

Annual report 2006 / 07

Text only version for website, without accounts.

For a copy of our accounts please contact Janet Smith.

For further information about Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service
please contact us at 3, Bath Street, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1BY.
Tel 01629 812154 or email enquiries@ddcvs.org.uk
Or have a look at our website: www.ddcvs.org.uk

In the Greenhouse

Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service (also known as Derbyshire Dales CVS) is a Registered Charity (1093087) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (04428280). The principal address of the Company and its Registered Office is 3 Bath Street, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1BY.

Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the Company during the period 1st April 2006 – 31st March 2007 were as follows.

Paul Bradley
Richard Campen
Gill Geddes
Patricia Hall
Patricia Leake
Jeff Marsh
Kate Smith
Helena Stubbs

Senior / principal employees during the period were as follows:

Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary: Neil Moulden
Finance and Facilities Manager: Janet Smith

Auditors: West and Foster, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors,
Water Street, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1EW

Bankers: Unity Trust Bank, Nine Brindleyplace, 4, Oozalls Square,
Birmingham B1 2HB

Bank of Scotland, 2nd Floor, 38 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2
2YR

During the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007 Derbyshire Dales CVS employed the following staff:

Chief Executive Officer:	Neil Moulden
Finance and Facilities Manager:	Janet Smith
Community Development Worker:	Caroline Stone (from 1 Oct 06)
Amethyst Project Worker:	Mary Anderson (1 Dec 06 – 31 Mar 07)
Development Worker:	Hester Messom
Information / Development Worker:	Sarah Paisley
Community Health Development Worker:	Marion Beloe
Signpost Project Manager:	Beth Lawrence (from Aug 06)
Signpost Project Worker:	Beth Lawrence (until Aug 06)
Signpost Project Worker:	Shena Lawrence (from 7 th Aug 06)

Making it Happen

DDCVS' work is supported by:

Amethyst Project
Change up
Children's Fund
College of the Peak
Community Fund
Derbyshire Community Foundation Local Network Fund
Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire County Council – Hurst Farm
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Derbyshire Dales & SD PCT Health Development
Derbyshire Dales & SD PCT Self Help
Derbyshire Infrastructure Consortium
Engage East Midlands – Small steps
H E A T
High Peak & Dales Primary Care Trust
Leader + (EMDA) Access Project
Learning & Skills Council- Rural Training
Objective 2
Peak National Park
Signposting Service
South Derbyshire CVS
South West RDA
Skill for Enterprise
Connexions Derbyshire

Growing our own

We are also very grateful for the support from our members. We currently have 84 members; 78 are local groups and organisations, the remaining 6 are individual memberships. Here follows a list of our current members:

Rural Education and Arts Project
Derby Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility
Elton Gardening Club
Ashbourne Area Access Group
Tideswell Parish Council
Well Heeled Appalachian Dance Group
Federation of West Derbyshire Mental Health Support
Derbyshire Dales District Council
High Peak CVS
Granby House Society Ltd

Age Concern Derbyshire Dales North
Baslow and District Resident's Assn
Bakewell and District Probus Club
Mid Derbyshire Citizen's Advice Bureau
Ashbourne and District 50+ Forum
Farming Life Centre
Ashbourne Local History Group
Ashbourne Partnership
Peaks and Dales Advocacy Forum
Traidlinks
Bakewell Access Group
Calver Parish Council
Derbyshire Dales Victim Support
Derbyshire County Council
Amnesty International (Wirksworth and District Branch)
Community Fayre for Wirksworth and District
Ashford in the Water Parish Council
Ashbourne Community Transport
Dales Heart Cardiac Support Group
Volunteer Centre Derbyshire Dales
Bakewell Area U3A
Bakewell Oxfam Supporters Club
Arts in the Peak
Association of Bakewell Christians
Atlow Mill Centre for Emotional Education
Derbyshire Community Foundation
Peak District Affordable Housing Forum
Derbyshire Dales Careline
Derbyshire Rural Helpline
Volunteer Centre Buxton and District
Longford Youth Club
Peak Railway Association Ltd
Stoney Middleton Parish Council
Alzheimer's Society (South Derbyshire Branch)
Hope Valley Christian Youth Work
Genewatch UK
1st Youlgrave Guides
Sustainable Youlgrave
Leonard Cheshire Community Services
CAMTAD (Deaf and Hearing Support)
Derbyshire Friend
Post-Natal Illness Support and Help
Matlock Toy Library
Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport
Derbyshire Advocacy Service
Age Concern, Derby and Derbyshire
Winster Village Magazine
Hope Valley Access Group
Encore Re-Use

