

#OneSlough

#OneSlough Quarterly Report

July – September 2024



The following report is a summary of work completed by Slough CVS between July – September 2024.

1. **Capacity Building - for stronger & sustainable communities**
2. **Volunteer Management - for diverse volunteering opportunities**
3. **#OneSlough Partnership - working in collaboration for maximum impact**
4. **Improving Health and Wellbeing - Reducing pressure on Adult Social Care**

1. Capacity Building - for Stronger & Sustainable Communities

Training

- **138** training attendees across **13** sessions in the quarter
- **100%** did you find the content of the training well organised and easy to follow
- **99%** did you find the session engaging and interactive
- **99%** of respondents would rate the training as “good” or above
- **94%** of respondents reported the sessions met their training needs

During this quarter, we conducted a variety of training sessions designed to enhance the

- Mapping Your Impact
- Everyday First Aid
- Meet the Funder: Heathrow Community Fund
- Leadership & Management: ILM certificate Level 3 and Level 5
- Befriending Part 1 & 2
- Volunteer Passport Scheme: Communication Skills
- Volunteer Passport Scheme: Boundaries and Confidentiality
- Volunteer Passport Scheme: Safeguarding adults
- Volunteer Passport Scheme: Safeguarding children
- Writing Case Studies



Training Feedback

“Very worthwhile session for all concerned. For those of us with previous training it was a valuable reminder of the issues that may arise and how to deal effectively with them. Very well presented.”

“David was great and kept everyone engaged! A good trainer with good knowledge and intel. Thank you for the session.”

“I really love this program and want to hear more free courses”

Funding Advice and Support

The following **13** groups were successful in funding bids supported by Slough CVS, bringing in **£309,320** of external funding for Slough groups.

Group/ Organisation	Funder	Amount
True You Today CIC	Heathrow Community Trust	£4,990
Parenting Special Children	Heathrow Community Trust	£2,256



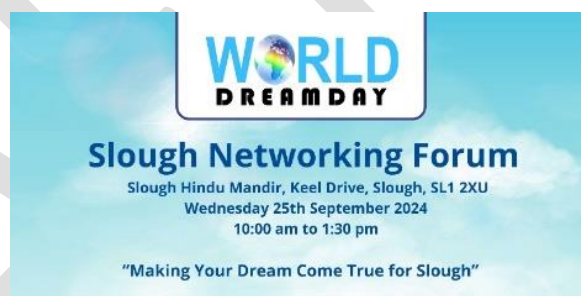
Slough Community Transport	Awards for All	£9,880
Cippenham Royal British Legion	Awards for All	£6,000
Beat Routes	BBC Children in Need	£88,194
Slough Homeless Our Concern	Shanly Foundation	£50,000
Together As One	University of Reading	£9,000
Slough Foodbank	Berkshire Community Foundation	£5,000
Cleanconscience	Weston Garfield Foundation	£95,000
Slough Refugee Support	Shanly Foundation	£10,000
Slough Civic Society	Berkshire Community Foundation	£5,000
Together As One	Heathrow Community Trust	£10,000
Slough Carers Support	Shanly Foundation	£6,000
Youth Engagement Slough	Berkshire Community Foundation	£8,000

Slough Community Networking Forum

At the Slough Community Network Forum on World Dream Day, over 100 people came together from Slough community groups to share their dreams for making a positive impact in Slough.

Special thanks went to The Slough Mandir, with the help from IDUK group for hosting and for a tour of the Mandir for delegates.

Community groups including Community Calm, AWAZ Afghan women and The Dash Charity shared their personal stories and updates.



Dream for Making a Positive Impact:

The groups envisioned a community in Slough where every individual, regardless of age, background, or ability, has access to essential resources and opportunities for growth. They prioritised inclusivity, celebrating diversity, and improving residents' well-being.

Key steps included: offering disability-friendly activities, encouraging youth leadership, partnering with local businesses and community/faith organisations for healthy food and life skills training, breaking language barriers through community translators, and expanding access to local green spaces.

