Request for Expressions of Interest to match fund the role of Community Developer (Lottery funding bid)

North Devon Voluntary Service (NDVS) and Taw and Torridge Voluntary Service (TTVS) are the local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in Northern Devon. As local infrastructure organisations: our role is to support and develop the VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector) to create strong vibrant and resourceful communities. We understand the power of working in partnership and in recent years, we have been working in partnership with One Northern Devon, a key member of the Northern Local Care Partnership (NLCP). This very successful partnership has seen us deliver the role of community development in several market towns across North Devon and Torridge. Both areas significantly impacted by high levels of multiple deprivation across rural and coastal areas.

We want to build on this success, and we are proposing to work with local communities to support them to create thriving, connected places by helping disadvantaged groups communicate their needs, develop solutions, realise their ambition and empower them by supporting them to have a voice at the table alongside local decision makers. In short, we envision integrated community development, working in partnership with local groups and communities, including the NLCP.

Both CVS's will recruit part-time Community Developers working within our local Northern Devon Market Towns whilst providing resource to support across neighbouring rural areas. Strengthening solution-orientated communities and moving towards population health and reduction in health inequalities.

Covid and the recent Cost of Living crisis has highlighted the inequalities that exist within our communities. A local response is the best way of meeting a community's needs, but the local VCFSE coverage is patchy. Larger towns struggled to provide a truly local response and it proved harder to coordinate volunteers and identify need.

Existing VCFSE groups have struggled to return to pre-pandemic activity due to reduced levels of volunteering or because service-users have not returned as frequently/at all. The pandemic highlighted issues including loneliness/isolation and the resultant health and wellbeing issues and how disconnected some of our community members are. Local partnerships seek to discover and subsequently support, share knowledge, listen and learn side-by-side with those with 'lived experience'. However, 'hidden communities' are often viewed as 'hard to reach' and are therefore voiceless in many current partnerships. We intend to change this by championing a 'community-led' approach that places those experiencing disadvantage at the heart of community initiatives.

Strong local infrastructure enables disadvantaged communities' to directly influence decision-making, create meaningful partnerships, inclusive networks and encourage volunteering opportunities. When support is accessible locally, individuals and communities thrive. Community Development has already made significant impact and we want to build on this focusing on.

- Appropriate beneficiary Research and Development.
- Increasing volunteering community action locally
- Developing and supporting disadvantaged communities.
- Working with young people ensuring they feel connected and supported within their communities.
- Supporting VCFSE to better understand the potential for volunteering and recruitment in the digital/post pandemic age.
- Helping lever in new area funding to support voluntary action.
- Developing strong relationships between VCSE and NLCP to better support people to remain independent, safe, and well.
- Supporting VCFSE organisations secure in achieving Health Social Care Quality Marks.

Forward three years to strong, thriving, healthy, self-reliant solution focused resourceful communities with a legacy through this funding.

The total budget for this work would be £574,252.00.

We have asked applied for £424,252.00 *as although National Lottery have said would fund in principle – they would be looking for us to secure match funding as would not fund 100%*

We would be looking for a total **£150,000.00** of match funding over the three-year period, plus the current co-ordinator's role.

If you would like to submit an Expression of Interest to support the match funding or know more

Please email: Marie Gould – Chief.officer@ndvs.org.uk and/or Simone Thompson – simone@ttvs.org.uk
And we will organise a meeting to discuss in more detail

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to read this.