



Contents

Message from our Chair.....	3-4
COVID-19 2021/22.....	5-16
Solihull Infrastructure.....	17-22
Warwickshire Infrastructure.....	23-27
Volunteering.....	28-35
Stratford Social Inclusion Partnership.....	36-40
Big Local.....	41-49
ConnectWELL.....	50-53
Linking Futures.....	54-57
Better Health & Wellbeing.....	58-60
Financial Summary.....	61-62
Membership.....	63
Acknowledgements & Thanks.....	64
Message from our Chief Executive.....	65-66

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Our Vision

A thriving and well-resourced voluntary, community and social enterprise sector that meets community needs and provides an excellent experience for all.

Our Mission

We promote, develop and support a vibrant voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to enable local people to shape and influence their communities.



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Andrew Gabbitas

Chair of CAVA's
Trustee Board

Welcome

The quality of life in Warwickshire and Solihull has over many years been enhanced by the contribution of volunteers and by that of the charitable and community organisations to which they belong.

The COVID-19 epidemic has emphasised those contributions. Without the efforts of volunteers, the health and well-being of our residents would have suffered to a much greater degree than has been the case.

The diversity of CAVA's membership has been our strength. It has created the opportunity and space to address the challenges we have faced. CAVA has been reshaping itself over the past year to better meet the needs of that diverse membership. We have tried to create a common purpose and vision for the sector whilst contributing advocacy, support, advice and expertise where it has been most needed.

Covid will continue to be a challenge but in its wake, there are existing and new challenges which will also need to be addressed. The sector in Warwickshire and Solihull has, however, a strong foundation which will enable it to meet those challenges.

It just remains for me to thank our trustees, staff, volunteers and funders for all their help and support over the past year. In particular, I would like to mention Jatinder Birdi who this year retires from his role as CAVA's Treasurer. Jatinder has played a key role in overseeing and guiding CAVA's finances through the last eight challenging and demanding years. He brought care, wisdom and dedication to that role and will be missed. I am sure everyone will want to join me in wishing him well for the future in all his continuing roles in Warwickshire's communities.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



Our year through Covid

The last year has been unprecedented, overnight we took our staff teams from office to home working and adjusted to a new work rhythm providing support via phone, email and web based meetings.

We were thankful that we adopted an agile home working approach to our teams and had equipped them with laptops and mobile phones and had invested in Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) to transfer our office lines.

Our team quickly developed online resources to aid groups being affected by COVID-19 and our E-Grapevine newsletter took a new format to ensure groups were updated differently to address the challenges of COVID-19.

Our COVID-19 funding page had 4,296 unique page views, and 58.83% of users just used the COVID-19 funding page.

We have delivered a raft of events online during the year, including Bounce Back from COVID, Meet the Funder events (ESF, Severn Trent, Solihull Winter Recovery Fund, Tesco Bags for Help & HoECF), Volunteering in the pandemic and Safe reopening for Community Buildings.



“ I just wanted to thank you for continuing to provide these updates, they have been so helpful, particularly during this crisis.

- CAVA Service user

Case Study

Bounce back from COVID event

The Community

Since March 2020 CAVA have been finding new ways of delivering events and workshops, adapting our existing work and planning new events to respond to the sector's changing needs during the pandemic. Through CAVA's State of the Sector survey released in April 2020, the VCSE sector in Warwickshire identified that 60% of the organisations that responded had reduced their activity in a significant way to respond to the outbreak. From this, we expect that it will be a smaller sector that emerges from the pandemic, although it is still too early to determine the full extent of the impact of the outbreak and subsequent lockdown.

The Challenge

The Funding and Group Development Officers (FGDO) were tasked with organising and delivering two webinars, one targeting North Warwickshire and Rugby and the other South Warwickshire and Solihull. Although FGDO leads were chosen, the resulting webinars were very much the product of team working, with shared knowledge and expertise and high quality contributions from everyone, including Volunteering Coordinators. The events covered topics such as financial/recovery planning, managing and recruiting volunteers, facility opening, good governance and fundraising. The attendees were also to be given the opportunity to network, sharing issues and hearing how others have overcome similar difficulties. The webinars were hosted in August, on two different dates (to give groups unable to attend one event another opportunity), using Zoom. Many groups have been regularly using this platform and have engaged well with other CAVA events hosted in the same way.

The Outcome

As FGDO for Rugby Borough, I was involved in the North Warwickshire and Rugby webinar, held on Wednesday, 12th August. Led by Sarah Newell, responsibility was given to Tina Wragg, Michelle Black and I to each deliver a part of the presentation, alongside Sarah.

OUR YEAR THROUGH COVID

The Outcome Cont'd

I adapted and delivered the part of the presentation concerned with fundraising, with a particular focus on adopting new and adapting existing ways of fundraising, with an emphasis on virtual fundraising, including crowdfunding and other online giving platforms, better use of groups' websites and social media, online purchase gifting and organising online events. This was based on research done by Aline Boblin. I also took this opportunity to give an update on grant-making trusts and foundations, particularly local ones and to promote CAVA's recently updated funding bulletin and Covid funding information on our website. Twenty seven people attended the event, including Rugby Credit Union and the new local WCC Community Development Worker in Rugby. Feedback from Rugby participants on the Google Form evaluation sent after the event included '*a well planned and executed event.*'

The South Warwickshire and Solihull event was attended by 25 people. Both events will inform future webinars - we are aware, partly from these events, that there is a need for more networking opportunities among groups. We also asked participants whether they felt they needed more support with virtual fundraising, and whether they wanted more webinars with funders, facilitated by CAVA. Respondents were particularly keen on the latter.

Volunteering

Within a 48 hour period we liaised with Simply Connect Solutions to create a short sign-up form for individuals specifically wanting to give their time to help others during the COVID-19 pandemic. We promoted a new online registration form to quickly respond and easily gather details from the general public at that critical time which could be used by anybody wishing to sign-up to volunteer and help specifically within the COVID-19 crisis.

OUR YEAR THROUGH COVID

Volunteering Cont'd

To complement this, our existing Volunteer Connect portal also enabled organisations to flag in their profile that they were actively involved in COVID-19 service delivery. New volunteers were then able to find these specific roles and register an interest in them, as well as existing volunteers, who were able to register their interest in helping out during the pandemic.

A standard email was agreed on as a team which was sent to all volunteers. The e-mail was adapted over time as initiatives changed. So for example when the NHS Volunteer Responders were recruiting we would include a link to this website. We would also include a link to the Mutual Aid's website and ask that people found the group closest to where they lived and we would send a link to the WCC directory of COVID-19 support groups. If we had been approached by a local group wanting volunteers (e.g. Helping Hands wanted drivers and Warwickshire Vision Support telephone befrienders) then we would include specific information on these local opportunities too.

We were in a situation where we had more volunteers than opportunities and developed ideas for people to do '*independant volunteering*' and we would send a link out to these too. We asked everyone who contacted us about volunteering in the pandemic to register through the Simply Connect route so we had all details in one place. We could then search Simply Connect for drivers, telephone befrienders and people wanting to provide care. This was useful when we got specific requests.

Our team put together alternative opportunities for volunteers to access including a Viral Kindness Cards, neighbourly volunteering, adopt a grandparent, coordinating food donations to foodbanks, helping to make PPE for our hospitals.



New Projects to aid COVID issues

To assist with issues presented by the pandemic, CAVA delivered 5 specialist programmes and supported 3 further WCC initiatives.

1. Telephone befriending for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)

Our Volunteering Coordinators recruited 39 volunteers to deliver weekly befriending calls to vulnerable adults affected by COVID. The service received 118 referrals for 113 people supported (as 5 were referred by 2 organisations).

Case study

CEV Befriending Service

CAVA were tasked to recruit 38 volunteers over a 3 month period for the new CEV Telephone Befriending Service, for Volunteers to provide telephone calls once a week to Warwickshire residents who are classed as CEV. The service supported 113 local people with a call.

Nuneaton and Bedworth successfully recruited 19 Volunteers. Please see feedback below from some of the Volunteers who have been in the role for several weeks now:

Lorraine: *"For many years I have found myself involved in many voluntary, charity or fund raising events. I had sought a charity I could support when I was initially furloughed from work.*

From when I was young my mother and sisters used to work in homes for the elderly and I would sit and talk to the residents. I truly believe time can make a difference to people's lives and feel that it is also beneficial to me having given a little time which makes a difference."