Relate Derby and Southern Derbyshire
Derbyshire Rural Community Council
Friends of Cromford Canal
Matlock Town Council
Bonsall Parish Council
Churchtown Out of School Club
Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group
Ashbourne and District Stroke Support
Ashbourne Club for those with impaired vision
Benefit with Bingo
First Taste
The Arkwright Society
Voluntary Action Sheffield
Mid Derbyshire Association for Mobile Physiotherapy
Umbrella Information Office
Out and About Luncheon Club
Matlock and District Hard of Hearing Club
Derbyshire Association of Local Councils
British Red Cross

Membership was reviewed in early 2007 and we made some important changes. **Full Membership** is offered *free* to all voluntary organisations and community groups working in the Derbyshire Dales, whose aims are considered compatible with those of DDCVS. **Associate Membership** is be offered *free* to statutory agencies, commercial organisations, individuals and voluntary organisations not working in the Dales. Associate Membership enables organisations to show their support for the aims of the CVS, but does not give voting rights or other advantages.

We also reviewed our photocopying service in Jan 07 and after consulting with our regular users of the service we decided through a majority vote that the 'while you wait' service would be available on **Tuesdays between 9.30 and 12.30**. Photocopying continues to be a popular service with **354 photocopying requests** during the period under review for **61 different community groups**.

Staff Development

Over the course of 1st April 2006 – 31st March 2007 staff have taken the opportunity to obtain qualifications in the following:

Marion successfully completed her Teaching Adults City and Guilds 7307 Part One in May 06 as did Sarah in October 06 making all development workers qualified in teaching adult learners.

In Dec 06 Janet successfully completed her Association of Accounting Technicians Intermediate Level (NVQ Level 3).

Beth obtained an Open University Certificate of Management in Health and Social Care and Shena completed a variety of courses to support her work with Signpost covering safe-guarding children and benefits advice.

Climate Change

It gives me great pleasure to write my fourth and final report for the DDCVS Annual Review – I am about to be recycled!

I often feel 'recycle' can equal 'change'. Over the past four years the CVS has made many changes to its work plan and its areas of development. Starting out as a small organisation with part-time managers and few staff, it has recycled and changed many ideas which have enabled it to become the very credible organisation it is today.

Working in a predominantly rural county the CVS has always been very aware of the environment in which member organisations work and the challenges that this throws up; I hope the training recently undertaken by staff on carrying out an environmental audit of the organisation can be rolled out to both members and the wider community.

I have enjoyed my time with the CVS enormously and thank all the executive members and staff for their hard work and their willingness to adapt to the many challenges we have faced over the past four years. I hope they will continue to have the courage to challenge and recycle old and new ideas in the future, in a way that can only strengthen and sustain a very worthwhile organisation.

Kate Smith was Chairperson for the CVS from September 2003 until the present and we are very grateful for her time in this role. A new chairperson will be nominated at the annual general meeting on 27th September.

C(E)O²

Readers will have noticed that this year our annual report has an environmental theme. This is a subject that most organisations and individuals have had to think very seriously about in recent times, and a subject that features almost daily in our newspapers and on our television screens. The realities of climate change and its potential impact on our communities is something that we all have to take seriously. We live, as they say, in interesting times.

