

Mansfield Community and Voluntary Service



STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 - 2025

Supporting a thriving and independent community and voluntary sector in Mansfield and District.



Introduction

This Mansfield CVS Strategic Plan is being written at a time when the demand for charities' services has never been greater due to the economic and social impact of Covid-19. We have seen demand for food and other essentials, as well as support for people facing mental health issues, debt and homelessness all increase. As direct Government financial support for employers reduces the impact on the economy is unclear. It may result in further increases in unemployment locally and almost certainly public sector funding will be reduced and welfare support will return to pre-crisis levels.

However, the pandemic has played to the strengths of the voluntary and community sector in terms of our ability to innovate, be flexible and be a 'trusted voice'. The significant role that charities have played during the pandemic has been recognised, with statutory partners noting the extent to which the sector has 'stepped up' and supported local people.

Collaborative working with partners, wider stakeholders and local employers is much improved and we very much hope that this valued way of working will continue. At the same time, local people came forward as volunteers, in many instances for the first time, and this has been really inspiring.

At the time of writing, there is much talk about recovery, renewal and the sort of society we want to build post-Covid. Charities, community groups and volunteers in Mansfield and District have a vital part to play in this 'building back' agenda. This Strategic Plan aims to shape the focus for Mansfield CVS to work with its local community to do this over the next three years.

Veronica

Veronica Cooper -

Chair of Mansfield CVS



Who We Are



MANSFIELD CVS IS AN INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION THAT HAS BEEN SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR FOR OVER 40 YEARS.



Our focus is on improving the quality of life of local people by assisting organisations, volunteers and voluntary groups to contribute to the social, economic and community development of Mansfield. We are led by a board of voluntary trustees and supported by a small, dedicated staff team.

Context

FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR IN MANSFIELD, A YEAR OF SOCIAL DISTANCING HAS IMPACTED ON FUNDING AT A TIME WHEN THE SUPPORT PROVIDED TO LOCAL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.

The impact of Covid-19 on Mansfield residents has been severe, particularly on older people and those dealing with long term health conditions and disabilities. We worked throughout 2020-21 and were fortunate to secure support to help the most vulnerable, notably funding coming from: the National Lottery COVID-19 emergency programme, Sport England We Are Undefeatable and Mansfield District Council's Community Champion funding to roll out practical vaccination advice and support. This combination of funding enabled us to recruit additional volunteers and increase capacity to meet the demand for local services.

For the voluntary and community sector in Mansfield, a year of social distancing has impacted on funding at a time when the support provided to local people and communities has never been greater. We know that many of our local charities and community groups will continue to struggle financially and our focus over the next three years will be on developing infrastructure solutions that support effective governance and delivery of services. We also recognise that some aspects of our work bring greater benefits when done 'at scale' and we will continue to seek out collaborative opportunities to do this in Nottinghamshire.

Many of the technological trends accelerated by Covid-19 are unlikely to reverse and whilst doing things digitally has many benefits, we have also seen the extent of local digital skills gaps, both for some of the smaller organisations that we work with and certainly for those individuals that they support.

Furthermore, we are acutely aware of the need to build sector skills to provide timely data to statutory partners in order to co-design future services that meet the needs of local people and communities.

We also recognise that there needs to be an ever-increasing focus on the environment over the coming years and we are keen to work with partners, wider stakeholders and volunteers to support our local communities to adapt and to reduce their carbon footprint.

Partnership working has been critical to build a community-level response and we plan to continue to focus on this, bringing local insight and 'a trusted voice' from the community groups and charities that we represent from across the district.

Our Mission

TO SUPPORT A THRIVING AND INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN MANSFIELD AND DISTRICT.



OUR CORE VALUES



DEVELOP

We develop innovative and flexible services in partnership to improve the quality of life for local residents.



CONNECT

We connect volunteers, statutory and voluntary sector services to contribute to the social, economic and community development of Mansfield.



SUPPORT

We support new and existing community and voluntary groups to make a difference to vulnerable people and communities.

Our Community Commitment

OUR COMMUNITY COMMITMENT IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MANSFIELD AND DISTRICT PEOPLE AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING INEQUALITIES BETWEEN PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES BY WORKING THROUGH AND WITH A **RESPONSIVE, CONNECTED AND INFLUENTIAL** LOCAL VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR.

