchens. They delivered over 20,000 free three course meals to people in need in Honiton and the surrounding areas.
- Budleigh Salterton Relief in Need expanded the work they were already doing. They found families in need through local schools etc and sent 53 separate households in Budleigh Salterton, East Budleigh, Otterton and Exmouth vouchers they could spend in local food shops.
- The Ottery Community Volunteers VCSE group was created, organised and mobilised within a very short space of time. Their aim was/is to help the local support teams within Ottery with the large volume of those in lockdown, isolated or being shielded. They have helped deliver 650 prescriptions, made 376 grocery deliveries and checked on vulnerable family members etc, helping over 370 different households within Ottery St Mary.
- East Devon's amazing foodbanks adapted quickly to delivering food parcels, social distancing when in their premises and a change in volunteers as many of their previous volunteers were advised to shield. Most have also experienced a significant increase in demand and donations.

To try to help these and groups like them EDDC:

- Set up a Coronavirus Community Food Fund, which gives grants of up to £2,500 to those VCSE groups helping people in food poverty: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/community-support/coronavirus-community-food-fund/>
- Set up a joint Covid 19 Fund with Devon County Council, this was a small grants fund available for all sorts of projects: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/community-support/covid-19-fund/>
- Researched, wrote and sent out regular email newsletters emailed to the 70+ groups to keep them up to date and let them know of any support we could give them.
- Set up monthly Zoom meetings for all representatives of our Coronavirus community support groups. The idea being that we arrange and host the meeting but the agenda is led by the groups and what they want to discuss with each other. There have now been five of these Zoom meetings with between about 12 and 18 attendees, some groups have been to most and find them very useful.

- Further work on mapping food related groups and supporting groups has also been carried out by Housing's Community Development Workers.

For the Panel's information, these are the main poverty related concerns were raised by the VCSE groups in the last Coronavirus community support groups Zoom meeting. This makes it clear that VCSE groups have and are working with similar concerns to the Poverty Panel.

- Starting to see people who are flourishing, Covid has released them from worrying situations and anxiety producing activities. These people have huge anxiety about going back to normal.
- Some people now have huge financial worries, but some are much better off financially. Some people on benefits have broken the cycle and can now manage financially. When things go back to normal, they will find it hard to manage money. How do we stop these people going back to previous financial habits?
- There are quite a lot of people already in financial crisis who would not normally be. Poverty will keep increasing and the need for financial support will keep increasing. There is a lot of hidden debt that will surface at the end of payment holidays, financial support, furlough, fewer jobs, whether people be able to afford their mortgages, the end of landlords being unable to evict tenants etc. A perfect storm of financial crisis.
- It's a big step for some people who never expected to need financial support such as food banks to need it and ask for it, could harm their mental health significantly.
- There will be a mental health crisis, how do we deal with that? Already volunteers encountering more people with more serious mental health issue.
- Don't be blind to the fact that many problems existed before Covid. Covid has shone a light into some dark places.
- Problems will not go away; we need resilience beyond the crisis. How do people keep their support networks going and how do we keep support going?
- There has been a benefit in the towns of Honiton and Axminster where there are now open lines of communications between voluntary groups, statutory agencies etc that were not there before. We need to keep those lines of communication open.
- The volunteer base is getting older, how do we shore that up from the bottom? Volunteers are wearing so many hats all at once it will be difficult to fill gaps once they burnout or can no longer do it. How do we get younger people to volunteer? More recognition is needed for volunteers.

The work that I do with VCSE groups

I manage and administer several of the council's grant funding streams that VCSE groups can apply for. Currently the corporate grants we have available to VCSE groups are:

- Crowdfund East Devon: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/grants-available-from-us/crowdfunding/>
- The Coronavirus Community Food Fund: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/grants-available-from-us/coronavirus-community-food-fund/>
Over £45,000 in grants has been given VCSE groups supporting those in food poverty.
- The Community Buildings Fund: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/grants-available-from-us/community-buildings-fund/>

I also provide advice and guidance to those applying for EDDC funding. I provide extensive training on crowdfunding, which is the future of funding, but not something many East Devon groups have done before.