Jan: *"I work full time but will be retiring next March. I wanted to do some volunteering in these difficult times with a view to doing more next year. The befriending pilot sounded ideal as I can use the skills and experience I have gained at work. I hope to make a difference to those people feeling alone and isolated."*

OUR YEAR THROUGH COVID

2. Targeted Testing Centres

WCC and partners set up 6 centres across the county in Leamington, Stratford, Rugby, Nuneaton, Bedworth and Water Orton. CAVA were asked to support a volunteering programme for the centres. CAVA recruited a Project Coordinator, 2 part time Volunteering Coordinators and a part time Administrator to deliver the project which is currently planned to continue until 30th June 2021.

580 volunteers applied to support the testing sites, 75% female and 25% male. 423 of these volunteers were approved to start following reference checks and 329 volunteers delivered at least one shift on site.

4,165 individual 4 hour shifts were completed equating to 16,660 hours; this represents £166,766.60 in volunteer contribution to the service against standard wage paid to centre employees at each site of £10.01 per hour. One volunteer told us...

'I am really enjoying the experience - which is really uplifting. I'm so glad that I made the decision to give it a go and would like to volunteer in the future if other opportunities arise.'



“ Great teamwork from all involved, everyone pulls together. Good friendships have developed and are likely to continue after the site closes.

- Targeted Testing Volunteer

Covid-19 Test Centre

No Symptom Testing
(Asymptomatic)



Please use local Pay
and Display car parks
for Covid Testing

Case Study

Abeda's Story

We asked Abeda Vorajee (pictured on page 12) what inspired her to volunteer at the targeted testing site and what she thought of the experience. She said....

'I am thoroughly enjoying volunteering at the Nuneaton site, meeting new people and learning new working practices. I felt the whole recruitment and training process before going on site was dealt with professionally. Then going on site working with fellow volunteers, and staff easing any nerves I may have had. A personal benefit is that I get tested every week and therefore safeguarding myself and the wide community. I also feel safe volunteering with the safety measures in place. I have been made to feel very welcome and part of 'the family' and don't feel any difference between me and the younger volunteers/staff members.'

3. Vaccinations Programme

CAVA has been funded by the CCG to work with PCNs and partners at 8 centres across the county in Leamington, Stratford, Wellesbourne, Nuneaton and Kenilworth, as well as two mass vaccination sites in Stoneleigh and Bedworth. CAVA were commissioned to augment the volunteers across all sites. CAVA recruited a Project Coordinator and 2 part time volunteer coordinators to deliver the service which is currently planned to continue until end July 2021.

211 volunteers have registered to support the testing sites. Of these 126 volunteers have been approved to start following reference checks.

We have averaged approximately 60% coverage of required shifts, with most volunteers signing up for at least 2 shifts. Shifts vary in length from 3 to 6 hours (the longer hours are on the Mass Vaccination Sites), with volunteers fitting in with the existing shift patterns of the individual sites.

4. ConnectWELL Telephone Befriending

In Spring 2020, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation offered CAVA an additional grant to support the need that was created locally as a result of the negative effects of the pandemic for those who are vulnerable and primarily in isolation.

This additional funding was allocated to a year-long scheme (starting in August 2020) delivering telephone befriending. The programme uses a team of 10 volunteers who are making weekly calls to those who are vulnerable in Warwickshire, linking them in with social prescribing services and wider voluntary and community activities when needed.

There have been 53 referrals to this pathway.

5. WCC VCSE Additional Support

To aid the recovery of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector, CAVA was commissioned by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to deliver a range of sessions to invest and develop groups based in or supporting residents in Warwickshire.

CAVA put together a programme of activities and held a procurement round for suppliers equipped to deliver activities.

Commissioned Activities

A review of Mental health activity in Warwickshire with a view to refining and developing the Voluntary Service directory administered by CAVA Support included an event entitled "*A snapshot of VCSE support in Warwickshire around Mental Health*". This activity was delivered by Dubries and Phoenix Counselling.

Other activities included: Fundraising sessions including Corporate Fundraising Workshop, Generating Income and Fundraising Workshop, Introduction to Bid Writing for Charities and

OUR YEAR THROUGH COVID

Commissioned Activities Cont'd

Community Groups, Fundraisers Networking events, Online Storytelling for Fundraising Workshop delivered by Get Grants.

Resilience Training and Train the Trainer, delivered by Rob Legge Consultancy.

Safeguarding awareness for Trustees and General Safeguarding awareness sessions delivered by JB training.

Village and Urban Community Halls - Planning For Recovery after Lockdown (x 3 sessions) and follow up support and advice - delivered by WRCC and partners.

Volunteer sessions - Encouraging Inclusion, Volunteer Voices, Happy and Engaged Volunteers, Recruiting and Managing Volunteers, Managing Remote Volunteers, Volunteering and the Law, delivered by Ideas to Impact and Voluntary Action Leicester.

Governance sessions delivered by Factor, Coaching and mentoring delivered by FACTOR Networking and Consultancy, Tacitus and Rob Legge Consultancy.

HR support provided by BOSS HR Ltd and Advo HR.

10 Fundraising grants for organisations at £1,000 per organisation, additionally a Training Support grants programme for various activities under £500.

Delivery on this programme runs until November 2021. In this reporting year 31 sessions were delivered with 362 individuals benefiting from training. We have also held 1-1 coaching sessions with 25 individuals. 8 HR support grants were allocated.

The fundraising support grants have been commissioned with groups and training support grants have been agreed with organisations in a range of areas.

WCC Initiatives

We also supported Warwickshire County Council (WCC) with the distribution of PPE and COVID volunteer car stickers. In addition we supported the Director of Public Health Warwickshire to gather case studies for the Director of Public Health Annual Report.

Project Delivery

Our Newtown Centre has remained an essential hub for the NHS through COVID. When hospitals and GP surgeries were forced to close to all but essential health services, this meant their venues were lost to routine services like diabetic retinal eye screening and phlebotomy. Both of these services moved from small clinics 3 times per week, to large sessions 5 days per week. The Newtown blood clinic now sees up to 250 patients per day, with a large, COVID-secure waiting area. It remains one of only 5 community sites available in northern Warwickshire.



Solihull Infrastructure

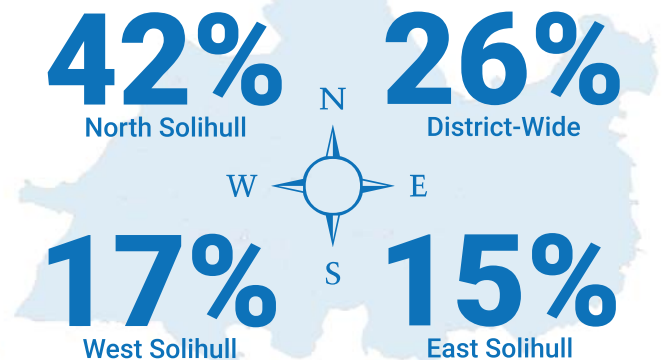
CAVA has now completed its second year of delivering the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) infrastructure contract for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC).

We have increased our knowledge of the VCSE sector in Solihull, developed our relationships with groups and individuals and have provided more one to one support for a larger number of groups. We have played a pivotal role during the pandemic in getting information out to the sector through a regular E-bulletin, and being a conduit between the VCSE and SMBC to communicate important messages and guidelines for organisations, relating to COVID. An acknowledgement of the value of our information sharing was publicised through the SMBC website by the Council Leader Councillor Ian Courts. We have also extended our reach via social media with a new Solihull CAVA Facebook Page and use of Twitter and Instagram.



REACH

Support by area...



SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE

Solihull Infrastructure Cont'd

We have begun to build our reputation for organising high quality events. This year the focus has been on helping organisations to respond to the emergency crisis. Events have included the following topics: 'How to involve volunteers safely' 'Managing Remote Volunteers', and for specific parts of the sector such as Mutual Aid groups, and community buildings. An important focus has been helping organisations access emergency funding and for organisations to meet funders

In total we delivered 9 networking and learning events, 5 funding webinars and 5 funding clinics - all online via Zoom.

We have continued to support existing partnerships and networks and played an active role in VCSE Community Response, Community Cell and Community Champion meetings.