We plan to do this through
4 strategic aims:

AIM 1 - FLEXIBILITY

- acting at a District, and in some instances Mid Notts level, alongside supporting others to act more locally in their community.

AIM 2 - RESPONSIVENESS

- involving and listening to our local organisations and working in collaboration with people, partners and wider stakeholders who share our aim.

AIM 3 - EXPERTISE

- undertaking evidence-based learning into what is most likely to achieve positive change.

AIM 4 - RESOURCEFULNESS

- targeting our energies and resources at encouraging the development and sustainability of effective partnerships, investments, activities, projects and networks.



Our Core Work

MANSFIELD CVS PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE ACROSS A RANGE OF KEY AREAS:-



“ We offer collaborative leadership in partnership with others, connecting **voluntary and community** groups across the Districts and within Mid Notts, promoting a leadership model based on relationships and distributed responsibility. To support this we have developed a voluntary sector directory in conjunction with Mansfield District Council. ”

Our Service Offer



OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:-



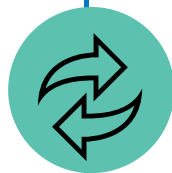
INFORMATION

- provision of news, information, knowledge, training and events.



ADVOCACY

- voice, advocacy and influence based on a thorough understanding of the sector.



COORDINATION

- responses to partner strategy and policy proposals.



BROKERAGE

- partnership brokerage at a District, Mid-Notts and Sector level.



RESEARCH

- published research and evaluations of our work.

