

New partnerships

As part of the project evaluations for the 2021-22 ICF evaluation report, service leads for completed projects were asked to comment on the question *'Has this project resulted in new partnerships with CCC services and/or other organisations or networks?'*

A selection of their responses is collated below:

Cambridge Acorn Project CIC 'Tetris Emotional Wellbeing Project'

There has been partnership work with Anglia Ruskin University to assess the project outcomes, and the project has been implemented in local primary and secondary schools, which has led to close partnerships developing.

Cambridge United Youth & Community Trust 'Forever United'

An example of the impact that the project has made can be shown by CUCT's partnership working with Abbey People. Abbey People are a community charity in the Abbey Ward of Cambridge (where Cambridge United is located) whose aim is to improve the lives and wellbeing of Abbey residents. They do this through targeted community projects such as the provision of general anti-poverty support such as a community fridge and Food Hub, supporting access to education and employment, projects to improve the environment, and by developing a culture of volunteering in the community. Over the Christmas period (2021) the Forever United project supported Abbey People by helping them deliver hampers to families, seniors and isolated members of the Abbey community. Through their scheme 190 households, made up of 487 individuals, were supported.

Also, the Forever United project partnered with Abbey People during their Abbey Nature Festival, which took place in June 2022. Forever United organised a special Afternoon Tea at a local community orchard, where seniors took part in a nature-based quiz, had a tour of the orchard and did some craft activities. Also, Abbey People joined the Forever United project on one of their Abbey Wellbeing Walks. They led the walkers around Coldham's Common to Coldham's Brook, where they explained all about the chalk stream and the wildlife that lives there.

Nicky Shepard, Abbey People's CEO, said: *"We really value our partnership work with Cambridge United Community Trust. Through this work we are able to make sure people across the ward have access to a greater range of activities, while our staff and volunteers gain wider skills and experience from the partnership as well. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Cambridge United Community Trust for years to come."*

In addition, the Forever United project have supported and delivered multiple community days around Cambridge. Two events which the project collaborated with were the Diabetes Awareness Day at Cambridge Central Mosque and the Cambridge Bangladesh Health Fair at Orchard Community Centre.

CUCT's work with local GPs and Social Prescribers has helped raise awareness in the community of what CUCT does, and it has helped connect them to other voluntary groups aiming to help tackle some of the same issues. In particular, the Forever United project has helped them to work closely with East Barnwell Health Centre and York Street Medical Practice to develop a consistent referral scheme.

CUCT now attend the Cambridge Health and Care Forum (run by Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) providing a great platform for the Forever United project to feedback to other services what their participants and members of the community want. Also, CUCT are members of the Network for Addressing Isolation and Loneliness in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and are linked to the Stay Well in Winter campaign work led by the council's Public Health Team. Simon Wall, CUCT's Community Engagement Manager, has started chairing the local Older People Network. This is a group of organisations, such as Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the University of the Third Age, that get together every three months to talk about their work. It is an opportunity to share good practice, inform everyone about what is on offer, help solve problems, collaborate and raise awareness. Current projects in the pipeline include setting up a network of volunteer drivers to help older people who have mobility or transport issues to get out to take part in activities. Also, the group are planning to hold a Christmas Fair in December. This will be an opportunity for the members of the group to tell the local community face-to-face about what is on offer for older people around Cambridge, through use of information stalls and demonstrations.

In August 2022 CUCT were inviting other local voluntary and community groups to join them on a quarterly Net-walk to discuss services and upcoming events with each other and participants. The Forever United project has reported that digital literacy is an issue for the older client group that they work with, which presents barriers to communication and engagement. The project said that many participants have raised concerns about using websites and computer/smartphone apps to keep track of local events, sign on to activities and stay connected with others. Therefore, the project has recognised that offering digital support to help people in the community attend virtual sessions and access more information about local events and activities is vital moving forward. To address this issue the project is intending to work in partnership with Cambridge Online to provide additional support to their participants.

Centre 33 'Guided Self-Help for Targeted Young People'

There was strong collaboration between Centre 33 and CCC Early Help. 210 Early Help staff attended 2 webinars at the launch of the project which also covered the wider C33 offer. C33 and Guided Self-Help was also launched to CCC Education colleagues (Education Inclusion Officers and Early Intervention Family Workers)

Deafblind UK 'My life is now on hold'

The project has worked with local support groups such as Camsight, CambsTalking Newspapers, Hunts Blind Society, Cambs Deaf Association, Our Voice, and Cambs Hearing Help.

The Edmund Trust 'Young People's Befriending'

This project has built strong relationships with several key partners, including:

- Meadowgate School
- Highfields Ely
- College of West Anglia, who will use health and social care students to support the project as peers
- Ely College

Additionally, the move to online sessions over the lockdowns made the Edmund Trust increasingly aware of the digital poverty that people are facing in all its forms, access to hardware, connectivity and available skills of people supporting have IT competency. As a result, Eddie's have made links with wider organisations to increase the training of volunteers.

Huntingdon Town Council 'Supporting Older People Oxmoor Friendship Group'

This project has built on the principle of bringing a range of organisations together within a safe community space to offer support to the community and as such this project has successfully engaged with a range of partners including:

- Caring Together -monthly carers support group
- Regional College -monthly free hand massages and manicures to members
- DISH - ensuring that people are receiving the correct disability benefits
- Care Network- providing activities, support and information and advice
- Everyone Health – health MOTs
- Huntingdonshire District Council – info and advice
- Age UK – practical activities, info and advice
- Healthwatch – info and advice
- Community physio (CPFT)
- Medway Christian Fellowship

Sutton Parish Council 'Sutton Timebank'

The timebank made connections with numerous local organisations and worked in partnership with CCC services, Care Network, John Huntingdon Charity, Sawston Mutual Aid group, local primary and secondary schools, churches and district nurse teams. The co-ordinators also closely worked together with the local Granta Medical Practice and linked in with the local CCC Child and Family Centre.

Four timebanks including Sutton Timebank also partnered to successfully apply for a digital inclusion grant through ICF.

Sawston Parish Council 'Timebanking'

The timebank made connections with numerous local organisations and worked in partnership with CCC services, Care Network, John Huntingdon Charity, Sawston Mutual Aid group, local primary and secondary schools, churches and district nurse teams. The co-ordinators also closely worked together with the local Granta Medical Practice and linked in with the local CCC Child and Family Centre.

Red Hen Project 'Bridging the Gap - Red Hen Early Help'

CCC Early Help and Red Hen staff and beneficiaries know each other much better through regular catch-up meetings planned between managers and 1:1 support was offered to upskill staff to gain access and use the Liquid Logic System. Young Peoples workers have delivered sessions to parents about drugs and County Lines.

Red Hen have introduced Early Help to colleagues at Chesterton, Arbury and Orchard Park primary schools via group work offers, workshops and drop ins.