I provide funding advice and support to people at all levels of EDDC, our partners and the VCSE sector. Throughout my employment at EDDC, I have advised VCSE groups on all aspects of funding. This includes hearing about and suggesting improvements to their projects, where to find funding, and how to apply. Now I get around four of these enquiries a week, some of which take a long time to deal with.

I set up and update grants opportunities pages available on the council's website and let relevant people / organisations know about any new funding opportunities.

I publicise funding, engagement and consultation opportunities to relevant audiences such as town and parish councils, voluntary and community groups, businesses and the community.

I provide general advice to VCSE groups, or signpost them to the right places to find the answers if I cannot help them. For example this could be queries about how to become a registered charity, how to publicise what they do, who to contact within the council about particular queries. This is currently a small area of my work, which I have not publicised due to my limited capacity, but as there is no East Devon CVS it's a task that I've taken on.

Pre-Covid I organized all aspects of EDDC's Working Together Event. This was an annual event for all of East Devon's VCSE groups. Around 110 representatives of VCSE groups normally attended. This was a whole day event in a hall, with speakers that were timely and relevant, and gave the VCSE groups a chance to network. Very useful links were made between groups who then ended up working together.

Post-Covid I organize all aspects of the council's monthly networking Zoom meetings for Coronavirus community support groups, which they find really useful.

At the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, I collected in details of all the VCSE groups providing Coronavirus support to residents, helped support set up where there were gaps, listed them on our website and kept them up to date. Residents can find them there, or they can call our Coronavirus Community Support Hub and the team will refer them: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/community-support/community-contacts-in-east-devon/> I write update emails to be sent out to all of East Devon's Coronavirus community support groups to keep them informed and send them useful information and web-links.

I am working with Cllr Armstrong and other statutory agencies to investigate and develop the idea of EDDC providing some sort of VCSE support within East Devon.

I have developed great working relationships with some of East Devon's VCSE groups.

Other EDDC staff

Other EDDC staff work with VCSE groups as well. I think these are mainly:

- The benefits team
- Housing's Community Development Workers

Suggestions

- Improved partnership working between the VCSE groups and the statutory sector, and within the statutory sector regarding VCSE groups. There is often a lack of a joined up approach and a lack of communication. For example:
 - We may have schemes for example that some VCSE groups do not know about, or they may be working with some people in poverty that we have no idea about and could help.
 - Different teams within the council are working with some of the VCSE groups but those teams do not always talk to each other. There could be more sharing of knowledge and information between council teams to avoid duplication and make sure the work is as effective as possible.
 - Different statutory sector organisations are working with the same VCSE groups, sometimes on the same things. As has happened recently in East Devon, the statutory sector should work together more and go to the VCSE groups as more of a united front where possible.
- Help the VCSE sector to evaluate themselves and see if any of them could work more effectively. Maybe some could do more work to try to prevent poverty as well as deal with its outcomes. There have been instances of informal food support being given repeatedly, rather than working with people asking for the support on why they need that food support and seeing if the issues can be sorted. Or, referring the people they're helping onto other organisations who can help break the cycle.
- Ask the VCSE groups what we can do to help them, this has been done to a certain extent in terms of Coronavirus community support groups, many of whom can have some sort of impact on the poverty agenda, but yet from not the vast wealth of groups who are or could be linked to helping combat poverty. There is a proposal for EDDC to commission VCSE support, this proposal is due to be sent out to all VCSE groups for consultation.
- Put improved structures in place to help VCSE groups network with each other, particularly with those doing similar work. This will improve partnership working between VCSE groups and improve outcomes for East Devon residents. In the annual Working Together Events we used to host in person for the VCSE sector, and more recently the Coronavirus community support groups Zoom meetings hosted by Cllr Armstrong, very useful links have been made between groups that have benefitted the people they're helping. Housing's Community Development Workers and Project Food have already been working on networking food support groups.
- Influence and lobby Government where possible. For example:
 - Foodbanks are often finding they are stepping into the breach and supplying three weeks of food parcels to people purely because of the 3-week delays in paying people through the Government's Universal Credit scheme.
 - Campaign to Government for them to make more funding available to smaller VCSE groups who are doing vital work to try to prevent poverty. Often Government grants schemes are only for much larger, not so local organisations, and the deadlines for applications are sometimes so short it does not allow a co-operative of groups to get together and apply.
 - Campaign to Government for more action on poverty generally.

