

APPENDIX 1

Voluntary Sector Grant 2021/22 Outcomes - Highlight Report

RRAVS

- RRAVS has increased its presence on social media and visits to the website has increased 34% since March 2020. Over the last 12 months, RRAVS social media/web articles have reached 15,413 people per month. Pre-pandemic reach was averaging 1,813 per month.
- Recruited over 100 volunteers to manage the local vaccination programme. Provided community support at GP pharmacies and worked with the Primary Care Networks and Community Agents to support vulnerable residents and hard to reach areas.
- There has been an 8% increase in residents applying for volunteering opportunities compared to the same time last year.
- 7,500 volunteering hours were completed between February – December 2021.
- RRAVS staff visited local day centres and worked with Sanctuary Housing Sheltered Schemes to share information and reassure about the vaccination programme.
- 5 foodbanks supported with delivery and distribution:
 1. St Marks Foodbank – Rochford
 2. Hawkwell Baptist Church – Ashingdon
 3. HOPEWORX – Rayleigh
 4. Eastwood Baptist Church – Residents in Rayleigh & Hullbridge
 5. Salvation Army Shoebury – Residents in Great Wakering & Barling
- 400 families and individuals a month were being supported through the foodbanks with a sharp rise in need identified with the end of furlough.
- 40 local organisations supported to gain funding. Over half of the funding was so groups could re-open after a period of closure and the rest was funding was for change in the way they delivered projects and sustainability.
- New Steps Post Bereavement Friendship Ground returned to face-to-face meetings in September 2021. The volunteers and group members had been keeping in contact through a communication tree during the period of the pandemic. Nearly all members returned and feel that the support from the group over the year had a positive impact on their mental health.
- RRAVS opened a new Friendship Group in Hockley - 8 volunteers support this group.
- The Knit to Nurture group returned to face-to-face meetings with members enjoying meeting up and sharing news.
- Supporting residents to Leave Independent Lives - volunteers offer digital support & advice, supporting residents on a weekly basis. Advice is given about phones, tablets & computers. 5 volunteers support these sessions on a rota basis.

Other voluntary sector organisations

A range of grants were allocated as highlighted in Table A, evidencing a range of outcomes across the H&WB Strategy actions.

These actions and outcomes were in the majority focused on the continued response to the Covid19 Pandemic this year but are still in line with the priorities of the H&WB Strategy.

By focusing more closely to Business Plan, Project work and HWBS outcomes, it has enabled us to generate information that informs our understanding of the wider system impacts of the voluntary sector grants fund. It has also enabled us to review the development of the projects, share information about sessions and opportunities and link up organisations that are looking to achieve similar outcomes.

TABLE A

Organisation and Project	Organisation and description	Grant Purpose	Outcomes reported
Carers First	Carers First is commissioned by Essex County Council to offer an information/advice/guidance and support service to all unpaid carers over the age of 18.	To encourage carer-friendly employers within Essex. Target small/medium businesses in Rochford district to promote develop of these practices including Carers policy, Carers passports, flexible working, internal peer networks, staff training.	As a commissioned service within the Adult Social Care directorate of Essex County Council, this year's workplans have had to be very flexible and adapt to changing circumstances within the health/care systems, including encouraging carers take up of vaccinations and boosters, distribution of funds from local/central government to carers and other unplanned initiatives.
Friends of Cherry Orchard Country Park	The group are a voluntary non-profit organisation with a small income generated from donations from members and fundraising events. The aims above are achieved by provision of a comprehensive website friendsofcherryorchard.org and social media, which actively engages with local residents to encourage visiting and using the park and to join other "friends" in getting outside and improving both physical and mental health	To continue to meet aims and to help our growing conservation volunteer group with additional tools and PPE	The purchase of various hand tools, wheelbarrows and PPE enabled the group to increase capacity for both numbers of volunteers and sessions, ongoing path maintenance, vegetation clearing and habitat creation. Most recently this winter, 10 additional sessions assisting with coppicing of the park's Hazel plantation, learning traditional skills and crafts. The setup of a community orchard focus group enabling training for fruit tree pruning (provided by ECC) in the park's orchard. Some members have also committed this year to carrying out surveying of small mammals, with the hope of finding evidence of Dormice, this could lead to funding to further increase the management of the park for nature and improved biodiversity. New residents, members and families of the FOCOP were invited to join a get to know the park walk during the summer and this helped increase confidence and familiarity when using the park. Talking to the residents during the varied activities