New Ideas and Partnerships to Overcome Challenges:

Participants emphasised the importance of collaboration and innovative partnerships. They suggested working with healthcare professionals for culturally sensitive services, local authorities to reduce socio-economic inequalities, community leaders to build trust, local businesses for funding and employment opportunities, and further developing the existing Slough Directory of community services and disability-friendly locations.

Lots of positive feedback from attendees:

Sobia from The Dash Charity said: ***"I really did find it inspiring to hear what you all do and how we together can help create a better, safer and healthier community in Slough."***

ABC to Read said: ***“It was such an interesting experience to observe the temple, and we are so grateful to our generous hosts for providing such a wonderful venue for our meeting. The day was full of sharing ideas, hopes, and dreams for the future of Slough! Charities had a fantastic opportunity to connect and share their experiences. A truly excellent meeting!”***

Berkshire Vision said: ***“It was wonderful to make lots of connections to help us reach more Visually Impaired people in Slough and hear inspiring stories from across the community.”***

Sally Kitson, Partnership Manager, Slough Borough Council said: ***“Another fantastic networking event in Slough – so much energy!”***

Laura Cole Slough Foodbank Manager said: ***“Was a great networking opportunity and a great big thank you to Slough Mandir, for letting SCVS host it here. Some inspiring speakers, thank you!”***



2 Volunteer Management – for diverse volunteering opportunities

Volunteer Management

- **202** volunteers registered on Simply Connect since January 2024
- **68** groups registered on Simply Connect
- **39** volunteers registered in Q1 (July-September 2024)
- **68** volunteering opportunities (live and expired from January - September).

The summer months usually see a drop in volunteer registrations as families juggle the responsibilities of the summer holidays, however, we did see an increase in younger residents actively engaging in volunteering with over 40 volunteers supporting Slough Libraries with the Summer Reading Challenge.

Partnership working- Ways into Work

There has been a steady increase in referrals from Ways into Work and Social Prescribers. The clients referred tend to have learning disabilities and / or mental health concerns and are looking to improve their overall wellbeing through volunteering.

10 referrals have been made by Ways into Work during Q1. 1 referral is now volunteering with the Advocacy People in an administrative capacity, another, who presented with depression and ASC was placed with Slough Anti-Litter Society and has expressed that he's **"feeling much more confident and wants to do more volunteering"**. I have also referred 2 more Ways into Work clients into charity shop roles as well as into our Volunteer Passport scheme.

Volunteer Journeys

'Amina' was signposted into Slough CVS through a community group. This client came from a refugee background and was keen to volunteer in the community and support other asylum seekers and refugees. We matched Amina with a volunteering role at Slough Refugee Support (SRS) as well as registered her onto the Volunteer Passport & Befriending Training.

Amina has since started working with SRS as a part time member of staff:

I would like to take this opportunity to share my activities, learnings, and experiences during my time as a volunteer with SRS as you were the main reason for me being here and working as a volunteer with SRS.

I started volunteering with Slough Refugee Support on July 4, 2024, and my experience has continued until September 30, 2024. This journey has been incredible, allowing me to learn new skills, assist individuals from diverse communities and backgrounds, and feel deeply involved in society. I am especially grateful to the wonderful team at Slough Council Volunteering Service for providing this platform, which has helped me take another step toward my goal of engaging in positive activities that enhance lives and foster positive change within the community.

I began my volunteering role as a telephone operator, managing appointments for clients and welcoming them to the SRS office. In the second week, in addition to my initial responsibilities, I started translating Dari, Pashto, Urdu, and Hindi to English and vice versa for clients and advisors at SRS. Some of the projects I undertook include, arranging a trip to Brighton for Afghan refugee families on August 29, 2024, and Applying for the SQP (Quality Assurance for the Third Sector) Bronze Award

'Leila' was referred to the Volunteering Department through her social prescriber, presenting with depression and anxiety after a relationship breakdown. Following on from my conversation with Leila, she has since applied for a role with ABC to Read, as well as attending our Volunteer Passport scheme. She was an active participant in the VP sessions and has since completed all 4 modules. Her Social Prescriber has since confirmed that she is happy with the start of her volunteering journey and is looking forward to supporting young children with their literacy.