This year, our contract with SMBC was extended so that we could employ a Volunteering Coordinator to build on the volunteer brokerage work that took place during the pandemic, and to work on new programmes such as the recruitment of volunteers for the Commonwealth Games, particularly from under-represented groups.

ACHIEVEMENTS



82

Groups from across Solihull have been supported on a 1:1 basis



£5k

Raised through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) donations



496

Active readers of our e-bulletin



Increased Understanding of VCSE Need

This year was not the time for a full blown State of the Sector. In May 2020 we sent out a brief survey to see how organisations were coping with the first stages of the pandemic. As across the VCSE, the ways in which many organisations were so quick to change and adapt their services to the lock down situation was phenomenal. However, there were organisations who have had to reduce their services.

The predominant issues for organisations were: funding and future sustainability, advice and guidance requirements around meeting government guidelines in relation to COVID particularly social distancing, managing remote staff and volunteers and the need for IT support in moving to an online way of working and communicating.

We have continued to listen to the needs of organisations, and responded by putting on webinars around the dominant issues coming up or by providing peer support opportunities or one to one mentoring.

Strengthening Networks and Partnerships

Kingshurst Space Steering Group

CAVA has continued to facilitate the Kingshurst steering group, leading a pilot to help shape the future of community space in Kingshurst. Due to the pandemic, the opportunity to make use of the old youth and community space for activities was curtailed, although the centre continued to be used as an emergency food distribution centre. A report was produced by CAVA on behalf of the steering group with a summary of the consultation that took place as part of the pilot and recommendations for the future community space. With the pilot coming to an end, the task of the steering group is complete. CAVA and members of the steering group are still involved in the Kingshurst re-development through the Kingshurst Project Community Sub Group and in ongoing planning for a combined health and community building.

Strengthening Networks and Partnerships Cont'd

North Solihull Voluntary and Community Alliance (NSCVA)

After putting their meetings on hold during the first lockdown, the NSCVA have begun to hold regular meetings with CAVA's support, focusing in on the 50 year celebrations for Chelmsley Wood, providing a supportive network for groups working in North Solihull and inviting speakers to keep people updated about new initiatives and programmes.

The Emergency Response

CAVA has been part of VCSE Community Response meetings which have linked the VCSE and SMBC and part of SMBC Community Cell meetings with a focus on priorities during the pandemic. We partnered with the CCG to coordinate free flu vaccinations for health and social care staff and volunteers. We worked with the SMBC community development team to highlight volunteering opportunities for SMBC's Here2Help Service.

CSR

COVID restrictions have placed businesses under considerable financial pressure, so CSR has reduced significantly over this year. However, we have helped local businesses provide approximately £5,000 worth of support to communities.

Funding Partnerships

CAVA is part of a grants panel for Change into Action, working in collaboration to ensure that donations benefit people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough. We work closely with local funders and arrange 'Meet the Funder' events, to ensure that organisations understand the specific criteria of funding applications.

“ Thank you so much! CAVA has provided clarity, helped us to develop knowledge and skills, and positively impacted our charity.

- CAVA Service user

Good quality volunteer experiences and celebrating volunteering

In December 2020, we recruited a Volunteering Coordinator to set up a Volunteer brokerage system for Solihull to help match individuals to volunteering opportunities throughout the Borough, using the Volunteer Portal Volunteer Connect. The role is also committed to supporting volunteer-involving organisations around volunteer recruitment, support and celebration, and is linked to volunteer associated programmes that SMBC leads or is engaged with. This includes SMBC's successful Community Champion programme which has utilized hundreds of volunteers to get key COVID messaging out into communities and also the involvement of volunteers from Solihull in the up and coming Commonwealth Games.

So far, the Volunteering Coordinator has given 15 organisations support around their volunteering programme and registered 10 groups on Volunteer Connect offering 27 opportunities. There has also been one to one support to 16 volunteers who would prefer to talk through the options for volunteering.

Volunteer Managers' Forum - Solihull

CAVA facilitates the Volunteer Managers' Forum in Solihull which is a network which shares good practice around volunteer management, and helps to promote and signpost volunteer opportunities. During the pandemic this has provided invaluable peer support for volunteer managers and an insight into the volunteering opportunities that have been available during the pandemic.

Volunteer Celebrations

Unfortunately, during the pandemic we were unable to celebrate volunteering in our usual way through Volunteers Week and by supporting the SMBC Civic Awards. However, we have promoted volunteer recognition schemes and increased nominations for such as Solihull Says Thank you, QAVS and Queen's Birthday Honours.

Warwickshire Infrastructure

We are contracted to deliver infrastructure support to groups across Warwickshire by Warwickshire County Council (WCC), Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC), North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC), Rugby Borough Council (RBC) and Warwick District Council (WDC).

In the past 12 months 688 unique organisations have received support from us on 2,025 specific activities. In addition, 921 organisations have been supported and upskilled when engaged at workshops, training and events. In total we supported 1,609 organisations.

Between April and March 2021 we organised 65 events and contributed to 79 others reaching over 2,580 people and upskilling 921 organisations.

We have advised 232 organisations on funding and supported 175 applications since April 2019. £1,613,948.48 was applied for and £754,625.89 has been awarded.



Thank you so much for all your help. It has meant we can still continue our service and reach out to those people most in need!

- CAVA Service user

Case Studies

Online Funding Workshops

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to adapt and identify new ways of working. Using online platforms as an alternative to face to face workshops we have created an opportunity to provide information to our groups using a new medium. Using Zoom and Teams we have been able to open our events up to a wider audience as people are not restricted by geography or transport issues.

With colleagues from the north of the county we delivered a number of funding workshops over this quarter. We have run two ESF (European Social Fund) workshops with James from Groundworks, as this is one of the few funds running as normal through the pandemic.

Also we facilitated a Heart of England Community Foundation workshop with Scott Harrison to discuss the COVID response funding that they have released, and ran a workshop with Sue Heyes from Severn Trent Community Fund, which has now reopened for applications.

Through advertising these workshops we were asked by individuals, who were unable to attend, if the content could be shared afterwards. Because of this it was decided we would record the Heart of England Community Foundation and Severn Trent Community Fund workshops in order for people to be able to access these at a time that suits them. These recordings have now been made available on our YouTube account and shared through our Twitter pages.

In total we had 47 attendees over the various workshops. These comprised of a range of groups from North Warwickshire, including Aim Educational, Birchmoor Community Action Group, White Hart Community Groups and Father Hudson's Care. We also had attendance from groups across the county, including Rugby Town Sports Trust, Hope 4 (Rugby), Guardians of Stubbs Pool and Act for Autism.

We received some really positive feedback from these workshops and plan to run additional online workshops from alternative funders in the coming months. One attendee has already submitted an application for over £1,000.



WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE

Support for a local Social Enterprise

We have been supporting a local social enterprise in North Warwickshire. This particular social enterprise works with young people as an alternative education provision providing a range of activities, such as cooking, farming and woodwork, as a form of positive engagement with young people for whom mainstream education is not a viable option.

We have worked with this organisation for many years but for this period we have provided them with support focusing on a variety of funding applications for different projects including Heart of England Community Foundation and Charities Aid Foundation fund. These projects focused on changing the way in which they were working to ensure that they are COVID secure and able to continue to run safely. They also enabled young people to engage from their own home to ensure that young people are not left entirely isolated. We also supported their Public Health tender and National Lottery application, with which they were fortunately successful.

We have also provided the organisation with a letter of support for a European Social Fund application through Groundworks that is currently in progress.

We will continue to support the organisation moving forward with developmental and funding needs.

ACHIEVEMENTS



1,609

Unique organisations have received support



175

Funding applications supported



65

Events held, plus 79 events contributed to, reaching 2,580 people and 921 organisations

Supporting families in Rugby through the provision of fresh cooked meals

Fill the Gap is a Rugby based voluntary group that was founded by Katie Goodall and Leasa Marriot in January 2021. The group was initially founded under the name '*From Meal to You*' in October 2020, in response to the stopping of free school meals. The aim of the group was to reach those who fell short of the qualifying parameters for the food bank and were having to choose between paying bills or feeding their families. Organised on Facebook, volunteers bought/cooked and delivered food to over 60 families over three months. As a result of this pilot, and the continuing need they saw for their services, Katie and Leasa created Fill the Gap.