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			<p>has proven helpful in being able to gauge the success of the outcomes.</p> <p>Verbal responses to the above opportunities have proved these events helped residents engage in activities which have benefited both their physical and mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Some speak of a growth in confidence and friendships, being part of something, others of the positive feelings of making a difference to nature and the local environment.</p> <p><i>“Overall, being part of this volunteer group is great for my mental health and great for my physical wellbeing. Long may it continue. Thankyou.”</i></p> <p>The funding has enabled the group to expand the provision of this natural health service.</p> <p>The friends web and face book pages have more information on this year’s achievements. Friendsofcherryorchardpark.org</p> <p>H&W Strategy outcomes 1.1, 1.2 & 2.1</p>
Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre	Are a long established, not for profit, local charity meeting some of the needs of the elderly, less mobile, lonely and isolated residents of the Hockley, Hawkwell and surrounding areas as a voluntary run Day Centre	We aim to reopen, if permitted, for 3 days per week in June of this year at stage 4 of the road map of the government. We have polled our existing clients who have confirmed they wish to use our services again after the charity being forced to close for 1 year	<p>The service reopened mid 2021 for a 3-day week to provide critical support for the vulnerable elderly residents.</p> <p>The service supports between 30 and 45 clients with the day service and the grant contributed to the support of those clients.</p> <p>The Day Care services offered to clients benefits isolated elderly clients who want to socialise.</p> <p>The service also supported with Christmas lunches for our clients over the 3-day festive period, ensuring contact and support at a time clients are most isolated.</p> <p>The service has now reopened for 2022 introducing an additional day on Mondays so 4 days per week (Mon to Thurs) from the 10th of January 2022.</p> <p>H&WB Strategy Outcomes 1.2, 1.2 2.1 & 2.2</p>
Rayleigh Vineyard (GrowBaby)	GrowBaby is part of Rayleigh Vineyard Church and its aim to assist families who are in financial need by providing recycled baby and children’s clothing and equipment.	Families in need will receive assistance in clothing their children and acquiring vital equipment.	<p>253 bundles of recycled children's clothing and equipment plus nappies and formula milk were delivered by GrowBaby during 2021.</p> <p>In addition, recycling the clothes and equipment reduced the amount going into landfill by 1,072</p> <p>The grant from Rochford Council, along with other grants and donations made this possible.</p>

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<p>Wyvern Community Transport</p>	<p>Wyvern Community Transport (WCT) is a 'non for profit' charity covering the Rochford District area and the Castle Point Borough area and has over 1000 active individual members as well as group members.</p>	<p>Grant will go towards our Volunteer Expenses. Volunteers are unpaid but are entitled to claim their travel expenses. In addition, we provide our volunteers with their uniform, steel toed trainers or boots and Hi Viz safety clothing. Further costs include those associated with training courses such as Basis First Aid and costs associated with the CTA's Midas Training.</p>	<p>The funding has helped support the below Volunteer Expenses in 2021: Our 1st Aid Training was provided to 12 persons for 'Emergency First Aid at work'.</p> <p>This support for volunteers is essential to ensure they are able to continue to provide this key service for our residents. The outcomes of this training and expenses support ensures the continuation of this essential service for our more vulnerable residents.</p>
<p>The Megacentre</p>	<p>Rayleigh (Active Christian Trust) - The Megacentre Rayleigh is Christian Charity seeking to bring joy, hope and life to the whole community. We employ professional youth and family workers who provide a range of services for young people, children and families including youth clubs, parenting support, mentoring, schools support and family intervention.</p>	<p>We are in the process of establishing a Community Resilience Hub - TheHub@TheMegacentre - to support residents across the whole district. The funding applied for with this application will enable us to support the establishment of a Wellness Cafe - which will be a new initiative for us, as we move out of the pandemic, we feel that many residents will be experiencing anxiety, stress, worry and feel worried about going out and about again.</p>	<p>The wellness café ("Friendship Group") is to be started imminently. (End of January/early February 2022 – it had not been started before due to high rates of infection and availability/redecoration of space). The group will be open to all in the community.</p> <p>Partnerships have been established, in particular United in Kind, to run the group together. Volunteers will be sought to support the sessions Sessions aim to be welcoming and flexible, an opportunity for residents to chat, make friends, perhaps play a board game or take part in an occasional quiz.</p> <p>The outcomes we will meet include reducing isolation and anxiety, improving mental and emotional health and combatting loneliness - and about getting back out and about in the community. Many of the regular activity's residents took part in before the pandemic have now stopped, either temporarily or permanently, so it will be good to be able to provide something new for them to access.</p>
<p>Bar 'n' Bus Trust</p>	<p>Supporting young people aged 10-19 through professional, community-based youth work. Detached Youth Work Programmes - including positive activities, advice and support, mobile unit sessions In-School Support - including 1-2-1 mentoring, lunchtime engagements, group work and targeted Group Work programmes.</p>	<p>We run an in-school mentoring scheme within local secondary schools, training volunteers from the community to provide 1-2-1 to young people. We are seeking funds to increase resources and capacity within the programme to meet local demand. The grant will fund additional resource.</p>	<p>The grant received funding the creation of mentoring resource packs for our volunteer team. Packs included conversation starters, mentoring activities, positive and inspiration discussion resources and other items to aid on conversation and relationship building.</p> <p>The team in Rochford has grown to 6 mentors supporting between 12 and 15 students in local secondary schools. The mentoring packs have been valuable in enhancing contact with young people, deepening relationships and building support into session.</p> <p>Young people have been supported through anxieties related to the pandemic, family and community challenges, bereavement, pressures of education, unhealthy friendships and</p>

