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TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT PACK

THE CHARITY

The Vine Centre is a charity based in Aldershot, Hampshire, which serves the community of Rushmoor and surrounding areas. Our clients include those who may be homeless, poorly housed, living in poverty, socially isolated or long-term unemployed. Many have other complex needs, both physical and emotional, including mental health problems, alcohol and drug dependency, social isolation and debt.

We provide a safe and welcoming centre where people can meet and get information, advice, advocacy, training, counselling and recreational facilities.

We seek to provide opportunities for these individuals to learn and grow, and to empower them to move towards independence and an improved quality of life. The charity offers many training and development opportunities to our client group encouraging access to work and financial and emotional independence.

Our approach is to work with clients just as they are, build trust, make referrals where required and follow up on their behalf; our holistic approach is producing excellent outcomes. We work with the clients, to achieve their goals on their terms and at their pace. We seek sustainable outcomes and will work with an individual for however long is needed.



Our Cooking with Confidence course.



Culture Cafe. Creative Art Session - using collage to create images.



A support worker supporting a client.



Fig 1 - Vine Services

OUR SERVICES

It should be noted that amongst the 770 individuals we supported during 2020/2021, 80% presented with mental health issues. It was a year in which COVID-19 substantially influenced the way the service was delivered.

Our services aim to offer training and development opportunities, addiction support, mental health and anger management, budgeting and benefit support, homelessness and housing sustainment. One of our huge successes is our Silvers group, a group for over 55s to tackle social isolation.

Our job club, known as My Space, opened in 2013 and has seen 28% of long term unemployed secure employment through this programme. This is a huge achievement, not only for the individuals but for our community. Having less unemployment in the area reduces anti-social behaviour, social isolation and vulnerability of individuals and improves the local economy.

One of our training projects, My Helping Hand, was developed out of My Space. We had seen many attendees job searching, who really needed basic support with literacy, numeracy, or even developing their English skills. We have highly qualified tutors leading our employment and skills support services, without whom we would not have our excellent reputation with both the local statutory authority and Jobcentre Plus; we have worked closely with these bodies for a number of years.

We support Nepalis who are taking ESOL courses and come to us to practise their English; they also require further support due to the struggles they face with statutory provision.

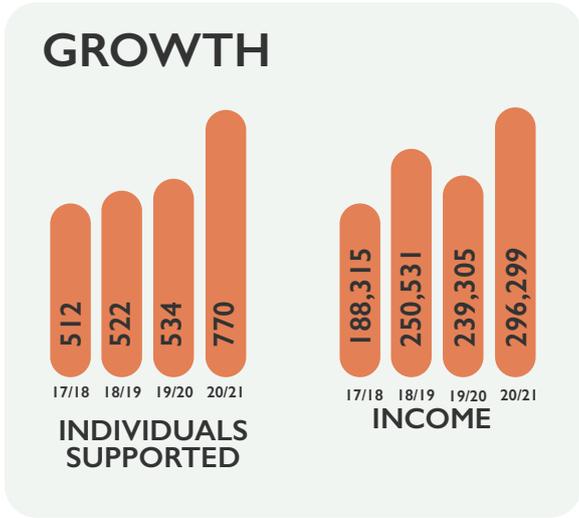


Fig 2 - 4 year Growth

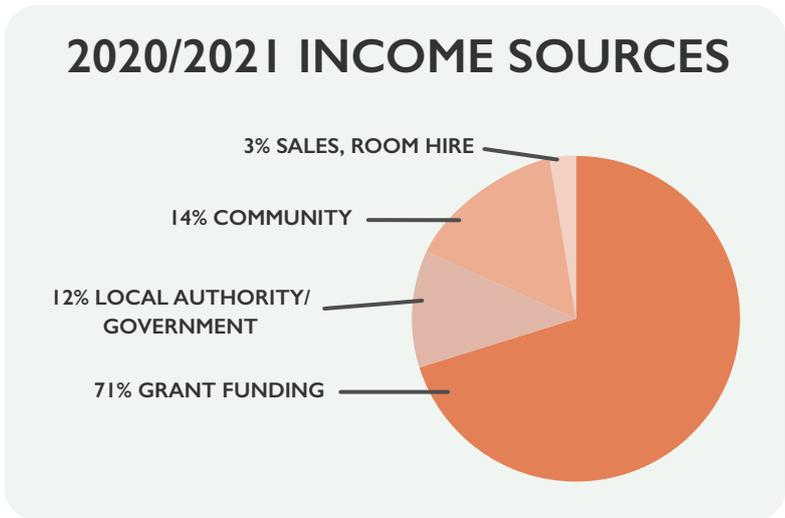


Fig 3 - 2020/2021 Income Sources by percentage

COVID STATISTICS

SUPPORT CALLS - 6793
SPECIALIST SUPPORT CALLS - 1987
HOME COOKED MEALS - 9901
FOOD PACKAGES - 3958
FAMILY FOOD DELIVERIES - 719

Covid-19 Statistics - 30th March 2020 to 2nd April 2021

As soon as COVID-19 arrived in Rushmoor in March 2020, we completely reimagined our services to provide the best mix of in-person, visiting and outreach in response to the needs of our vulnerable and isolated clients, which we have continued to meet throughout the pandemic

For the past 4 years, we have run a social enterprise called Vine Dining. Vine Dining provides high-quality catering, delivering buffets for meetings and events. It provides employment and volunteering opportunities for individuals who have taken their journey with us and have successfully completed the "Cooking with Confidence" training and qualifications.

Vine Dining has developed to provide home cooked meals and care packages – which include food provisions and toiletries.



Meal prep for care packages in 2020.

THE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Following a governance review and skills audit, we are looking to appoint additional members to the Board of Trustees.

As a Trustee you will be able to use your skills and experience; as a member of the Board of Trustees you will have collective influence over the strategy and direction of The Vine Centre.

We are looking for individuals who:

- have some understanding of the difficulties our clients experience
- can embrace the strategic objectives of the charity, and contribute to their development and achievement
- understand the needs of the local community
- can work as a team with other Trustees to enable the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to achieve the aims of the charity
- will support fundraising activities.



A volunteer on their way to Girdlers Hall to receive an award for outstanding service during the pandemic.

WHAT THE COMMITMENT IS

The Board of Trustees meets 4-6 times a year. Depending on the complexity of the issues, the meetings are usually around 2 hours long and are held in The Vine Centre. It is important to prepare for Board Meetings and to contribute your views and ideas.

Trustees use these meetings to:

- look at strategic issues affecting the charity
- receive and discuss the CEO's report
- make sure that the charity staff and volunteers are on track in delivering the objectives set out in the governing document
- review and mitigate key risks and conflicts
- monitor its financial and operational performance against plans
- ensure the CEO is properly supported and managed
- ensure relevant policies are in place, up-to-date and being implemented.

Each Trustee is appointed for a period of 3 years which can be renewed. Trustees have no personal financial liability should the charity be wound up.

As well as attending meetings of the Board of Trustees, Trustees may be involved in:

- volunteering
- fundraising
- attending events
- using any specialist skills to support The Vine Centre
- committees or projects to support the organisation's development.

VOLUNTARY ROLE, TRAVEL EXPENSES, INDUCTION AND TRAINING

This is an unpaid, voluntary role, but reasonable travel expenses will be met. Trustees will receive induction and training.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION :

Contact Joyce Bellwood at joyce.bellwood@thevinecentre.org.uk who would be happy to discuss the work of the charity and arrange a visit for you to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the valuable work the charity undertakes.