They approached the Rugby CAVA team in January, seeking guidance in setting up as a charity and in accessing funding to help them achieve their goals, and serve their community. With our support, they have since started the process of registering as a charity, developing an application to become a Foundation model CIO. The objectives of the charity are to engage with and support local families through the provision of food, alongside developing life skills, connecting communities & job searching, enabling them to become self-sufficient as a family network post-Covid and beyond. CAVA have supported them in the development of necessary policies and procedures, insurances, setting up a bank account, training and in the development of local authority partnerships.

The group have recently recruited a volunteer chef who is operating out of The Benn Partnership Centre, making food that is then delivered by their volunteers. CAVA advised the group on Health and Safety, Risk Assessment and Food Hygiene in the delivery of this. They have been gifted a vehicle by a local organisation and are working closely with local government and partners to develop the organisation and expand their reach. Signposted by the CAVA team, they have secured funding from the ASDA Community Fund and Co-operative Community Dividend Fund to support continuing work, receiving contributions of cash and food vouchers.

The group has plans to develop activities for young people in partnership with community allotments, engaging and educating them with themes of sustainability and the environment through teaching them how to grow their own produce. They have already established partnerships for this work with the Hillmorton Allotment team, Warwickshire County Council and local schools, with activity commencing soon, Covid-permitting.

Volunteering

CAVA aims to ensure that every volunteering experience is of the highest quality and that the skills and energies of volunteers are targeted to make the most difference within local communities across the county.

Every year we help thousands of potential volunteers to find the right role for them, matching their skills with opportunities in voluntary, not-for-profit and public sector organisations, in addition to providing them with practical advice and information.

This year our focus has been on making sure that volunteers were able to support the most vulnerable people during the pandemic and that volunteer-involving organisations were supported to recruit volunteers. Hundreds of volunteers approached us to support the community response and where possible we linked them to organisations. Volunteers have helped in a multitude of ways - delivering food and medication, making scrubs, befriending, driving people to medical appointments, keeping retail shops and community centres open, fundraising for charities and providing administrative support to organisations. This list is just a snapshot of the volunteer roles during the pandemic.

These are some of our stories of impact during the national emergency.



It's amazing how much in common you can have with people who you have never met before, and now I know I'm giving out some 'virtual' kind and happy smiles of my own!

- Telephone Befriender - Gareth

Supporting volunteer involving organisations

Warwickshire Vision Support

Warwickshire Vision Support (WVS) approached CAVA in urgent need of volunteers to support some of the most vulnerable visually impaired people within Warwickshire during the pandemic. They had to close their support centres, and recreational clubs and suspend their Home Visiting Service. Since advertising the 'Telephone Befriender' roles through CAVA, using the Simply Connect list for Covid-19 volunteer roles, they have received 20 volunteer referrals and have successfully placed volunteers across Warwickshire in these roles.

The WVS member of staff said "We are very mindful that many of our service users rely on our support services, as they serve as a lifeline, preventing loneliness and isolation. We would like to offer as many visually impaired people as possible the chance to receive regular phone contact and conversation so that they feel connected and less isolated".



WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE

Warwickshire Scrubbers

In Rugby, we helped to promote volunteering opportunities for the Warwickshire Scrubbers, a community initiative, drawing on the talents of volunteers who are handy with a sewing machine to make scrubs, scrub caps, headbands and laundry bags for NHS workers on the frontline. We also helped bring in £500 to purchase material for the production of PPE. One of the volunteers described the impact *"The money paid for material that made over 40 sets of scrubs with orders from UHCW, St Cross, GP practices, COVID testing centres, Renal units and pharmacies"*.



ACHIEVEMENTS



2,020

Individual volunteers accessed
volunteering support



1,680

Placed volunteers



£4.1m

Economic value of volunteering

Supporting Volunteers

Gareth's Story

Gareth approached CAVA at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in a search to help others during this unprecedented time.

He had come across CAVA through looking for volunteering on social media and completed an online registration form. The Volunteering Coordinator for Nuneaton & Bedworth contacted Gareth to discuss his skills and abilities and the types of roles that may be of interest to him.

Within a few days Gareth was matched up to a Telephone Befriender role at Warwickshire Vision Support. This is his story below:

"When the first lockdown came, we had to shield because my wife has Type One Diabetes (insulin dependent) as well as Multiple Sclerosis. This presented a challenge regarding collection of prescriptions, but due to CAVA we were put in touch with a fantastic volunteer service who happily collected our prescriptions and delivered them with such a kind and happy smile!

It was such a wonderful help that I thought I really should 'do my bit' as due to lockdown I had plenty of time on my hands. Being the chatty type, I was put in touch with Warwickshire Vision Support as a Telephone Befriender and was allocated 2 visually impaired people who live on their own. I have been calling them once a week for up to 1 hour each for the past 3 months and have had a great time. It's amazing how much in common you can have with people who you have never met before and now I know I'm giving out some 'virtual' kind and happy smiles of my own! My two befrienders openly tell me how much they appreciate and enjoy my calls, as they do sometimes feel lonely and isolated, so a good old natter really helps out and they're always happy to book the following week's call, so I feel I must be helping in some way. So to me, everyone's a winner."

Since lockdown Gareth has struggled with his motivation and depression to do something. He was afraid of going out due to his wife being in the vulnerable category. Gareth now volunteers regularly at home where he feels most comfortable. As a result of the volunteering it has improved his health and well-being and has allowed him to keep in touch with people within his local community.

Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV)

Socially distanced volunteering at Northleigh House

Once schools were allowed to return, one enthusiastic team from local consultancy and technology business REPL came together to assist Northleigh House School to prepare for the children returning.

Northleigh House School provides a therapeutic learning environment for primary and secondary aged children experiencing high levels of anxiety for a whole raft of reasons. It's vitally important that the school can offer activities that engage these children and develop their interests in areas beyond the standard curriculum. They have extensive outdoor space and give children the opportunity to engage outdoors in gardening. Providing additional therapeutic activities comes at a cost in terms of both money and labour.

Over the years, CAVA has directed a number of employers to the school. Viv Morgan, co-founder and current Chair of Governors always has tasks that need completing and is extremely and appreciative of any help.

A team of 6 from REPL spent a full day at the school in August, a week before reopening and built two large vegetable boxes that they planted up for the children to grow herbs and vegetables in.

Viv from Northleigh House School described the impact, "Now the kids are back they are enjoying going out and watering the vegetables and watching them grow. One of the guys from REPL even brought in some Garden Gnomes for the children to paint. This has been our first ray of sunshine this year since Covid started and I am so grateful to WCAVA for sending these wonderful teams to us"

A REPL representative said "we learnt more about the brilliant work that Northleigh House is doing. The visit was also a huge encouragement to the volunteers as well.

The spirit of the 6 volunteers was unwavering and steadfast, that no rain could stop them from what was committed. Viv was really happy with the work and her gratitude note almost moved us to tears. All six of us came back with such a quotient of happiness and emotional satisfaction that can be hardly given by any other work".

WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE



Building networks with other organisations to increase access to volunteering

North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (NW&SL) and King Edward VI College

Both Colleges wanted to offer their students opportunities to help and support community groups in the Nuneaton & Bedworth area facing challenging times, during the COVID-19 crisis with IT/Media/creating resource packs, telephone befriender roles etc. Our CAVA Volunteering Coordinator had previously been supporting both colleges to place students in volunteering projects and one-off volunteering events in order for the students to complete the required units (120 hrs) as part of their course, to help establish relationships with students and people in the community and for them to find out more about the benefits of volunteering.

CAVA made contact with the community groups to identify which community groups required volunteer support. Links were developed with Bedworth United Football Club and a recruitment fair organised for students to hear about the many roles available and to ask questions.



NW&SL and King Edward VI College Cont'd

CAVA also helped them to develop media roles to support digital exclusion during the pandemic. NWSL provided feedback on the impact of our support

"Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA), has been instrumental in raising awareness of volunteering as an activity for our students to get involved with. This is not just for the good of the local community, but also for students' personal development to increase their life chances. This could be in relation to applying for apprenticeships, jobs or university. In some cases a student's qualification may depend on either work experience or volunteering, so support there is also very valuable. The opportunities promoted are suitable for all different ages, which is essential to a further education college with students ranging in age from 16 to 65 (sometimes older).