'Rebecca' was referred by Ways into Work, with mental health concerns following a violent relationship and being moved into temporary accommodation with her child. After our introductory chat, Rebecca attended three out of four of the VP modules (aiming to complete the remaining modules in November). She has also registered for First Aid training and is applying for the Community Interpreting Course run by Building Futures Together as well as applying to volunteer with Food Cycle.

Cippenham Community Carnival

The rain didn't dampen the spirits of those who attended the Cippenham Community Carnival on Saturday 6 July. There was a variety of craft stalls, food traders, performances, and attractions to explore. Families enjoyed the donkey rides, Punch & Judy shows, feeding the farm animals and trying their luck at the many games and activities.

Tagreed Ismail, Volunteer Manager at Slough CVS said: ***"The event was a great success, with residents coming along to the carnival to enjoy the atmosphere and visit the stalls. Residents were very keen to learn more about how to start volunteering, as well as how to ensure their home was kept safe from carbon monoxide poisoning."***

A local resident who recently moved to Slough said: ***"We do not have carbon monoxide alarm in our house, and I was going to buy one soon, you saved us £30, thank you so much"***.

Organisers of the Cippenham Carnival said: ***"We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who came out to support the event. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to our nominated charities; Slough Outreach for the Homeless and a defibrillator, which will be located at Cippenham Royal British Legion."***



Slough CVS Wellbeing at Home visit to Windsor Castle

Thanks to The Royal Collection Trust and the Slough CVS Wellbeing at Home project, community members associated with Together as One, PWA, Cippenham Carers and Ujala Foundation, thoroughly enjoyed a trip to Windsor Castle last month.



One community member said: ***"I had never thought how beautiful the royal castle was from inside, as I had only seen it from outside."***

The staff at the castle with meet and greet and wheelchair assistance were absolutely brilliant, I have no words how to thank all the people involved, a big thank you to Slough CVS for organising this trip."

Volunteer Spotlight- Wellbeing Friends Service

Volunteers are at the heart of the Wellbeing Friends Service. Without their time, effort, skill and passion, we would not be able to support our most vulnerable residents, providing them with a listening ear and meaningful conversation. Our Wellbeing Friends Volunteer shares their experience volunteering with us

Why become a volunteer?

I wanted to find a way to use my time away from work & family commitments that would be mutually beneficial. I started to do this when my children were toddlers (via co-founding & co-running a toddler group) and it grew into becoming a volunteer within their schools as they moved through primary and secondary schools. I also became heavily involved in their Parent-Teacher Associations). I then wanted to help during Covid and I was able to assist remotely (as a telephone befriender).

As restrictions lifted – and my work/family/caring commitments allowed – I was able to include some face-to-face volunteering too.

Why choose the Wellbeing Friends Service to volunteer with?

It was a way I could help during Covid. By being a telephone befriender, it meant that I could reduce the health risks for my family during the very early days of Covid and still help people who were isolated and lonely.

What do you volunteer your time doing?

I am a telephone befriender with Wellbeing Friends Service. I also visit a local Primary School once a week to help children develop their reading and social skills.

What have you enjoyed most about your time volunteering?

I enjoy the mix of age ranges that I am involved with i.e. children and older adults. When I visit the School, I also mix with the teaching & administrative staff, so it means my own social contacts are increased.

I've met other volunteers which has been nice, and the management team have been supportive throughout (even though the Team itself has changed several times over during my involvement!).

Volunteering benefits both myself and my local community – especially as it gives me another outlet from family/caring/work roles that dominate my life at present. As I move into retirement, I think it will add purpose and structure which will keep me healthy too (physically & mentally).