- Create extra grants funding streams that will fund costs they would normally struggle to find money for. This would include the revenue costs of running the actual organisation, as most funders will only fund short-term projects. It is also difficult for them to find long term funding, so they can focus on whatever they're doing and not be constantly worrying about finding the next pot of money, or when they find projects that work it's difficult to keep them going.
- Help with volunteers. Work with VCSEs to run a campaign to help them recruit volunteers, particularly younger volunteers. They are finding that as the older volunteers can no longer take part, they are struggling to replace them. Enhance and promote EDDC's staff volunteering policy. Some employers organise work parties where a group of staff in the same team volunteer together to carry out a specific project. Recognise East Devon's amazing volunteers and the work that they do. This could be in terms of the communications campaign, or an awards scheme.
- Know who our VCSE groups are, and make sure they know each other to make sure we're communicating with all of them, not just the ones we already know about, and they're helping each other where possible. However, do not underestimate this task. This can be achieved to a certain extent through networking and mapping. However, as some groups move on, close, open and change details rapidly this information would be out of date as soon as it's created. Devon County Council have struggled for years to create and keep an accurate and up to date database of VCSE groups, the one they use at the moment is out of date. Where it has not already been done, we could fund the local VCSE groups creating their own list which they are then responsible for updating and we host one overall list? Alternatively, maybe local groups could be funded to keep the Devon County Council database up to date?
- Help the VCSE groups find the people they can help, and help the people that need help find the VCSE groups that can help them. EDDC has more resources and information than VCSE groups and a wider reach in terms of communication.
- Some of these suggestions could and would normally be carried out by a well-resourced / funded Council for Voluntary Service (CVS). East Devon is currently the only local authority in Devon without any formalised organisation to support its VCSE groups. East Devon District Council paying long-term for an organisation to provide support, advice and guidance to East Devon's VCSE sector could be a great advantage. East Devon is currently the only local authority in Devon without a support organisation for its VCSE groups. As East Devon does not have a CVS, after feedback from the Coronavirus community support groups, EDDC have put together a draft proposal, which could result in EDDC paying for an organisation to support the vital VCSE sector within East Devon. This draft paper will soon be sent out to VCSE groups to see how they all feel about the proposals before being presented to a wider group of Councillors. This could be a traditional CVS, but we also need look at other alternatives to see if they are better. For example, an extension of a grassroots organisation from within East Devon or something similar to Exeter City Council's CVS support. We would suggest there would need to be a commitment to several years of funding. This would give the organisation confidence to grow and develop, and to help it not ending up competing for grants against the VCSE groups it's trying to support. This is explored more in Appendix 1.

- The VCSE Coronavirus community support groups we meet with regularly are very concerned about the immediate future in terms of increasing poverty and mental health concerns. The sooner, the better.
- Collect and use data on the reasons we are aware of for people needing help in terms of poverty and encourage VCSE groups to do the same, and share this with each other so we can all see if we can better target our and their services.
- Provide spare places on any EDDC training that might be relevant to VCSE groups.
- Look at what already exists and use grassroots organisations, and do not try to impose things on VCSE groups. For example, the 'East Devon Community Network' has representatives from health-based organisations in several of the towns. This is a grassroots based network containing some of the biggest community activists and could potentially be a great resource.