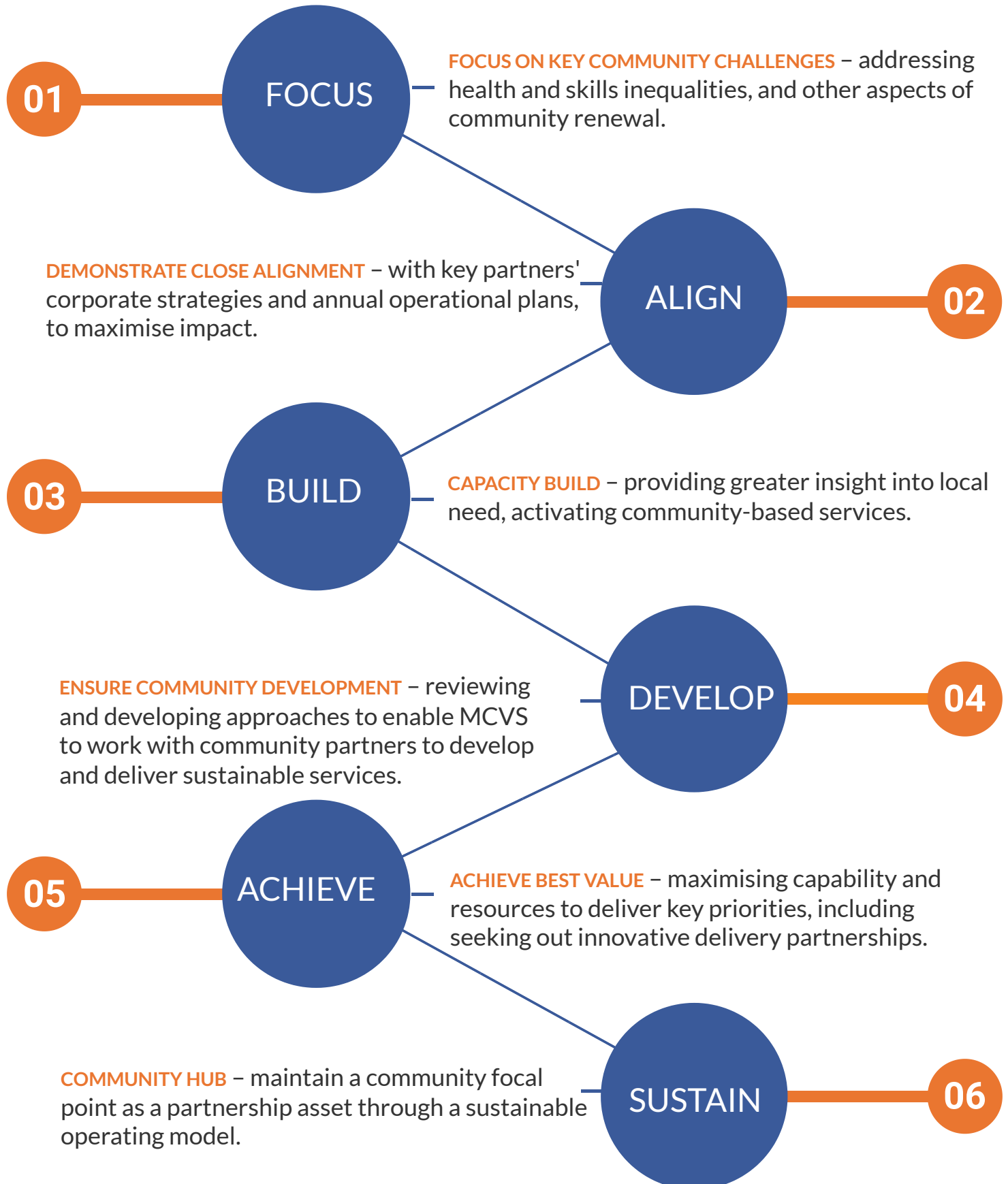


DEVELOPMENT

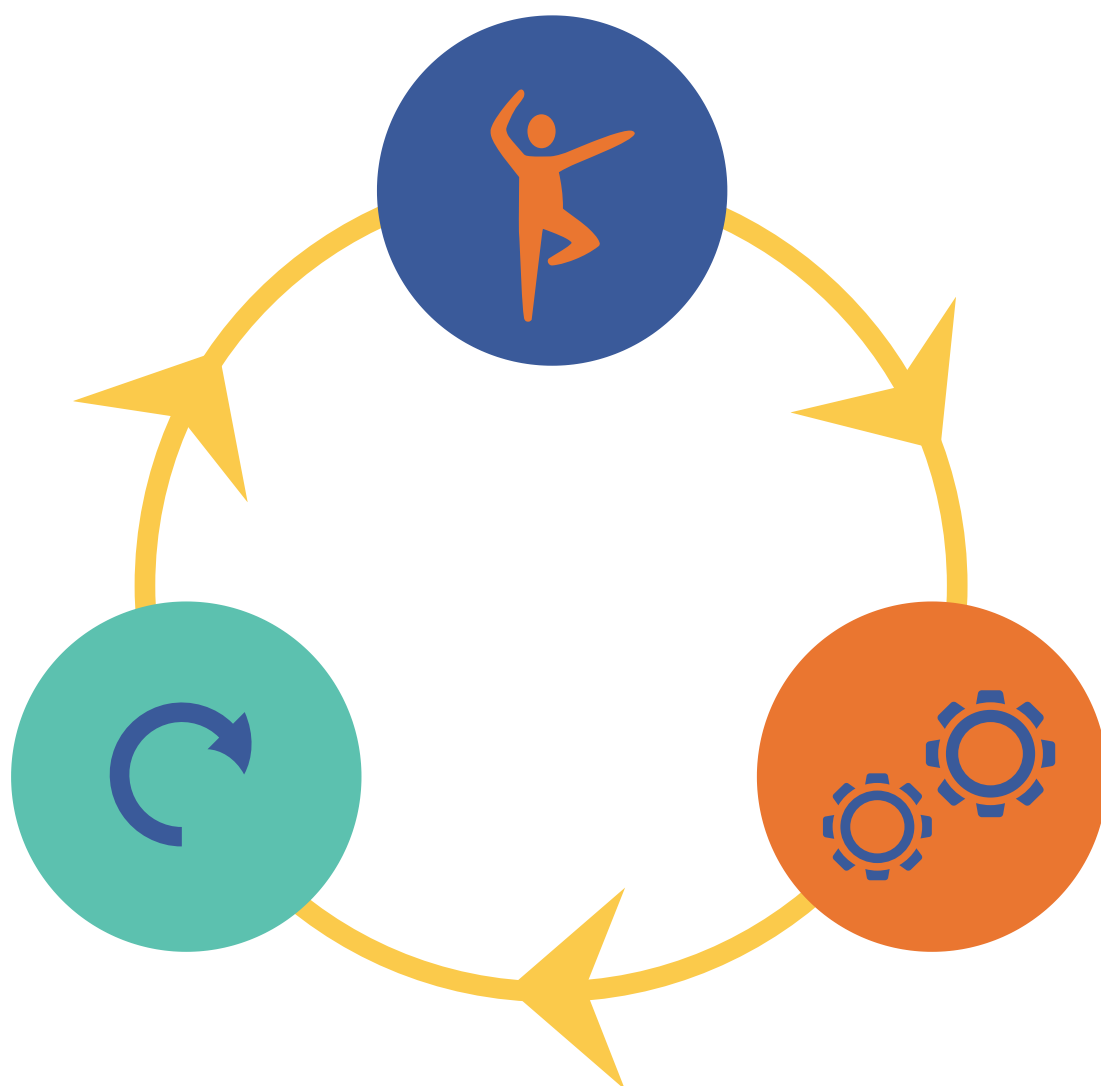
- trading and project delivery, including the development of appropriate new trading areas.