3 #OneSlough Partnership – working in collaboration for maximum impact

#OneSlough Community Fund

The fund has seen its most successful bid round this year with **44** applications received from a wide range of community groups and organisations. This means that this year's requests for funding were almost three times the amount available, leading to a high bar for bids to succeed.

Funding has been awarded to **31** organisations, following panel evaluation, to deliver a variety of projects in the town. A list of funded groups can be found in the table below, along with a snapshot of a selection of activity from the quarter.

To give community groups the best opportunity to flourish, Slough Borough Council and Frimley ICB have come together with additional money to support the #OneSlough Community Fund. This will see an extra £65,000 added this year, and a further £70,000 added to the pot from next year onwards.

Some key stats from the groups' activity include:

Over **1,811** residents have been supported with activity from the fund including over **933** new residents across **1,322** sessions. There were **206** clients signposted to other services for further support during this period **383** volunteers have contributed **1,098** volunteer hours to the #OneSlough Community Fund.

Organisation	Project name	Funding Awarded
ABC to Read	Help raise literacy standards in Slough schools	1590
Amana's Journey CIC	Drop in cafe & food distribution service across Slough	5000
Art Beyond Belief	Insight Inspire	4970
Asian Carers Group	Asian Carers Group	2000
Beat Routes	Fine Futures	10000
Berkshire Vision	Sight Loss Support in Slough	9984
Brighter Futures Together	Spectrum	6710
Cippenham Carers	Cippenham Carers Group	2000
Daisy's Dream	Daisy's Dream	4526
JMIC Slough	Café Mama/ Café Grandma	5000
Knit Your Socks Off	Knit Your Socks Off- Monthly Meet ups	1000
Leos's Circus CIC	Circus for All: Cultivating Confidence & Wellness For Every Child in Slough	10000

Number 22 Counselling Services	Number 22 Project Slough: Increasing Delivery	9740
Parenting Special Children	Slough Community Support Group	6215
Rise & Shine	Rise & Shine Health & wellbeing	2000
Slough 50plus Forum	Slough 50plus Forum	2000
Slough Anti-Litter CIC	Slough Anti-Litter Society	4985
Slough Community Support Cafe	Community Support Cafe & Form-filling Service	2000
Slough Community Transport	Dial a Ride Transport	10000
Slough Immigration Aid Unit	Slough Immigration Aid Unit	5000
Slough modest Sisters	Sisterhood squad	2000
Slough Refugee Support	Activities at SRS	10000
Slough Town FC Community CIC	Toddler and Junior Football Training	3700
Slough Youth Action	Slough Youth Action free football sessions for youth aged 8 to 16	2000
Sport in Mind	Sport and Physical Activity to Improve Mental Wellbeing	5180
The Baby Bank	Improving tots to teens	9756
Thames Valley positive Support	BeYou	4780
The Dash Charity	BREATHE: A sigh of relief for young victim-survivors of domestic abuse in Slough	10000
The Slough Job Creation Hub CIC	Get Slough Moving	10000
Ujala Foundation	Supporting our most Vulnerable	10000
Visual Art Studio	Diverse visions in art	2000

Updates from Groups

The Baby Bank

- School uniform packs for 170 children aged 4 to 17
- 170 referrals which was made up of 412 children/ babies each receiving a bag of clothes and shoes. This does not include bedding requests/ buggies or beds provided.
- 295 individuals were given ad hoc supplies of items like toothbrushes/ sanitary products/toys
- 110 adults received support either as clothing or toiletries packs,
- Two tonnes of clothing collected by the clothing recycling company
- 95 corporate volunteers contributed 380 hours
- 192 our own volunteers contributed to 576 hours, we see a decrease during the summer as many of our volunteers are parents/ grandparents/ caregivers

Number 22 Counselling

- We have been able to recruit experienced counsellors quickly into Church Street and this number will increase over the coming months.
- With the increase of the number of days we can have access to the rooms we are able to scale up our service rather quickly.
- Previously Slough clients have been travelling to Windsor and Maidenhead and working online but with Church Street up and running this face-to-face local support brings huge benefits to our clients.