Appendix 1

East Devon's lack of a Council for Voluntary Service

Unlike every other local authority within Devon, East Devon does not have a Council for Voluntary Service (CVS). We have not had one for a few years now, since the organisation that used to be our CVS stopped being one and was not replaced.

What a CVS is

A CVS is "the place at which local voluntary and community organisations speak to each other". They offer a wide variety of services and support for other local organisations, for example training, or advice on funding.

CVSs are also involved in advocacy for the organisations they represent, and aid in communication between the local voluntary and community sector and the statutory sector. They will typically provide fora for organisations to meet, often a Community empowerment network, and will interact with, or have a seat on, the local strategic partnership. They may also advocate on behalf of the organisations they represent on a one to one basis.

A CVS may or may not incorporate the local Volunteer Centre.

What has happened since East Devon has not had a CVS

Since then, there has been a gap in provision with more piecemeal, limited support. For example:

- EDDC's Community Engagement and Funding Officer providing VCSE groups with services such as funding advice and networking groups.
- The East Devon Community Network is a network set up to help the main health VCSE groups within each of the towns to make links with and support each other. This may be developing further with initial monies from Devon County Council; they are currently both looking into it and keeping us updated.
- EDDC Housing's Community Development Workers have undertaken mapping exercises and given support.

This gap in provision became very apparent at the start of Coronavirus. All other local authority areas within Devon had a CVS, which mobilised quickly to help provide Coronavirus support both directly to residents and to VCSE groups. In East Devon, we were reliant upon VCSE groups mobilising themselves, without much support / guidance / advice, and covering the whole of East Devon.

Examples of how two other local authorities provide support to not for private profit groups in their areas

1. Teignbridge

Teignbridge has a very good CVS, mainly due to having an excellent Chief Executive and experienced very long-term staff. Prior to Coronavirus, they had a physical office that was open Monday to Thursday. Now all working from home and services are delivered remotely. They have been invaluable during Coronavirus.

Their CVS is funded by Teignbridge District Council, £60,000 a year. This is £35,000 for core costs, £8,000 for the volunteer agency, and £14,000 for funding advice. They are coming to the end of a three year Service Level Agreement. Next year they will probably operate it from

one year Service Level Agreements. The CVS also have access to funding from the NHS and access external grants on their own behalf.

As it's an SLA they report to the council on a quarterly basis, on a whole range of outcomes. The council aren't overly prescriptive about what should be provided, as the CVS are experts in what is needed. They provide learning opportunities, community development, advice and support and are currently working towards a quality mark.

They organise and undertake several of forums such as ones on health and wellbeing, foodbanks and youth services. The CVS are good at helping groups join up and network so they can get funding together.

They have recently formed a new trading arm with money from the district council. This was to help them be more sustainable, making a small charge for things such as training.

The council feels that it's all about having the right people do it, the staff are key to a successful CVS.

2. Exeter

Exeter used to have a Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) but this changed to Co-lab Exeter: <https://colabexeter.org.uk/> this left a gap in support for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector.

Exeter City Council reviewed its entire grant process 3 years ago, using a consultation run by external consultants so it was independent. There were many historical grants totalling £1.3million that the council was giving out, for example to the CVS and Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) in the form of revenue grants, rent grants on council buildings or land etc.

Community groups and residents were asked to identify how the £1.3million should be spent. All of the groups receiving grants, rent subsidies etc. and residents identified what their priorities were for the £1.3million. All the community groups receiving grants in any form were given the opportunity to comment and had the chance to meet one to one to give their input. The consultation identified key services, which were then tendered as a contract. Where grants were going to end, the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) groups were given 6 to 12 months' notice.

