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Numbers achieved

Devon

	Achieved
Participants starting Community Grants	622
Participants progressing into employment	72
Participants progressing into education / training	28
Priority Groups	
Over 50	160
Disability	341
Ethnic Minority	73
Female	346

Somerset

	Achieved
Participants starting Community Grants	140
Participants progressing into employment	2
Participants progressing into education / training	7
Priority Groups	
Over 50	38
Disability	87
Ethnic Minority	8
Female	83







Participants and partners overwhelmingly report good results in terms of participants moving forwards due to the activities they undertake on Community Grants projects.

Case study, Time to Shine, I Can Do That!

Time to Shine is a Community Grants funded project run by I Can Do That! in Torquay. The aim of the project was to deliver a confidence and motivation course to increase confidence, motivation and self-worth to move people with disabilities towards employment. This approach gave participants the self belief they needed to make changes and move forwards in all aspects of life. I Can Do That! shared case study about participant, CH, summarised below.

At the time of joining the course in February, CH had been out of work for over 6 months. He lacked confidence and was anxious about applying for work as he had been unsuccessful in many previous attempts. On the first day of the course we discussed confidence and believing in your abilities, not letting negativity stand in your way.

CH enjoyed the course and it changed his mindset: he decided to make a positive attempt to get into work starting that very day. He took his CV into a local tyre fitting business and asked if they had any jobs, som ething he

that time but kept his CV on file, CH did not let this get him down.

After day 2 of the course, CH went into a local pub: they offered him a work trial as a kitchen porter, he really enjoyed the work and they offered him a fulltime contract working 40 hours a week. CH is no longer in receipt of universal credit and is really enjoying earning his own money and looking to move into his own flat.





Moving Forwards

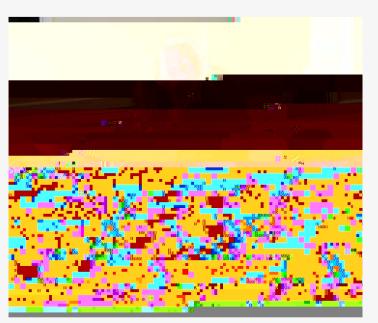
Jade Crouchman's Story, Gilead

The decision to leave my London based life to move to supported housing on a farm in rural Devon was a huge and terrifying one, although with

and traum atic at worse. Through mistakes that I had made and events that I had no control over, life had become a constant struggle. Violence, drug taking and drinking to obliteration a daily occurrence. But taking that leap of faith, making the choice to try som ething different was still so overwhelming. I can honestly say I am thankful every single day that I cam e to Gilead.

From nearly the moment I arrived at Gilead I knew this was a special place, it helps that its surroundings are beautiful. We have work therapy on a farm with animals and also learn about plants, gardening and growing our own vegetables, we have acres of farm land and woods to explore by foot or bike and group outings to swim in lakes or find waterfalls. But the reason Gilead has been truly transform ative for me is the constant support I have received, there is always someone willing to listen, advise, encourage and push you towards reaching your full potential.

I have been here for 7 m on ths now, I was a shell of a person when I arrived. I



Gilead has done for me, given me the chance to make the right choices.





Increased resource and capacity due to Community Grants

Feedback demonstrated that many organisations are now better placed to continue to deliver, and develop, the provision that was initially funded through Community Grants.

Ellacom be Partnership were able to use the Grant to pay for a pilot trialling their community café. It was a success and they continuing to deliver this opportunity, thanks to Community Grants.

Similarly Exeter Northcott Theatre was able to pilot the Tech Futures program me for people to experience theatre production work. The pilot enabled the technical team to test the viability of having inexperienced people training alongside them, alleviating any doubts. This is now running as a permanent project following great success.

Gilead Foundations reported that the horticulture project funded by Community Grants was so effective that the horticulture worker, Ingrid, was kept on using central funding to enable the work to continue. Also, the food being grown as a legacy of this project is being used in their next Community Grants funded project, Cooking for Life.





their participant Sharon tending to the olive tree and herbs.





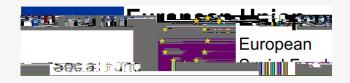
Building networks and strengthening partnerships



Coldharbour Mill used the grant to teach conservation skills to participants who were then able to develop and improve the Wildlife Meadow and recreation resource which is open to the local community at all times.. In addition to promoting well-being for the whole community, the new green space provides an educational resource for local schools, youth organisations and other young people. Coldharbour Mill also welcom ed community volunteers who worked alongside the participants, increasing social opportunity and joint working.

Makers HQ used their Community Grant to fund ABC level 1award qualifications in industrial manufacturing, to engage and sign up those people in the Stonehouse and Devonport community currently furthest removed from the job market. There is a significant shortage of people with industrial textile manufacturing skills, and those currently employed with the skills are an ageing workforce. Makers HQ, based in the form er purposebuilt Jaeger factory, is reinvigorating the passion, pride and legacy of textile manufacturing in the local area which was once a key textile industry area before the factory closed down in 1997. They are focussing on key local need such as textiles for yachts and the Ministry of Defence, and hope to become their preferred provider, boosting the employment and morale of the local community as a whole.