The input from WCAVA in regularly forwarding new opportunities, together with attending our careers and volunteering events, has been instrumental in raising awareness of these and the value of volunteering in general. Besides attending and presenting at our events they held drop-in sessions at both the Hinckley and Nuneaton campuses.

Our students, and staff, have been given an opportunity to participate in national initiatives relating to the present tragic situation with the COVID 19 pandemic. This is of particular value as so many people feel powerless to do anything to help deal with it. These opportunities relate to supporting members of the community with both physical assistance and their emotional wellbeing...Students have become Telephone Befrienders and have joined Volunteer Connect... WCAVA has also been instrumental in strengthening our links with George Eliot Hospital Trust, which again is providing a chance for students to get involved in new ways of working with outpatients within the hospital".

Stratford Social Inclusion Partnership: CAVA Development Officer

Stratford-on-Avon District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the funding provided to the voluntary and community sector in 2019. As a result of this review it was decided to fund a role which would identify and secure funding opportunities, that would enhance and support the voluntary and community sector within Stratford-on-Avon District with a focus on work that addressed the priorities of Stratford-on-Avon District Social Inclusion Partnership.

CAVA applied for, and secured the tender for the post, and the part time Development Officer started on the 14th April 2020 just weeks after the national lockdown due to COVID-19 came into force.

The purpose of the Development Officer post is to support voluntary and community organisations (VCSE) operating within Stratford-on-Avon District, working closely with the Stratford-on-Avon District Social Inclusion Statement priorities and COVID-19 Community Recovery plan.



The wealth of free information and advice that is currently available has been of enormous value to me.

- CAVA Service user

STRATFORD SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP

CAVA Development Officer Cont'd

The Social Inclusion Statement priorities that the Development Officer has focused on in 2020/21 are Community Venues, Financial Hardship, Health and Wellbeing, Isolation, Under and Unemployment and younger people.

Further priorities are to empower communities to harness local resources and expertise to help themselves in Stratford-Upon-Avon, Maybird, Bishopton, Alcester, Henley, Southam, Studley and Bidford and new communities in Meon Vale, Gaydon, Lighthorne Heath and Marston Mead.

A key responsibility of the Development post is to identify, support in ways such as providing data, sense and proof-reading applications, advising content and writing funding bids for the VCSE sector within Stratford-on-Avon District. In the year £169,766 was secured and £151,556 is pending.

2020/21 Highlights

The Community Catalyst/Builder proposal was instigated by the Development Officer and a collaborative project developed in close co-operation with Stratford-on-Avon District Council to work in the 2 most deprived communities in the District. By year end this had secured £68,180 for an 18-month pilot and involved Orbit, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council, local residents, Sport England, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and secured interest from Stratford Town Trust and the National Lottery.

Voluntary power has been the driving force behind the work of the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership with local residents helping themselves with considerable support from the Development Officer. Partnership meetings which attract 40+ participants show how quickly the partnership has gained credibility within the community. The Development Officer organised and led on several virtual Trustee workshops as they discussed and agreed the Partnership's values and vision.



STRATFORD SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP

ACHIEVEMENTS

CAVA Development Officer Cont'd
£77,318 of European Social Funding was secured by local groups to support people back into work or onto training - an increasingly important issue in the district.

The Development Officer led on creating and delivering a wide range of online sessions which included the first ever 'Virtual' South Warwickshire Fundraisers Event which was held on Zoom with 35 people in attendance. Online Webinars were also delivered including Bounce Back from COVID, Community Buildings - Peer support in COVID-19 and three Village and Community Halls Zoom Events.



Newly funded
Development Officer



Over
168

webinar attendees over 6 events



Over
77k

of European Social Funding
was secured by local groups



Case Study

West Stratford District Funding Clinic

The Community

The funding clinic was aimed at communities west of Stratford-Upon-Avon and in particular those communities identified by the Stratford Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) as needing specific interventions, namely Alcester, Henley, Studley and Bidford.

The Challenge

The challenge was to raise awareness of the services available from CAVA'S SIP funded Development Officer, CAVA as a whole and by providing information to increase the quality and quantity of funding applications from these geographical areas.

Meeting the Challenge

In view of the COVID national lockdown it was decided to run the funding clinic as an online Zoom workshop. Subjects included: types of funding for VCSE organisations, grant funds of interest, finding funds, issues and solutions.

Promotion took the form of working through the Parish Councils in the area, some of which had been supported and relationships built over the last year. In addition, a social media campaign was planned and instigated, press releases distributed and sent out via CAVA's e-newsletter

The Outcome

- 100% respondents to the evaluation found it useful and informative
- 100% respondents felt their skills had improved as a result
- 6 delegates have come back for further support from 18 in total
- Increased knowledge of funding streams locally and nationally
- It raised the profile of CAVA and we have had one group become a member.

Big Local

Big Local is an exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to create lasting change in their communities; each area has had at least £1m to use over 10 years.

In Warwickshire we have two Big Local areas, Ansley, Old Arley and New Arley in North Warwickshire and Hill Top and Caldwell in Nuneaton. Each area is around 6 years through the programme; we act as their '*locally trusted organisation*' to administer and account for the distribution of the funds and employ 5 members of staff on behalf of the resident-led Partnerships.



REACH

Delivering the programme...

£1m

To create lasting change in each of the Big Local areas

10yrs

To plan and deliver change

150

Neighbourhoods across England

2

Big Local areas in Warwickshire

Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local

2020 saw the refreshed community priorities in 'HTC' come to a decisive halt with the outbreak of COVID-19, with all of their commissioning intentions shifting almost overnight.

What the pandemic did though was help the Partnership to refine what were the most important actions. Thankfully the whole Partnership remained engaged, and quickly adapted to online meetings and prompt decision making.

Across 2020-2021 the Partnership prioritised reducing financial pressures on families, addressing the food crisis, reducing digital poverty and reducing isolation and loneliness.

September saw one of the Partnership members awarded a national Best Consumer Campaign award by the Sheila McKechnie Foundation for her work on free-to-use ATM machines in most at risk communities.

The Partnership, via CAVA, committed to commissioning local organisations who could actively deliver on their behalf within COVID-secure boundaries. BRANCAB started to provide uplifted work for HTC residents, focussing on its joint work with Nuneaton Foodbank, whose busiest collection point is a church which serves the HTC area. Nuneaton & Bedworth Leisure Trust and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust began offering opportunities for children and young people, for example the Sports in a Van activities and encouraging active outdoor play in the multi-use games areas.



BIG LOCAL: HILL TOP AND CALDWELL



HSBC 

Date 17 Dec 2020

Pay Nuneaton Foodbank
One Thousand and Twenty
Pounds Only

£ 1020 : 00

Signed Hill Top & Caldwell Big Local

•000123• 12.3456• 12345678•

BIG LOCAL: HILL TOP AND CALDWELL

Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local Cont'd

The Partnership also awarded a number of grants and made donations to individuals and organisations disproportionately affected by COVID. These included:

- 5 donations to 5 organisations totalling £22,500, supporting 3 food projects and 2 community venues
- Supported 5 families with £500 through the Helping Hearts grants and Christmas food hampers
- 5 grants to 4 organisations totalling £10,500, including enabling laptops to be purchased for school children struggling to access home working, creating a peace garden, and counselling support for those suffering low mood due to COVID.

It is estimated that the funds will impact the lives of over 1,000 residents in HTC.

When it was allowed, the Partnership celebrated along with their neighbours to encourage greater community cohesion on VE Day, Halloween and Christmas, by giving out GB flags, bunting and sweets, awarding prizes for the 'best dressed house' to children for the brightest shining stars displayed in windows. We also supported numerous community litter picks to make the area an even better place to live, and distributed 3,400 newsletters, including a free COVID gift of hand sanitiser and a mask for every household.

Arley and Ansley Big Local

The project employs a youth worker to deliver and expand the youth provision in the villages and has taken on an assistant youth worker to support this delivery to develop into all three of our villages. We have also employed an administrator to work alongside the project coordinator who oversees the project delivery.

Our grants programme has provided support for local community groups, assets and businesses again this year and during the period March 2020 to 2021 awarded £10,250 and an additional £6,800 in donations for community initiatives. Those awarded have included grants to the local primary school to improve their outdoor education space, to a local allotment society to provide tools and equipment to engage young people and support for business such as the local butchers.