- CAB Exeter won a contract to provide their support to individuals and got more than they were doing previously, amounting to £200,000 a year. This allows more working in partnership, as it's a contract, and has been more beneficial than the previous grant.
- Wellbeing Exeter now exists in the city. There are Community Builders throughout the city who fulfil a community development role, including working with individuals and helping them get together and mobilise and form VCSE groups. The Community Builders are managed by Exeter Community Initiatives. Social prescribing fits in with this.
- The more traditional type CVS role is now fulfilled by Exeter Connect. They provide services such as advice on managing volunteers, advice on funding, support to become constituted etc. They receive £180,000 a year from the council, the contract is for three years with the opportunity to extend. Exeter Connect is managed by Exeter Community Initiatives. They were appointed in December last year, the new team were brought into post and were tied in straight away to Coronavirus support. The fact that it's a contract has meant that the council has a team it can work closely with; there is monthly monitoring and portfolio holder involvement. It is a tricky role

being linked to the council as sometimes they are helping projects that Councillors do not support, and there was a lot expected of them. They are currently working on a digital inclusion project and Coronavirus related work as well as the traditional CVS type role.

Coronavirus Community Support VCSE groups

Westbank

As there is no CVS in East Devon, throughout the Coronavirus pandemic Devon County Council has, through Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA) paid for Westbank to provide the following very limited but important support to East Devon's VCSE groups that have been providing Coronavirus support to residents. This however is now at an end.

- Support with good practice (e.g. DBS checking under new Coronavirus regulations) and safe ways of working with volunteers and / or those relying on volunteers to deliver service, or to meet needs.
- Providing guidance relating to all aspects of volunteering and utilising volunteers.
- Helping to promote volunteering opportunities.
- Support with funding applications.

East Devon District Council findings about support for VCSE groups

As East Devon lacked a CVS at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, EDDC collected in details of all the VCSE groups providing Coronavirus support to residents, helped support set up where there were gaps, and listed them on our website. Residents can find them there, or they can call our Coronavirus Community Support Hub and the team will refer them: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/community-support/community-contacts-in-east-devon/>

EDDC then started organising monthly Zoom networking meetings for all of East Devon's Coronavirus community support groups. The idea being that we arrange and host the meeting but the agenda is led by the groups and what they want to discuss. There have now been five of these Zoom meetings with between about 12 and 18 attendees, some groups have been to most and find them very useful.

Many of the groups already existed and stepped up their support, a few were new groups. At these meetings we have discussed the support VCSE groups in East Devon may need. Key common points raised about support needed were:

- Help to find longer term funding, so they can plan for the future. In addition, funding for core costs, not just for projects.
- Guidance, advice and funding for helping communities become more digitally included, so more people can access online services and take advantage of online social opportunities.
- Opportunities to network and communicate are key, building relationships both within the voluntary sector and between the voluntary sector and statutory agencies. Bring everyone together, currently having the same conversations with different groups. Forums were suggested, where everyone could get together to discuss issues and a way forward.

- Guidance on recruiting, keeping and supporting volunteers. Ways to reduce volunteer fatigue and help people realise even a couple of hours of volunteering can mean a lot.
- Working with the voluntary sector themselves to devise what support is needed.
- Finding out what's already going on and building on what's already there.
- Guidance on building resilience and sustainability within the voluntary sector.
- Needs to be flexible, what is needed today might not be what is needed tomorrow.
- Help to reach those who are most isolated and disengaged.
- Lack of volunteers/volunteers with skills/knowledge
- Rural nature of District meaning people that live in between villages/town do not know where to get help.
- The need for a cohesive approach (possibly digital) to enable group communication, sharing of expertise and best practice.
- How to reach people who are not online.
- How to encourage people who may need help to come forward.
- Funding issues
- Don't necessarily need an overarching body, should be a conduit for projects like I Belong.
- CVSs should be separate to service delivery to make sure they are separate and objective.
- A CVS would be better as it would formalise the support and would be an easy point of contact.
- There is a huge job to do in terms of capturing what community groups there are throughout East Devon, some towns already have lists for their areas.
- Need to know funding would be there long term.
- There is a huge range of community organisations out there. Needs and access to support would be very different between them all.
- The pressure on grant funding support in the future will be huge, but cannot take any funding away from voluntary sector groups.
- There are areas the voluntary sector needs support in now.