

Appendix C



VCSE SIP contractual outputs

- Within the contract the Here4BDCC partnership is asked to support organisations to complete the People Can Quality Award. Since April 2022 we have refreshed the Quality Award to ensure it is up-to-date and revamped the marketing, ensuring the way groups are able to acknowledge that they have completed the QA is now provided in a digital format.
- Since June 2022 we have supported and approved 12 new awards with four pending; the time to complete an award is anywhere between three and six months, depending on the maturity and size of the organisation. We aim to complete 20 by April 2024.
- Business engagement outcomes and outputs are within the main report.
- We have launched a new Here4BDCC volunteering Facebook page.
- We are working with BD2025 through Spirit of 2012 funding; CAB&D were part of the successful bid writing team for this funding, are supporting the staff at BD2025 and will provide legacy activities when the funding ceases.
- Our Citizen Coin collaborations include attendance at Big Advice Day as well as the Area Networks plus a case study is provided below around the software development input Here4BDCC has provided.

Citizen Coin Case Study

Background

The VCSE SIP contract requires the contract holder(s) to work in partnership to promote Citizen Coin (CC) across the Bradford District. This case study centres on joint activity across the Here4BDCC partnership.

The issue

CC was piloted during the COVID-19 pandemic and since we have emerged from lockdown and started to engage with community activity again, the increase in uptake for the app is not parallel to the increases in community activity. The Here4BDCC volunteering team decided to look into why uptake by the VCSE was not as expected.

Who is affected?

The council has made a large investment into CC and therefore has a lot at stake financially and reputation-wise. The creator of CC is therefore seeking support to get CC used more widely.

What we did

Participate Projects used the CC app as an incentive within some of their own activities to see how much take up it would get and how user-friendly the app is for administrators.

Participate had their annual award's evening and promoted CC at this event; there were flyers for all attendees and coin rewards for attendance. They tracked the number of new sign-ups after the event.

Participate used CC rewards for their own corporate volunteering activity days, awarding local people coins when they completed a challenge.

What we achieved

Both of the activities gave the Here4BDCC volunteering team solid feedback that we shared with the CC creator; there were sign-up issues, usage issues for the individual who is rewarded and large admin issues for the organisations' giving rewards.

We met with the creator with a suggested list of adjustments that could be made for the app so that it would be more attractive both to individuals earning coins and those awarding them.

The creator worked with the app content designers to look at these suggestions and we are expecting to see some of them in the near future.

Business Engagement case studies

Vanquis

Vanquis have been heavily involved this year with regards to Team day volunteering. They have completed 4 projects that has engaged 86 employees. Vanquis have also covered all the costs of materials (£11,928) to complete these projects.

High Speed Training (HST)

This year they have engaged in team days, skilled volunteering and donation of products. They have donated over 100 free training courses passed on to VCSOs across the district. They have also completed 3 days engaging 31 colleagues. Finally, 22 employees have given 67 hours to skilled volunteering projects.

Flutter

Although Leeds based, they have been actively supporting International Mixed Ability Sports (IMAS) through skilled volunteering. This is with their most senior leadership team including the CEO of Sky Betting and Gaming (a Flutter brand). This has accumulated in a three year commitment being agreed where they will give a total £500k of support

Balfour Beatty

Balfour have utilised their team volunteer days completing 2 projects engaging 15 colleagues. More impressively they have been utilising their contractors, supply

chain and skilled employees. They supported The Valley Project (Holmewood) by installing a new toilet block. The total labour and material costs came to £15,000.

In addition they have completed ad hoc pieces of support to VCISO's including loaning metal partition walls for a fundraising event and supplying quantity surveyors to complete free assessments.

Cross-cutting case study involving volunteering and insight work

Lateral Flow Tests

Background

This case study shows how the different elements of the contract work together for a positive outcome; this case study provides evidence of linkages between the Business Engagement and Volunteering, Voice and Influence and Information elements of our work.

The issue

COVID is not going away; it persists in the community and still has an impact on our communities and the staff within the VCSE sector. Testing for COVID stopped being mandatory and access to free testing kits ceased. This led to increased costs for VCSE organisations and their service users.

Who is affected?

COVID isn't picky – it will infect anyone; staff, volunteers and service users of VCSE organisations are all at risk of picking up COVID. The VCSE sector works with some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Bradford District so the impact of COVID is huge.

What we did

Through the Business Engagement part of our contract, Participate Projects were offered access to free lateral flow tests (LFTs) from Morrisons supermarket due to their long-standing relationship with this business. We were offered in excess of 1 million tests but they had a limited shelf-life.

Insight already gathered indicated organisations were still using tests and would be able to put these tests to appropriate use. We tested this by assessing the feasibility through our Leaders' Network meeting and WhatsApp group.

Once we had established the feasibility we put out a formal call for interested organisations using our Leaders' Network WhatsApp (and email) but also expanded it to our Briefing Bradford list to ensure was open to a wide a group as possible. Within the call we outlined the key criteria that they needed to be able to use them by their expiry date.

Orders were collated and then the massive job of moving the tests from a depot somewhere around Northampton to Bradford began. All of the shipping was provided by Morrison's at no charge.

When the LFTs arrived in Bradford, Participate Projects delivered large quantities to three key venues in the district and the organisations picked up from the nearest venue to their offices. In total we distributed 15,800 LFTs.

What we achieved

This piece of work showed the added value of the business relationships within our partnership. We helped avoid thousands of LFTs going into landfill and supported Keighley area office groups with 660 tests, Shipley area office groups with 3900 tests and 8600 tests were used across the Bradford area offices. The groups who received the LFTs provided support to the following communities of interest alongside the local community:

- Women fleeing domestic violence
- Learning Disabilities and neuro-divergence
- People suffering mental health issues
- Drug and Alcohol users
- Sex workers
- Low income families
- Older people

By responding to the ask from Morrison's we have also shown a key Bradford business how responsive the sector can be and have consolidated that existing relationship.

Added Value

CAB&D are working with Shaping the Future in Volunteering (a national collaboration of 26 national charities) on a research project to understand barriers to diversification of volunteers within national charities. The initial desktop research has been completed and we are in phase where focus groups are being held with local residents. Final report is due March 2024.