Arley and Ansley Big Local supported a local group called Lifelines and Ansley Parish Council. Arley and Ansley Big Local have supported the two organisations with a financial contribution of £6,000 (£2,000 per village).



“ *The project brought the community together during such difficult times. The event also helped people to appreciate the area we live in.*

- Local Resident

BIG LOCAL: ARLEY AND ANSLEY

Arley and Ansley Big Local Cont'd

Funding was used to provide emergency food parcels for residents in need and those shielding during the height of 'lockdowns'. This has changed over time with support now continuing from proxy shoppers and prescription collectors.

Our project has a Community Cupboard. We would usually take the 'cupboard' to events where people can take away food items and donate 'never to be used' items they have in the back of their cupboard, with the aim to reduce waste and support people to save money where possible. The cupboard also has a stock of second hand school uniform for the local primary school that people can access free of charge. During the pandemic we have provided support to people who can't get out and do their shopping through proxy shopping and some food parcels. We also hosted a Community Cupboard event over the Christmas holidays where people could access free cupboard essentials to help with the costs of Christmas.

We usually run a range of annual events. Due to Covid-19, these like many others were cancelled. This didn't stop our team of staff and volunteers from hosting a variety of socially distanced events in the communities to keep spirits high and help reduce isolation and mental health concerns. Events have included a celebration of VE Day, with a singer singing war time songs at the four sheltered complexes in our villages. Staff and volunteers delivered party packs to all the sheltered housing in the area and decorated the communal areas. The event was easily socially distanced, with people standing in their own doorways. Following great feedback we repeated the event for the VJ Day weekend.

We supported the local community centre and a local volunteer to host socially distanced Halloween events across the villages with a donation of £300 in total. The community have now asked for it to be a yearly event.



BIG LOCAL: ARLEY AND ANSLEY

Arley and Ansley Big Local Cont'd

Over the Christmas period we organised a Living Advent Calendar where 24 local houses volunteered to decorate a window and unveil it on a certain day in the lead up to Christmas day, alongside our Festive Lights Trail and Christmas Sing Along. There was some lovely feedback from participants in the Living Advent event:

'I would like to thank you so much for the £10 voucher I received today. That was an amazing surprise. I thoroughly enjoyed doing the advent window and only too pleased and honoured to do this for our community. Never expected any reward but what a lovely gift thank you so so much. I wish you a happy and successful new year and look forward to more community participation in the future.'

We supported the local primary school (Arley Primary School) with a donation of £500 towards their '*Bringing Christmas to the Classroom*' event, they had set up a crowdfunding event. One of the school governors contacted us to say:

'I wanted to contact you to express our thanks and appreciation on behalf of Friends of Arley and school for backing our initiative 'Bringing Christmas to the Classroom' by supporting both financially and with the lovely message on the Just Giving page.'

During the pandemic and lockdowns we purchased a number of activity kits for residents of our Big Local area to hire on a short term and low cost basis, with the aim to give people similar opportunities to what they were missing out on in '*normal*' circumstances, available for hire is an at home movie kit, bug hunting, stargazing kit, pottery wheel, sports day kit and garden games kit. We also worked with the local primary school and our youth project to provide laptops on loan to students in need to be able to take part in virtual lessons.

Our youth project took to virtual sessions, engaging young people in cooking, crafts and games online. They provided care packages to over 50 young people, with a variety of activities and information about mental health and education support.

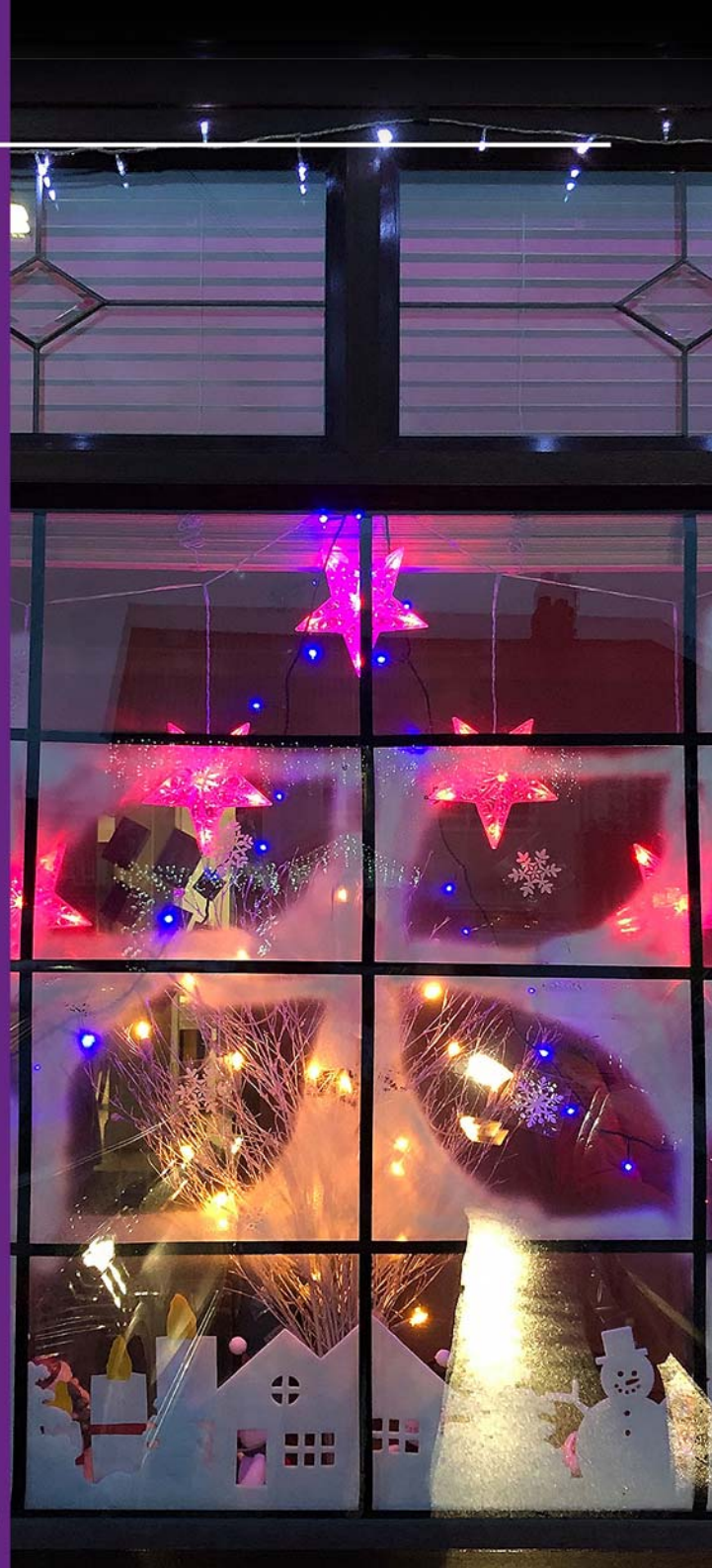
BIG LOCAL: ARLEY AND ANSLEY

Arley and Ansley Big Local Cont'd

Our staff and volunteers provided creative and engaging activities for young people to take part in whilst out on their daily exercise. This included exercise runs drawn in chalk on the path and '*an elf on the loose in the village*' over Christmas. The youth project also organised a Turkey Takeaway event in place of their usual family Christmas Dinner, over 50 people came along at allotted times for a free turkey and stuffing roll with activities to do at home over the holidays.

We commissioned North Warwickshire Citizens Advice to provide support and advice to the residents of Arley and Ansley Village again this year. The project has dealt with 194 client issues. This is a 43% increase on the previous year and raised just over £20K in financial outcome for clients. This is a 27% increase on the previous year and is made up of considerable energy savings and support with claiming benefits.

We have worked hard to consult with the community as we approached the end of our Plan and received over 200 survey responses back to help us evaluate and shape our Plan and budget for the next 3-4 years. We are focusing on what legacy and lasting impact we can leave.



ConnectWELL™

Our dedicated project supports individuals and healthcare professionals to connect with the vast array of local Community and Voluntary sector based activities.

The aim is to improve health and wellbeing, so we regularly connect people with advice and information services, community groups, leisure activities, lunch clubs, self-help groups, specialist interest groups, sporting activities, and lots, lots more.



REACH

Programme statistics...

