

Monthly Newsletter December 2020

So we are drawing close to the end of the year, a 12 months that we could have never imagined this time last December. We have loved, lost, cared for and supported many people during this time and I believe we will be forever changed as a result. My greatest privilege has been to experience the wealth of kindness from you all, not just to our communities but to each other also, and often to me personally, too. I have felt resilience and awe, held through the linked arms of you all, as we explore and tackle new, urgent and often seemingly intransigent issues. We had no guide, nor previous experience or historical book to call upon - just our individual lens, unified creativity and faith that together we would find a way. Thank you for being here amongst us at this time as a pillar of our voluntary sector foundation, a vital link in our chain of care and provision, for our citizens of Peterborough....and each other. Without your unique qualities we would not be as spirited, strong and so broad in our knowledge and capability. Thank you for being you. And being here.

Leonie
Her/She

Leonie McCarthy
Chief Executive Officer
PeterboroughCVS



Throughout 2020, we have been running various forums to address the urgent needs of our communities in Peterborough. Sarah Woodbine, PCVS' Communities Forums and Training Coordinator facilitates the Domestic Abuse, Disability and Mental Health forums and Lauren Kendrick, facilitates The Peterborough Food Partnership and Food Forum, Debt and Poverty and Women's forums. They would like to update us on the achievements over the past year.

Domestic Abuse - We have been creating a Network of our member organisations throughout the Peterborough area. Providing information and training so people give consistent advice and support to victims. We are working with statutory services to help support the work they do in the area and affecting change to how they work, especially with minority communities. We have also worked with statutory services to start delivering more training to volunteers in the New Year.

Disability – The need for this specific forum for the disabled community, their families and carers in Peterborough became evident from our Future Forum held in September. We have met 3 times so far, raising concerns and continuing to work with partner organisations to support the disabled community. We aim to support all organisations working with disabled people within our communities and help their voices be heard by the wider community.

Mental Health – We have brought together the member organisations working in MH within the VCS sector. Supporting these organisations with their needs and discussing how best to support those we are supporting and ourselves. Sessions are planned with information on how to best support our teams during this unprecedented time. The forum has also been used to share knowledge and build relationships with organisations who do not work in MH and where best to signpost people when they require additional support.



Peterborough Food Partnership & Food Forum (PFP)– This year saw the exciting creation of the Peterborough Food Partnership a collaboration of 13 organisations working in food together across the City. These organisations have signed up to work together, share surpluses and create a good strategy for the city. Part of the PFP work has seen the creation of a very useful leaflet detailing how individuals and families in the city can access food and finance advice across the city. This leaflet is available in 8 languages to ensure that it is accessible. The partnership also holds open meetings inviting all those interested in food from across the city and sectors to talk about and resolve the issues surrounding food in the city like access to hot food on Christmas Day. We look forward to continue our support and development of the partnership in the future. All partners have worked incredibly hard both on the frontline as well as together ensuring that food is accessible. Thank you to all our friends and colleagues.

The debt and poverty forum has brought together numerous organisations to begin to create a plan on how to move forward and tackle the key issues surround debt and poverty in the city.

The women's forum gathered again after the first lockdown and with collaboration and reflection have come up with numerous exciting endeavours, watch this space in 2021!

Overall, the communities team has successfully given out over 130k of funding across the Covid crisis to support grass roots organisations and charities across the city supporting a diverse range of projects and initiatives.





Households across Peterborough will soon be invited to take part in Census 2021 (which will take place on 21 March 2021). This is the nationwide survey of housing and the population, which takes place every ten years by the Office for National Statistics and provides the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. This data helps to decide how services are planned and funded in the local area, the data is often used by voluntary organisations and charities as evidence for funding applications and it is really important that everyone takes part. Without people in your communities telling us about their homes and household it is impossible to build an accurate picture of the population in Peterborough.

Lots of support is being put in place to help everyone take part in the census, including a network of census support centres which will open during spring 2021, where local residents can go to get information about the census - including help to complete their questionnaire. More information about Census Support Centres will be available in the New Year. Census Engagement Managers are also working with local leaders, community organisations and charities to understand community needs to help everyone take part. The Census Engagement Manager for Peterborough is Nicky Warnock. She would love to hear about any good news stories that you may have about how census data has benefited your organisation - these positive messages will really help bring the census to life locally! You can contact her directly on nicky.warnock99@census.gov.uk / t: 07452 938165.

To mark Census 2021 in England and Wales, a competition has been launched to find the nation's unsung community heroes. 22 people, one for each census that has taken place to date, will have their community spirit and efforts commemorated with a unique purple plaque. Communities up and down the country are bursting with ordinary people who are doing extraordinary things and people are being asked to nominate their community's heroes by visiting www.census.gov.uk/census-2021-heroes. **Nominations close on Thursday 31 December 2020**

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2021

pcvs

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service

We hope you enjoyed reading our December Newsletter, the next edition will be released in the new year. If you would like to share any news in January's edition or provide us with any feedback please contact us on communities@pcvs.co.uk

Please note that our offices will be closed from the 21st of December until the 4th of January.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a well deserved rest and wonderful break over the festive season.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year 2021



Thank you!