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			relationships, bullying, low-esteem and exclusion from mainstream education. H&WB Strategy Outcomes 2.4 & 2.5
Trustlinks	Local independent charity providing support, positive activities and recovery focussed approach for people of all ages to improve mental health and wellbeing. We currently run Growing Together therapeutic community gardens including at our Roche way site, REACH Recovery College, REACH Wellbeing Hub, carers support and children & youth projects.	We are seeking revenue funding to support the setup of woodwork and other community shed activities at our Roche way site. The funding will support staff time to collaborate with members of the local community to establish an inclusive Community Shed project including finalising the design for a workshop and obtaining funding for the workshop and tools, establishing the approach, policies and procedures for the Community Shed.	We have provided weekly therapeutic community gardening at the Growing Together Rochford site. This has included a range of woodworking tasks and development of Community Shed activities. We have undertaken detailed consultation with members to identify and design the work shed that will be installed in Rochford. Policies for the Community Shed have been developed. New volunteer recruitment processes are in place and volunteer support programme including training and supervision for volunteering. Outcomes: Improved mental health and physical health of members.Reduced isolation and loneliness Improved employability.
1476 (Rayleigh) Squadron RAFAC	opportunity for young people aged 13-18 in Rayleigh. Our varied programme of training, adventure and skills development is open to all cadets, including subjects and qualifications ranging from a B-Tec in Aviation Studies, First Aid and Duke Of Edinburgh Awards.	the intention is to rebuild and develop greater resilience to one of the key adventure training activities of mountain biking. The grant would go towards the purchase of mountain bikes for squadron use, ensuring that everyone would be able to access this outdoor activity, irrespective of means.	The grant has enabled us to continue to provide the programme of training, adventure and skills development is open to all cadets, including subjects and qualifications ranging from a B-Tec in Aviation Studies, First Aid and Duke Of Edinburgh Awards. Despite the continued pandemic and resulting restrictions we have been able to delivery the outdoor activity through the purchase of bikes. These were in great demand through the lockdowns and when social distancing was affecting residents ability to connect.
Footprints Community Group	We have delivered activities for young people and their families for 17 years. Footprints Community Group are well established in the community and in 2019 were awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. The activities we deliver are through consultation both with the community and partner organisations.	We are seeking funding towards our weekly dance sessions. These are undoubtedly our most successful youth activity with the sessions starting from 4pm running through to 8pm. Providing a diversionary activity in a safe environment.	Funding was used towards the development of our weekly dance sessions. These have been our most successful youth activity with the sessions providing a diversionary activity in a safe environment at a very difficult time for young people. This essential link during the pandemic h enabled us to support young residents in the community with their physical health, contributed towards positive mental health as well as allowing us to provide additional advice and support to the wider families.