46%

Of those referred are seeking support with managing symptoms

3.4

Activities prescribed per person

79%

Increase in referrals from Medical Practices

99%

Of patients would recommend the service

ConnectWELL Cont'd

This last year there has been a 79% increase in referrals from Medical Practices which are primarily for the social prescribing link worker pathway for Rugby Health Primary Care Network. Additionally, a further 30 health related teams and organisations are engaging with the project and are actively referring.

During this reporting year, ConnectWELL supported people across Coventry and Warwickshire with several pathways to improve health and wellbeing for certain populations, including those with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) through the RIPPLE (Respiratory Innovation: Promoting Positive Life Experience) project run in partnership between NHS CWPT and Coventry University and through Take a Breath (TAB) in partnership with Rugby's Myton Day Hospice, SWFT Community Matrons, and UHCW NHS Trust Department of Spiritual Care.

In Spring 2020, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation offered CAVA an additional grant to support the need that was created locally as a result of the negative effects of the pandemic for those who are vulnerable and isolating, through telephone befriending, making weekly calls to those who are vulnerable in Warwickshire, and linking them in with social prescribing services and wider voluntary and community activities when needed. Recognising the successful model and delivery of this scheme, in November 2020, Warwickshire County Council have also outsourced their weekly wellbeing checks of the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable in the county to CAVA.

Warwickshire County Council recognised the link with the population (public and VCS) that ConnectWELL had, and funded a piece of work around community engagement with Test and Trace through: building trust in Test and Trace and for people to act quickly to get tested when they have symptoms; help people understand the Public Health prevention measures; encouraging individuals (and households) to protect others by self-isolating when they have symptoms or a positive test; and supporting a reduction of incidences of COVID-19 in Warwickshire.

In this reporting year, over 700 hours of volunteer time and expertise have been donated to ConnectWELL across the varying pathways and multiple roles such as Health Buddy, Telephone Befrienders, and Publicity volunteers.



Case Study

Tackling loneliness and social isolation

A lady in her 30s who has recognised learning difficulties self-referred to ConnectWELL in July 2020. An appointment via Zoom with her, her father and stepmother enabled the Social Prescribing Link Worker to find out what mattered to her most, which was to get out and about, join in activities and meet other people. She wanted help to do these things as she struggled to initially attend activities alone and although she was able to use public transport, organising her time around this (eg, leaving her house to get to the bus stop for a specified time), proved very difficult for her.

One of the opportunities identified together was with the organisation Individual Support Solutions (ISS), who support adults with learning and physical difficulties and autism through various ways. With consent, the Link Worker contacted ISS and together carried out a socially distanced outdoor meeting to explain more about ISS. She was anxious about attending a group event, so with the Health Buddy an initial walk along with her dog, to the local wood enabled her to meet one group member. The following week, she attended (with the Health Buddy via bus) the organised activity at a recreation ground, where she took part in the walk, playing the outdoor instruments and enjoying her own pre-packed picnic along with others. All safety precautions were strictly observed during all meetings and events.

The Link Worker also supported her to connect to coffee mornings at the Hub at Rugby Methodist Church Centre, and as she likes cooking, is supporting the Hub Coordinator to make food that will be distributed to local residents. She also agreed to a referral to Timebuilders, to receive their newsletter and attend healthy walks. She hopes in the future to explore volunteering opportunities with animals with support from CAVA.

In addition to the obvious restrictions of Covid-19, plans had to be adapted because the sector she works in required her to work at short notice. However, her progress has been remarkable, and she has had a noticeable and recorded increase in both confidence and happiness.

Linking Futures

Talentmatch Legacy Funding

Funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, part of the Talentmatch Legacy allowed us to continue delivery of youth employment support up to the end of December 2020. The programme provided support for young people aged 18-29 in the Nuneaton, Bedworth and North Warwickshire areas. It helps support young people to improve their confidence and self-esteem and overcome barriers to help them to get nearer to the workplace.

Faced with difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and national lockdowns, working practices changed to enable us to engage with the young people. One to one support was delivered via Zoom, facebook video, over the phone, as well as, walk and talk sessions depending on what restrictions were in place. Drop In's also took place over Zoom to allow young people to have continued interaction with each other. During this time we saw an increase in mental health issues and social isolation.



REACH

On joining the programme...

45%

Say that they are experiencing mental ill health

63%

Say that they have recently felt lonely and isolated

13%

Have experienced homelessness

100%

Said they have been adversely affected by the pandemic

LINKING FUTURES


Talentmatch Legacy Funding Cont'd
24 young people continued to be supported during the last 9 months of the funding. 3 young people managed to secure employment or further education and 1 young person went into volunteering. All young people were supported to look at alternative support options before the funding ended.

Momentum and Inspire


At the end of October 2020 Linking Futures managed to secure funding for 2 programmes. 'Momentum' funded by Groundworks ESF Grants and 'Inspire' funding by Inspiring Futures, a joint funding group of Children in Need and the Youth Futures Foundation.




ACHIEVEMENTS



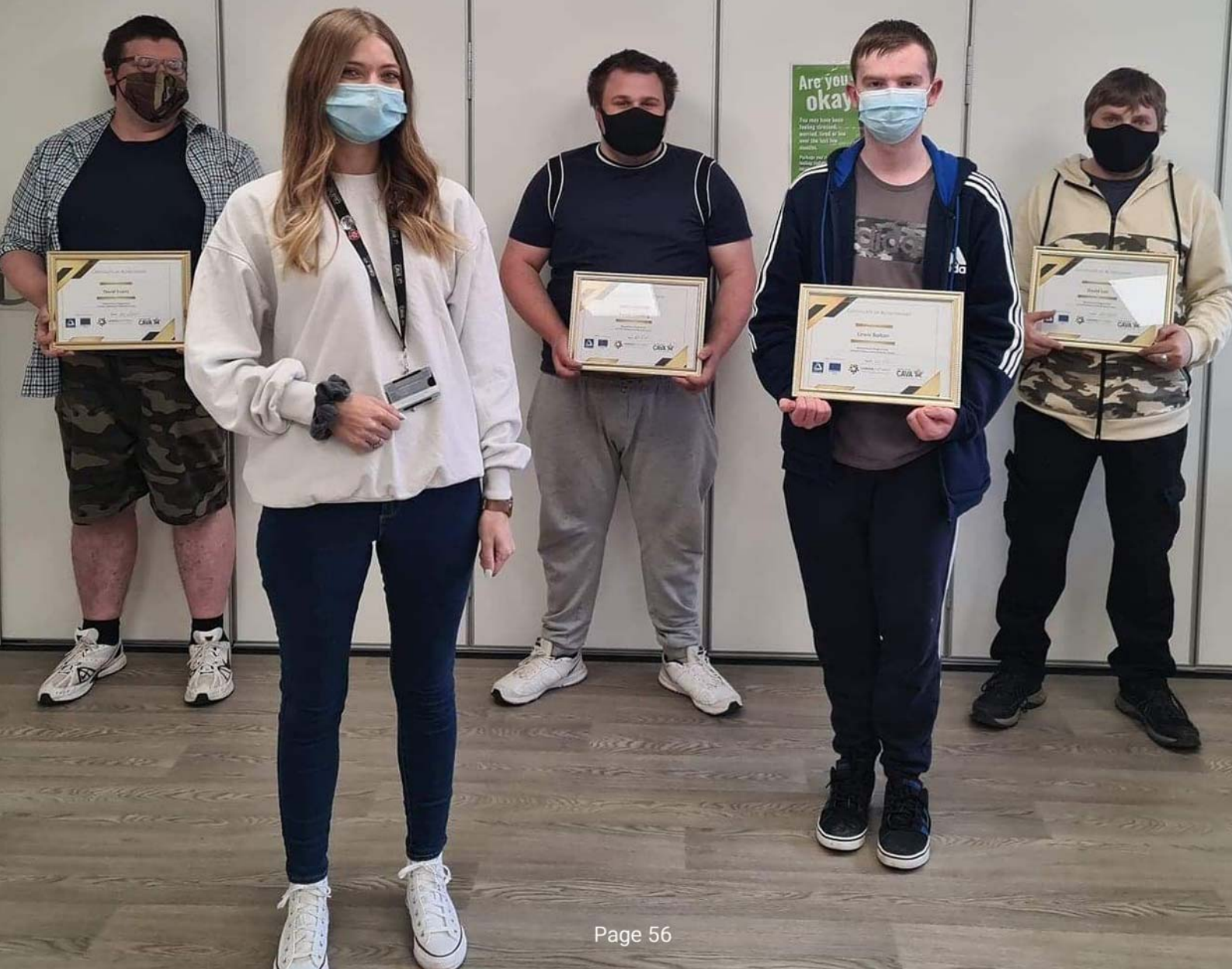
33%
Secured work and full-time learning



62%
Said that they feel closer to the workplace



83%
Of young people said that they have increased in confidence



Momentum and Inspire Cont'd

'Momentum' supports 18-29 year olds in the Nuneaton area who have been unemployed for 6 months. 'Inspire' supports unemployed 18-24 year olds in Nuneaton, Bedworth and North Warwickshire. Both programmes started delivery in January 2021 and offer a range of Well Being and Employability Workshops as well as a dedicated mentor to work with the most socially isolated to improve their future prospects.