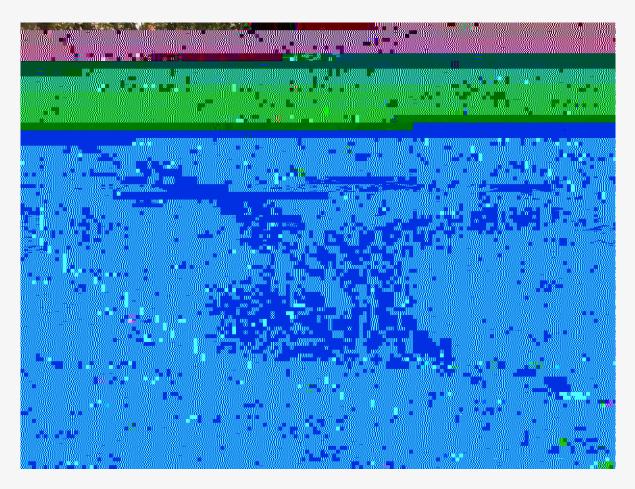
Seed of Hope Community Gardening Group was set up using the Community Grant. Seed of Hope participants helped those less able to manage their own garden, whilst gaining valuable work experience, training and opportunities moving them into or closer to the labour market. They used their skills to help local vulnerable residents, dramatically improving their quality of life. The participants also invested time and efforts in improving the green space around the community centre at which they are based which has a wider positive impact on the community, increasing the likelihood of general improvement across their home area.







Coldharbour Mill's Community Grant funded long-lasting improvements to their Wildlife Meadow, improving access and creating habitats for wildlife to thrive. For instance, participants installed reptile and amphibian holes, protected by felt covers, to encourage them to nest in the Meadow area. The Wildlife Meadow area of Coldharbour Mill is always open and provides a conservation area for the whole community to enjoy.



Petroc

version of the project handbook, with thanks to Deaf-Led services for their interpretation skills.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KR-XfEjPREQ&list=PLaKxH2Cn10c5LMuC8V3eSzsCUBIFNmFE3





Case Study, Mohamad, ODILS

ODILS Learning Foundation is a charity for those isolated by language and culture, with a primary focus on education and training. The Community Grant enabled them to provide specialist employment and guidance support to BAME/ ESOL participants who are aged 25+ to help prevent unemployment and prevent underemployment.

ODILS participant Moham ad came to Plymouth in 2019 under the Home

degree in Maths from the University of Dam ascus and has been self employed as a café and shop owner for most of his working life. His dream is to run his own café or restaurant here in the UK. Although the most obvious barrier to employment for Moham ad is surrounding language, he started the project with Entry 1level English, this has not been the only challenge he has faced. Working culture and practices is Syria and Egypt, where he has previously lived, are very different to those in the UK, meaning Moham ad has missed key knowledge around how to create CVs, apply for jobs and what laws there are surrounding work. This has only intensified through his desire for self-employment, as he also needs additional knowledge around creating a company, registering and complying with self-employment laws, as well as hygiene and health and safety laws



Covid 19 Impact on Delivery

Feedback from the Community Grants recipients shows that Covid 19 had significant impact across Community Grants. As well as the inevitable delays caused to those projects due to start around the time the first lockdown started, other key issues included the following:

Difficulties with recruitment and face to face provision

Recruitment became challenging as a lot of referral agencies, such as JCP closed.

Working with individuals face to face, whether for mentoring or other opportunities like work experience and skills development was impacted.

Inequalities in access to online provision

Lack of technology, digital skills and access to devices hampered efforts to work online with participants. Some rural areas have poor connection.

Some found accessing from home challenging, for instance they may have been single parents with children in the background, or they may have felt unable to speak openly about matters when other family members, e.g. parents, were nearby.

Increased anxiety and related issues

Anxiety around Covid 19 itself, and simple mixing again after a time in isolation was a big challenge for some participants.

Vulnerable participants

Participants with health issues making them particularly vulnerable to infection because even less able to access support.

Uncertainty and attendance problems

Illness and self-isolation caused attendance issues including staff issues. Cancellations were common. Individuals had other caring and homeschooling responsibilities, schools and other services closed from time to time at short notice.





However, there were some indirect positive impacts of the pandem ic:

Catalyst for digital provision

Organisations had no choice but to improve remote access to provision and digital skills in staff and participants. They found that an online approach suited som e learners very well, particularly those who were nervous meeting in person. However, it is important to move towards face to face to increase confidence and get people out of their homes, so a hybrid approach is preferred.

Environmental sustainability

Reduction of travel saved time, costs and pollution. Organisations were able to see the benefit of some remote delivery, as well as reduced travelling tolarge events such as partner meetings.

Development of new resources / delivery models

Some partners came up with new models of delivery to overcome the lockdown challenges, some of which have continued beyond lockdown.

Battling On created a suite of skills development videos and resources



There is a clear correlation between the following aims and objectives of
Community Grants andStrategy 2025 and the Petroc Ways of
Working.

Transform life chances and employment prospects for all Community Grants offers those individuals who are struggling to progress in life the opportunity to build confidence and skills. This results in them taking the opportunity to move forward in their personal, educational and professional lives, whether that be volunteering, applying for jobs, starting work or becoming more active