The question that we have perhaps all asked is this: can the small contribution that we can make in our own homes and organizations really make a difference to averting the potentially catastrophic effects of global warming? Will using our cars less and turning off our electrical appliances really help to turn things around?

Those working in the local voluntary sector must also frequently have similar feelings of powerlessness in the face of changing and diminishing funding regimes, reorganisations, government directives, the growing contract culture,

ever more rigorous regulation, and rapidly changing and increasingly demanding social and economic issues. Does all the hard work and dedication put in by so many volunteers and paid workers really make a difference when the challenges seem so great?

My answer in both cases is that yes, local action can and does make a huge difference both in our immediate communities and in wider society. The reason Derbyshire Dales CVS is so committed to supporting the local voluntary and community sector is that we recognise the great impact that it has on the lives of everyone in the area, and in particular those who are disadvantaged and marginalised. We also recognize that good practice and innovative solutions developed locally can often inform the work of national and even international organisations.

This last year has been a period a stability and progress for DDCVS. Our work on developing our strategic vision and forward plan has given a better focus and clarity of purpose to our work. Our team of development workers has been able to support a wide range of groups through provision of information advice and training, and the considerable outcomes of this work are discussed later in the report. Our highly successful Signposting project has continued to support some of the most disadvantaged people in Derbyshire Dales and High Peak, as has our development project on Hurst Farm Estate in Matlock. The Leader+ Access project came to an end during the year, having supported many excellent and innovate projects.

Partnership work has again been a very positive aspect of the year. We have done much to promote the already good relationships with statutory bodies locally, and would particularly like to thank Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire PCT, Derbyshire County Council and the Peak District National Park Authority for their support. We have also continued to develop excellent working relationships with other voluntary organisations both locally and around the county which I feel sure will be of great value in the future.

The improvements that we have made in the last few years in the administration and governance of the CVS have meant that relevant and accurate management information is now easily available to the staff and trustees, and has enabled us to make decisions and plan for the future with considerable confidence.

I would like to thank the staff of DDCVS for their hard work, dedication and support. The organisation is indeed fortunate to have such an excellent team of people. I would also like to thank our Board of Trustees for their considerable contribution during the year.

Going back to my original theme, we at DDCVS do believe that local action by the voluntary and community sector is of vital importance, and supporting this will always be the most important thing we do.

Neil Moulden, Chief Executive Officer

From Little Acorns... to Tree-Huggers

Development work with CVS

In the winter of 2006 we finalised our Forward Plan 07-08 and began monitoring our development work against the development team's agreed objectives. Herewith a report on our development work cross-referenced to the Forward Plan. If you would like a copy of our Forward Plan 07-08 please contact Neil Moulden on 01629 812154 or email enquiries@ddcvs.org.uk

Development Team Service Delivery Objective 1: To deliver work that promotes strong sustainable voluntary organisations.

During the period under review we supported 48 groups, 19 of those were new groups, previously unknown to CVS and 29 were current contacts. We continued to mostly advise groups on funding: 37 groups came to us for information or support on funding. In addition we advised 12 groups on governance issues, 11 groups with developing their service; we trained 3 groups on a one-to-one basis and saw 11 groups in the course of partnership work. These are significant pieces of development work which can involve several sessions with a group, we don't log the frequent, but short conversations we have every day with enquirers.

In terms of offering training to groups, Sarah delivered a training session on Fundraising in October 06 and co-delivered a training session on using the Internet for research in March 07. Marion delivered two complementary sessions on Youth Work in Dec 06 and Jan 07 which fed into her excellent guide to running a voluntary youth group.

The Voluntary Youth Work Resource Pack is a working document aimed primarily at people who are engaged in voluntary youth work activities that explores, amongst other things, what youth work is, how to plan a youth work programme, how to deliver it effectively and how to get funding. Please contact us for a copy (free to voluntary and community groups and £10 to statutory agencies).