Referrals have been lower than expected due to the 3rd national lockdown in January 2021. Organisations we work closely with have been closed with many people working from home. Previously, we would have gone into organisations to talk to young people about the projects before they engage with us, and we have been unable to do this throughout the lockdown.

18 young people have engaged with either the 'Momentum' or 'Inspire' programme. All young people have been in contact with a mentor and have an action plan in place, and 6 young people have started on a 12 week programme of Well Being and Employability Workshops via Zoom.

Comments received so far have been:

'My motivation has really improved, the programme has given me something to get out of bed for and

'Before Momentum, I felt stuck with no idea which way to turn but now I am confident in the direction my life is heading'.



Better Health & Wellbeing

Employee health and wellbeing has always been a priority of ours but we put greater emphasis on this when we went into lockdown and started working remotely. We ran 'virtual cuppa' meetings with each other to stay connected and support each other. We sent out regular wellbeing emails to all employees and volunteers with advice and top tips on self-care, boosting our immune systems and dealing with our emotions and anxieties. A wellbeing blog was also utilised to express ourselves and share our lockdown stories, the ups and the downs, keeping us connected, despite the distance.

Take a Pause

During the pandemic, one of our staff set up a social enterprise to raise awareness of menopause. With their help, we introduced regular Take a Pause meetups. Led by our Menopause Champion, they broached a number of areas, from understanding the menopause natural processes and symptoms management.



“*Thanks for a very useful session, it was appreciated and informative. The statistics were an eye opener*”

- Participant

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Take a Pause Cont'd

The sessions also welcomed various guest speakers, from how to approach a medical professional if affected by menopause, to looking at managing symptoms at work, as well as understanding nutrition and our body's changing needs.

During Men's Health Week, we held a webinar, Andropause and Menopause at Work, which was inclusive of all genders and their common and different potential challenges.

Diversity and inclusion are part of CAVA's values. During Men's Health Week, we held a webinar, Andropause and Menopause at Work, inclusive of all genders and their common and different potential challenges. This has opened up the conversation even further on some topics that can remain delicate and is supporting our staff's wellbeing and that of their family, over and above the workplace arena.

CAVA Health and Wellbeing Events

CAVA holds two staff events each year where one of these is focused on health & wellbeing, providing staff with various sessions such as healthy lifestyle information, meditation sessions, menopause awareness, stress management and much more. At the last health & wellbeing staff event in December 2020 which was held on zoom 37 staff were in attendance and alongside the sessions previously mentioned also participated in festive communal singing!

Disability Confident Standard

CAVA is a Disability Confident Employer level 2 accredited. We actively promote this through our recruitment to encourage applicants from anyone living with a disability. CAVA staff who have a disability or long term health condition are provided with support through reasonable adjustments and flexible working to enable them to effectively remain in post.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£	£
Income	687,434	725,403
Expenditure (incl. transfers)	<u>(670,326)</u>	<u>(759,024)</u>
Surplus (Deficit) - Retained	<u>17,108</u>	<u>(33,621)</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£	£
Income (incl. transfers)	0	20,241
Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Surplus (Deficit) - Retained	<u>0</u>	<u>20,241</u>

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£	£
Income	700,963	389,772
Expenditure	<u>(638,367)</u>	<u>(605,318)</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>62,596</u>	<u>(215,546)</u>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 2021

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Property	444,295	458,211
Other	<u>15,677</u>	<u>14,517</u>
	459,972	472,728
Current Assets less Liabilities	<u>606,732</u>	<u>517,812</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>1,066,704</u>	<u>990,540</u>
Unrestricted Funds - General	332,372	315,264
Unrestricted Funds - Designated	24,548	24,548
Restricted Funds	510,807	448,211
Endowment Funds	<u>198,977</u>	<u>202,517</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,066,704</u>	<u>990,540</u>

The financial Summary figures in this review have been extracted from the full audited accounts. A copy of the full audited accounts are available from www.wcava.org.uk/annual-reports

To obtain a printed copy contact **Ruby Sarkaria**, Finance Manager on **01926 477511**.



Membership

What does being a Member involve?

CAVA is a registered charity but it is also a limited company with voting members.

As a member, you delegate this role to a Board of Trustees who will be responsible for running the Charity. The Board will be expected to keep you up-to-date with its decision-making.

The Board of Directors has an obligation to call a General Meeting at least once a year, involving all the members. At this meeting members will be asked to make decisions by voting on resolutions put by the board, electing the directors to the board, electing the auditors, and approving the accounts.

Membership Benefits

- List your organisation on the Warwickshire & Solihull Community Directory for FREE
- List your available venue/meeting space for hire on the Venue Directory for FREE
- Discounted rates and priority bookings for training, events and meeting room hire
- Have voting rights at our Annual General Meeting
- Access to our online Resource Library
- And best of all, membership is FREE!

To find out more about becoming a member, or to see if your organisation has already registered, please visit: www.wcava.org.uk/membership



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to register as a member online.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you...

We are extremely grateful to all those local communities, individuals and funders who have pledged their support and given generously. We would especially like to thank the following for their kind support:

- Big Lottery Fund
- Children In Need
- Coventry and Rugby CCG
- Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
- Groundwork UK
- Local Trust
- NAVCA
- North Warwickshire Borough Council
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
- Rugby Borough Council
- Rugby Health Network
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Warwickshire CCG
- Stratford District Council
- University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Trust
- Warwick District Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Warwickshire North CCG

Equality Statement

If you require this publication in a different format or language, please contact us on **01926 477512**, email: **information@wcava.org.uk** or write to the address below:

Warwickshire Community And Voluntary Action, 4&6 Clemens Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 2DL

Acknowledgements

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Kate Morrison
Chief Executive

Looking to the future

It certainly feels far longer than 12 months since I wrote about future plans for CAVA in our last Annual Review, as we have lived through a year that has continued to challenge many of our members.

The strength and resilience of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector across Warwickshire and Solihull is evident in our comprehensive Annual Review which I hope you have enjoyed reading. Going forward CAVA will continue to be agile in our approach and build on the flexibility that our teams have shown to enable groups, volunteers and project recipients to be supported in ways that best suit their individual needs.

We know there will continue to be challenges ahead for the VCSE sector, including CAVA. Economic uncertainty will undoubtedly require an ever increasing need for the services of our members who are already stretched, alongside a possible impact on funding opportunities. However challenge also brings with it opportunity. In order to effectively respond to Covid and the ongoing recovery, CAVA has worked in true partnership with the statutory sector and we will continue to build on this to enable stronger long term relationships for VCSE. In Warwickshire our leading role in the development of the Thriving Communities Partnership (WTCP), Integrated Care Systems (ICS) VCSE Alliance, Mental Health Alliance and Transformation plus the many other established and evolving partnerships will ensure CAVA members are effectively represented. Likewise in Solihull, CAVA's involvement with SMBC VCS Engagement Group and VCS Strategic Assessment group brings benefit to our members there.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Looking to the future Cont'd

Looking forward CAVA will do more to develop a stronger membership offer in order to encourage sign-up and to ensure a greater understanding of our members' needs. We will continue to focus on improving the diversity of the organisation and our reach to diverse communities and groups.

There is an exciting future for CAVA which would not be possible without the fantastic staff, volunteers and trustees who work tirelessly for the organisation. A big thank you to all of you and in particular to my senior management team colleagues who do so much to support me and the wider team.



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