We are proud to be providing 100's of hours of counselling support, each week reaching widely across the Slough Community. See breakdown below:

- We are in 8 Slough Schools supporting young people through offering counselling support.
- Providing a telephone support service to residents of Slough.
- Working remotely with Slough residents who may be experiencing accessibility issues and would be unable to be seen face to face.
- We are in 4 schools supporting the wellbeing of staff.
- Supporting young people within our afterschool project.

Beat Routes- 'Safe and Sound' event

Beat Routes collaborated with Artsworld and the Together As One charity on an event designed by young people. The event aimed to share information about activities available in the community, discuss the impact of knife crime and explore alternatives to street life through VR, sport, and music. 150 young people participated in activities including 3x3 basketball, spoken word, art workshops, and DJ classes while established DJs performed sets.



Slough Anti-Litter Society

August and September were a whirlwind of activity for the Slough Anti-Litter Society! Our dedicated volunteers were hard at work cleaning up the town, fixing broken items, and even strutting their stuff on the catwalk in the name of sustainability.

We kicked off August with a ****litter pick in Salt Hill Park**** on the 16th. Thanks to Bal from SALS and Josh from Burnham Beeches, and the help of our amazing volunteers (including the super-sniffer dog Gladys!), we filled a massive 24 bags of rubbish!

The end of August saw us enjoying the sunshine with a relaxed litter pick in Upton Court Park, where we were delighted to find the park relatively litter-free! We wrapped up the month with our bustling monthly ****Slough Repair Café**** on the 31st. Our skilled repairers were kept busy fixing watches, lamps, hoovers, and more.

But the highlight of August was undoubtedly the ****Slough Fashion Upcycle Competition**** on the 7th! This year, we brought the catwalk show again to the town square, creating a vibrant and exciting atmosphere. Thirteen talented individuals, who either work, study, or live in Slough, showcased their amazing upcycled fashion creations. We had two age categories this year – 13-17 years and 20+ – which made the competition even more exciting!

Despite the typical British weather, we were lucky enough to have a dry day for our outdoor event. DJ Stevoss kept the energy high with his fantastic tunes, while Le?na Polana and Dhol Collective got the crowd moving and grooving. While the judges deliberated, the incredibly talented Kinga Zdybel, winner of Slough's Got Talent, serenaded us with her amazing voice. And finally, the moment we'd all been waiting for... the winners were announced! It was a tough decision, but the judges selected the most innovative and well-executed designs.

The Fashion Upcycle Competition was a huge success, thanks to Slough Bid and all our amazing volunteers. It was a fantastic celebration of sustainable fashion and community spirit!

September continued the momentum with more fantastic litter picks. On the 2nd, we joined forces with Stoke Park Active - Inclusion Club Slough for a cleanup in Manor Park, collecting an impressive 13 bags of litter. Later in the month, on the 27th, sixteen volunteers led by Cllr Puja Bedi, Sairah Ghalib from Cardo, and our own Bal tackled Colnbrook, filling 8 bags of rubbish.



Slough Town FC CIC

Thanks to your funding, we have run 18 football sessions over the space of 2 months since the funding started. There have been 9 sessions from the 2 groups, the toddler 2-4 year old group and the 4-7 year old session. None of these sessions have been affected by the weather .

The sessions for the toddler group have seen steady increases in numbers, partially due to finding new areas to advertise the session but also from word of mouth. The 4-7 year old session has seen an astonishing increase over the 2 months especially since the schools have gone back. In August session numbers ranged from 4 to 8 children, since the schools went back the numbers have been over 16 for each session with a high of over 20 for one session. Overall the numbers attending have been above our expectations.