Marion also ran two workshops for local organisations, one on Managing Change for the Peak District Affordable Housing Forum and a Forward Planning workshop for Ashbourne Community Transport.

Service Delivery Objective 2: To provide up to date and relevant information to the voluntary sector

All development workers have been advising groups in the last 12 months on where to get funding and support with completing applications as well as other issues such as policies. In terms of printed, email and web information provided, Sarah has continued to write an email funding bulletin, email news-in-brief and a printed newsletter each quarter. After learning how to update the website in the summer of 2006, Sarah has updated the website on a

weekly to fortnightly basis with 58 new items between August 06 and 31 March 07. Updating the website is something that Sarah hopes to be able to devote more time to this coming year. Other written information by our development team includes the afore-mentioned youth pack and a vulnerable adult's policy written by Marion Beloe.

Service Delivery Objective 3:

Deliver a training programme that is responsive to the needs of the voluntary sector

Having established a format that seemed to suit our members the training programme for the year was based on the same half day sessions of informal relaxed training at accessible venues. All the sessions were free and wherever possible we used facilitators who were familiar with the problems and challenges of rural groups. These included DDCVS staff all of whom are now qualified trainers and who are developing a good reputation in this field.

A total of nine courses attracted 84 delegates, for the first time two courses aimed at individuals running youth groups were offered, demonstrating an increasing need for support in this area. With the support of an IT project run by High Peak CVS six hands-on IT courses were offered attracting 23 delegates. As these were aimed at people with very little experience of IT, the small groups with each member having access to a lap top was very much appreciated.

An addition to the Workshop Training Programme we organised four full day seminars, these were also offered to people outside the DDCVS area for a small fee and were very successful in attracting a total of 117 delegates. The facilitators were individuals with a national reputation and the events addressed current issues for the sector and as well as being informative did much to raise the profile of the DDCVS.

Development Team Strategic Objective 1:

Influence policy and practice by ensuring representation of the voluntary sector at a strategic level

This objective was met in the main by Marion's work in actively contributing to meetings and partnerships specific to the Health and Social Care, and Youth Agenda. Marion participates in Youth Partnership meetings, the Health and Social Care Forum and Teenage pregnancy partnership meetings.

Development Team Strategic Objective 2:

Encourage the development of a strong and unified voluntary sector

All members of the development team encourage the pursuit of a unified voluntary sector in their work. This year we have worked closely with Derbyshire Rural Community Council, Derbyshire Dales and High Peak ProHelp, which has been an invaluable service for organisations looking for professional support and Volunteer Centre Derbyshire Dales where we work in a liaison role to identify volunteering opportunities within organisations that

Hippo-Blockers

we can then inform VCDD staff about. We have also continued our work with community transport organisations to ensure their development within a changing transport climate.

***Development Team Strategic Objective 3:
Promote collaborative working between the voluntary, statutory and commercial sectors.***

Sarah and Marion have worked hard to promote collaborative working between the voluntary and statutory sector this year through Primary Care Trust meetings, Administration of the Small Grants Fund and participation at the Ashbourne Multi Agency Group (all Marion), work with health and social care contacts at the Children's Centre, Matlock), collaborative work with the Peak District Sustainable Energy Group and joint work with the Peak District National Park Authority's Villages Team (all Sarah). Over the next 12 months the team needs to focus on involving the commercial sector where possible.

The unfortunate closure of the Peak District Rural Deprivation Forum at the end of 2006 led to DDCVS hosting two of their former projects. We managed the final few months of the Amethyst Project which had been co-ordinated by Mary Anderson over eight years. We were also able to take on the Healthy Living Network project on Hurst Farm. Fortunately we have been able to retain the worker from this project (Caroline Stone) thanks to the support of Derbyshire County Council.

Partnership working:

Derbyshire Dales CVS is one of the voluntary sector representatives on the Board of the Local Strategic Partnership for High Peak and Derbyshire Dales, and is now a member of its executive group. We have been involved in the Access to Services and Public Health Sub Groups of the LSP. We are a member of the Derbyshire County Compact steering group.