Our Operating Model



Our Partnership Working



**SUPPORTING THE
HEALTH AND
WELLBEING AGENDA**

Help those partners charged with commissioning and providing health and wellbeing services in Mid Notts to tackle health inequality through local community insight.

**BUILD THE INVOLVEMENT
OF THE VOLUNTARY AND
COMMUNITY SECTOR**

Assist local organisations to engage, network and develop effective voices of the communities that they represent, by facilitating governance, management and communications support where required.

COMMUNITY RENEWAL

Build engagement at a community level, influence post- Covid and post EU investment, facilitate and advocate for local investment.



Our Strategic Priorities



1. Health & Wellbeing

Supporting the population health agenda for mid-Notts & addressing health inequality.

3. Community & Environment

Green social prescribing, community transport and volunteering.

2. Renewal & Regeneration

Volunteering & community champions, economic inclusion.

4. Infrastructure

Building community insight and advocacy, offering best value and securing a sustainable operating model.

Our Proposed Outputs

1. Health & Wellbeing

Supporting the population health agenda for mid-Notts & addressing health inequality.



WELLBEING FACILITATION

Facilitate Community Group activities + events to promote and address the importance of wellbeing and physical activity.



SOCIAL PRESCRIBING ACCESS

Create and maintain community digital provision that facilitates access to services that supports social prescribing agenda.

2. Renewal & Regeneration

Volunteering & community champions, economic inclusion.



DIGITAL PLATFORM

Build a robust digital platform for District wide volunteering – both referrals and opportunities.



VOLUNTEERING GROWTH

Ensure year on year growth of volunteer opportunities.

Our Proposed Outputs

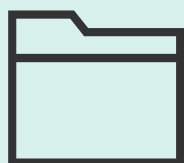
3. Community & Environment

Green social prescribing, community transport and volunteering.



COMMUNITY PROVISION

Provide a quarterly update of community provision – both highlighting gaps, duplication in services.



CRM DEVELOPMENT

Develop a Customer Relationship Management system to catalogue all contacts/outcomes.

4. Infrastructure

Volunteering & community champions, economic inclusion.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Establish Outreach and Engagement clinics in each ward – thereby informing and lobbying on behalf of those communities.



OPERATING MODEL

Explore wider opportunities that build on the ethos of Community House.

Our Underpinning Principles

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, FINANCIAL RESILIENCE AND ACHIEVING BEST VALUE.

The UK 'Build Back Better' agenda gives an enhanced focus on the role of the voluntary and community sector to support community regeneration. For example, the Community Renewal and UK Shared Prosperity programmes align closely with the aims and strategic priorities introduced in this new strategy. To this end focusing on how best Mansfield CVS can respond to new funding opportunities is a major business development priority.

We plan to do this through investing in business and partnership development skills to ensure that we continue to be able to work alongside a range of partners to maximise opportunities for Mansfield and District.

It is clearly understood that partners and wider stakeholders expect the best value for the investment they make and we will ensure that we develop operating models that maximise value and sustainability.

At the same time, we will invest in dedicated finance and data administration support to build our capacity. Alongside this, we will actively seek out joint community leadership opportunities around shared functions such as Finance, IT and Data Analysis and system leadership development opportunities to enable staff to further develop their 'enabling' and project management skills.



DEVELOPMENT

RESILIENCE

VALUE



www.mansfieldcvs.org



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