Slough Community Cafe

The community cafe has operated every Thursday throughout August & September serving a nutritious, home-cooked meal to a wide mix of people from the local community. They are referred to us from various organisations and individuals.

In addition to the cafe provision, we are now seeing people outside of café hours to assist them with form filling to include PIP, Universal Credit, housing applications, blue badge applications, disabled parking bay applications etc. The number of people asking for assistance continues to grow week on week.



The Slough Hub

August

Slough Modest Sisters Event - Attended this community event to encourage residents from this ethnic background to take up to the one million steps challenge. Enrolled residents to the app.

Upton Park Event - Working in partnership with Cardo to support their Family Football Health and Wellness Event hosted by Hurricane FC. Enrolled residents to the app.

Kumar Medical Centre - Macmillan coffee morning - Started our partnership with the Kumar Medical Centre - Community outreach during the Macmillan coffee morning - talking about healthy lifestyles and how to improve your activity levels. Enrolled residents to the app.

September

BNI Cover Meeting Arbour Park - Shared challenge with local business to garner support with local schools.

YES Associate Meeting - Discussed the one million steps challenge and how we can work with local youths to encourage their parents/ grandparents to join the challenge for an inter-generational support network

Manjit Outdoor Exercise - Attended Manjit Birks outdoor fitness classes at Upton Park - encouraging attendees to join the challenge

Frimley Academy Training - Completed Frimley Academy 2020 training to discuss this project in more depth and encourage attendees to join the challenge. 3 of the group have achieved their one million step targets.

Started outdoor walks on 25th Sept (Salt Hill Park) - Started regular outdoor walks every Wednesday from 10 - 11am to encourage residents to feel safe walking around the park and creating momentum for the challenge

Walk with local councillor- Working with local councillor and local police. Promoting safer walker spaces.

Viva Slough Studio - Working to get the unit in Queensmere to a place where regular community exercise classes can take place.



4. Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing – Reducing pressure on Adult Social Care

Community Connectors

- **173** New Referrals in the quarter
- **276** referrals made into community services
- **135** clients closed in the quarter

User Feedback

- **100%** of clients were satisfied and would recommend the Community Connectors service to others
- **100%** of clients found the service easy to access

Community Connector Team update

Overview

The last quarter has seen the beginning of the second year of the Community Connectors project. In the previous quarter new Community Connectors were recruited, and now we are beginning to reap the benefits of having a team operating at full capacity, meaning more time has been given to assess the procedures and processes which have developed over the last year. In addition, with the support of the wider Slough CVS team, we've looked at ways to monitor and measure the progress of the project.

Partnership Working

This quarter saw the introduction of the first weekly Community Connectors team meeting at Observatory House. As we are in various locations throughout the week, this provides a platform for the team to come together to discuss challenges and find solutions. The meeting is also used as an opportunity to invite other organisations and teams to develop understanding and promote joined up working.

We have met with East Locality Team, Hospital Social Work Team and Turning Point. We also have meetings arranged with SBC Customer Services, Reablement, North/South Locality and Berkshire Vision. With Anita's addition to the team, we have made significant inroads with the Discharge Team at Wexham Park Hospital. This has included us helping find solutions through the community for everyday issues, e.g. availability of emergency food parcels and clothing in the discharge lounge.

Client Referrals

The Community Connectors have received 173 referrals in the last quarter. Interestingly they have almost been equally split across the three main pathways (Health/Social Care & Community).

A rating system has been developed to recognise the fact that not all referrals are of equal weighting. Some require significant amount of time, whereas others can be very quick.

Especially if we can't get through or the client declines our help. The key to processing referrals to the highest of standards is twofold. The intuitive application of quality signposting knowledge. And, strong partnership working with other agencies and organisations. In this quarter, the foundations have been laid to allow focus on these two key elements in the coming quarters.

Case Study: When a plan comes together

Client Background

Client A was referred to us through Berkshire Vision. He has been registered blind since 2003 and has multiple health conditions including receiving dialysis three times a week. They are a family of six, living in a two-bedroom maisonette and with limited space. Client A was interested in using a gym to build his strength, but because they're struggling financially, he felt this might be something he'd be unable to explore.