We are a member of the Derbyshire Infrastructure Consortium and have a place on its steering group. We also have a place on the Board of the Derbyshire Learning and Development Consortium. We are a member of the voluntary sector collective, Peak Partners for Rural Action, and have worked during the year to forge closer links with other CVS and Volunteer Centres around the County.

We have contributed to the planning process in Bakewell, Ashbourne and Matlock by attending numerous stakeholder events, workshops consultation events. We have chaired the Peak District National Park Authority's Equalities Audit Group, and have contributed to the LSP's equalities work. We have continued to be active in the Leader + Local Action Group, and have contributed to the planning process to gain further Leader funding.

Eco-Warriors

We are a lead member of the Peak District Sustainable Energy Group which is a partnership of the Derbyshire Rural Community Council, Peak District National Park Authority, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands CVS, Derbyshire Diocese, Sustainable Youlgrave, and High Peak and Derbyshire Dales ProHelp. The group aims to develop localised community focused renewable energy projects.

Signpost report (1st August 2006- 31st July 2007)

It has been another busy year for Signpost with support referrals up 34% on the previous year and information requests up 15%. The year has also seen a greater variety of organisations referring to the project with referrals from health and education agencies notably increasing.

Shena has been working on Signpost since August 2006 and recently took on some extra hours. She concentrates on the Dales part of the project, particularly around Ashbourne whilst Beth maintains links in the High Peak.

An extensive evaluation of Signpost was carried out in the latter part of 2006. This reviewed the targets of the service, the work completed and the future plans of the service, and the views of families and referrers are included. This coming year Signpost plans to make the directory available as a database so easier to search for services and eventually online.

Case study (names and details have been changed)

Lisa, a single mother, with 2 young daughters was put in touch with Signpost by her health visitor. She was feeling isolated and wanted to return to work. Signpost helped her access a place on a work skills course and childcare. She was also able to access extra money for a washing machine as hers had broken. Signpost also put her in touch with a parenting course which meant she met new people in the area and made new friends.

For more information contact Signpost on 01629 810900 or email signpost@ddcvs.org.uk

Health Development Grants

Marion has continued to manage a small grant scheme for the PCT. Between April 06 - March 07 the funds awarded totalled £2,830. Grants were awarded to:

PNI-UK, Derbyshire Rural Helpline, Hognaston Play Association, Readycall, 'Get Together Club' Kniveton, Relate, All Saints Church Community Hall, Kirk Ireton Friendship Club, and Ashbourne & District Stroke Support.

Compost

We have mentioned how much the environment has been in the news recently but also under the microscope this year have been trustees, with national organisations such as NCVO and NAVCA trying to create networking opportunities for trustees. There has been discussion about what qualifications (if any) a trustee needs. We thought we would take this opportunity to introduce one of our more recent trustees, a very positive addition to our Board, Pat Hall:

“I became a CVS trustee because they helped me enormously when I was a manager of a voluntary service. Trustees bring personal strengths resulting in a pooling of ideas, knowledge, suggestions and the odd clash!

It requires a sense of responsibility and commitment but it can be as time-consuming as you want it to be. We have bi-monthly meetings that are stimulating and never boring, to discuss everyday issues, finance, forward planning etc; we can put forward new ideas and solve problems. Unusually for me I was unobtrusive for the first couple of meetings but, as I like writing, doing ‘arty stuff’ and talking, I soon found my niche in anything that could vaguely be called marketing i.e. helping with newspaper reports, stationery, ID cards, fundraising training etc.

There is an excellent relationship between employees and trustees; employees can approach any trustee for assistance and I have enjoyed working with each of them. Training sessions and away days such as the recent one on environmental issues are open to employees and trustees alike and are opportunities to work and socialise together. I still do other ‘hands-on’ volunteering but being a CVS trustee has enabled me to be involved in both administration and forward planning.”

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