Outcomes

We looked at various exercise options, including Good Gym and Park Run. After further discussion with Client A, it was concluded that Good Gym wouldn't be viable because of the process of getting to tasks. Client A felt Park Run might be an option if he could walk the course aided by a family member, but it wasn't an ideal solution.

In the meantime, we looked at gym access options. Client A took up a one-week free trial to use the facilities at The Centre was available. Following this, Client A can then opt-in to a discounted membership. He was over the moon with the outcome.

Case Study: Goal in One!

Client Background

Client B was referred to us via Adult Social Care (ASC). They are wheelchair bound and has an amputated leg. They used to be very social, but because of Covid-19 a lot of the activities they enjoyed, stopped operating. The challenges with Client B's case were that they weren't comfortable using technology and didn't have a mobile or email. So, we signposted them to a variety of options, by relaying the information over a landline while they jotted it down.

Outcomes

We found them a transport club in Slough according to their interests. In addition, Client B used to go to archery, but it was in Maidenhead which was hard to get to. We signposted towards a community group in Slough that runs a large variety of activities, including archery. The great thing is that they have wheelchair access. However, Client B's biggest love is football, and has a desire to be able to go and watch live games. We contacted Slough FC and they arranged complimentary tickets.

The biggest outcome was that when Client B's social worker checked in with them, they said because of our intervention Client B no longer needed to be supported by the ASC team and they could close his case!

5 Communications

- **637** Number of subscribers to the SCVS weekly alert
- **59** Number of funding opportunities added to the SCVS website
- **46** Number of news posts added to the SCVS website
- **13** Number of e-newsletters sent to the voluntary sector

The Slough CVS (SCVS) communications team has been actively engaged in developing materials and processes for internal use as well as promoting projects, events, and sharing campaign material on our communications channels.

Slough CVS's weekly e-newsletter continues to be a valuable resource, sharing funding opportunities, training sessions, and success stories from the voluntary sector. News stories are archived on the Slough CVS website and events are posted on the Wellbeing for Slough Directory, ensuring residents have access to the

Wellbeing Friends and Windsor Racecourse

A Wellbeing Friend promotion took place in August and September to increase our number of volunteers for this befriending service. The online campaign generated interest in the project. This was amplified with a fundraising and awareness raising Charity Partnership event at Windsor Racecourse. This opportunity was shared with our voluntary sector and seven other groups took up this opportunity raising over £3,500 for their respective charities.

One local Slough group commented, "Just wanted to say a big thank you for hosting Sakoon Through Cancer on Monday. The weather was on our side. The key element was the conversations with men and women on raising awareness of breast cancer. The racing community was very generous."

Slough CVS on X

One significant change this quarter is our X (formally Twitter) channel. Slough CVS joined Twitter in October 2010, and we currently have 1,917 followers. However, since Elon Musk's acquisition of the platform and re-branding to X, concerns have grown over the divisive nature of the site and its role in promoting negativity within communities. In response, we have decided to reduce our activity on X and focus on strengthening our presence on other platforms, including LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook.

SCVS still has considerable engagement on X and recognise our role in sharing Slough Borough Council and Frimley NHS's health and community messages and amplifying the voice of the voluntary sector. We will continue to share these messages. During this quarter, the importance of childhood immunisations and the MMR jab was shared widely as this remains a priority for Slough. This will continue into the winter months where we will work closely with the Health Inequalities Officer.

#OneSlough Awards

Our team has continued work on the #OneSlough Awards, to a significant event celebrating excellence in the community. The nomination process introduced last year was put into place this year too. A campaign was run through our channels and local Press and radio and this year, we received an incredible 160 nominations across the categories.

A panel consisting of statutory and business partners decided on the shortlist who have been invited to the Awards Evening on 15th November.

DRAFT