

# **West Cheltenham Partnership**

## **Annual Report 2024-25**

**Our vision is for West Cheltenham to be a  
flourishing community with opportunities for all.**

**Working with local people, groups and  
organisations to connect and empower them to  
develop healthy, happy and sustainable  
communities.**



**WEST CHELTENHAM  
PARTNERSHIP**

# West Cheltenham Partnership

## Annual Report 2024-25

This year has seen an expansion of our activities particularly at Hesters Way following our strategy review in 2024. Thanks to project funding from the NHS Integrated Locality Partnership and GCC's Thriving Communities Fund we have started a community development project aimed at working with families, older people and individuals with mental health issues. We've renamed the foyer at Hesters Way CRC the West Cheltenham Community Hub and offered activity sessions supported by our new recruit, Maria.

This project dovetails with the opening of the Ash Tree Café also in the foyer, opened initially with the help of Lareina and now managed and run by Iain. We offer a subsidised menu of top quality dishes, snacks, soup and specials between 8am and 2pm. We recently launched a pay what you can community meal which was enjoyed by all—there will be more of these great events in the months to come!

The West Cheltenham Community Pantry continues to support people struggling to pay for their weekly shop. Grant funds have been received from the Borough Council via the national Household Support Funds. The cross-town pantries network has been invaluable, with a partnership approach ensuring the best outcomes for clients. Maria has also supported our membership with issues and concerns.

For more details of the work we have undertaken this year and for future plans please read on.



### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Everyone welcome – Join us for cakes, coffee & community!



**Friday 26 September**  
**10am–12pm**

**ASH TREE COMMUNITY CAFE**  
The HUB – West Cheltenham



WEST CHELTENHAM  
PARTNERSHIP





# Thanks

We would like to thank the following for their contributions and commitment to the Partnership this year

We're very pleased to welcome new recruits **Maria** in her community development role and **Iain** the new café manager, who are both already performing well. **Jacquie**, **Rachel** and **Kelly**, for all their hard work at the Dreamscheme and a special mention to **Andy**, **Emma**, **Nick**, **Katherine** and **Jake** for their unstinting support! Not to mention **Adrian Thompson** in his facilities management role - thanks to all

Board of Directors for their commitment, support and guidance throughout the year and particularly to **Ryan, Wendy, Janice and Simon** for their years of support.

**Dave Cook** and the GlosCol students, **Linda** at Feed Cheltenham, **Faith** and team at Springbank Community Group, **Linda** and team at Listening Post, **Olivia** and team at CBC, **Gill** and staff at Andrew Bird Hearing, **Nikki** and staff at West Cheltenham Medical, the tenants at the CRCs, financial donors, individuals, residents, volunteers, officers and organisations who attend meetings and commit time and energy to all our partnership projects

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Ash Tree Café**  
**West Cheltenham Hub**  
**Pantry Project**  
**Youth Work Project**  
**Hesters Way Forum**  
**CTFC Sports Coaching Project**  
**Creative Springbank**



# Community Development

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With funds from The NHS and County Council we have employed Maria, a community development worker, to encourage, engage and befriend local people and to connect them to their communities and to reduce isolation. Maria has been busy networking with local organisations and working out the best ways to attract local people to the new West Cheltenham Hub.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Hub in the foyer at Hesters Way Community Centre is now the focus for activities. We have set up a mother and toddler coffee morning on a Monday and have also run a Halloween event and library promotion, and two workshops with the Cheltenham Literature Festival. We will be looking to increase promotion of these activities through Viewpoint magazine and further networking with local organisations.

A toy swap ahead of the Christmas season will offer parents a chance to bring and swap unwanted toys with other

## OLDER PEOPLE

The community board game afternoon provides an opportunity for older people to get play games, chat and get to know each other in a warm and welcoming environment.

A link established with Community Connections has helped the long established POPS group members to take a trip to the Literature Festival.



# Young People

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S NETWORK GROUP

The Children and Young Peoples group remains a popular place to raise awareness of issues that affect our young people. Many groups have provided invaluable activities for local youngsters. We have again provided activities in the parks during the holidays in Partnership GCC HAF programme.

## DREAMSCHEME

Dreamscheme is running from the Hesters Way Primary School with 12 pupils from years 5 and 6 on the roll. The regular team of Jacquie, Rachel and Kelly continue to provide pastoral care, emotional and social support for participants, building their self confidence and guiding good behaviour. The activities have included workshops from the Everyman Theatre plus a trip to the pantomime, circus skills from Thomas Trilby, and a variety of crafts activities, fruit picking and cake making!!

## MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)

The MUGA coaching activities went ahead during the holidays at Easter, summer and autumn with Cheltenham Town FC supplying coaches for the daily afternoon sessions. Over 80 children participated during the year.

## SPRINGBANK YOUTH GROUP

We have supported the Springbank Community Group with funds for a weekly youth club attracting up to 20 young people aged 8 to 14. The children have particularly enjoyed sessions on arts, sport and creativity plus the Music Bus sessions run by The Music Works and funded by GCC. A collaboration is proposed with The Everyman Theatre for more arts



WEST CHELTENHAM  
TOWN FC HAF

**BABY &  
TODDLER COFFEE  
MORNING**

**JOIN US**  
Monday morning's, 10am-12pm  
for a £2 coffee and cake.

Connect with other parents while your little ones enjoy our safe baby & toddler play area, filled with toys and a fun arts zone.

**Where?** The HUB - West Cheltenham,  
Hesters Way Community Resource  
Centre/Ash Tree Cafe (Starts 1 Sept - 15 Dec)



Cheltenham Town Community Trust

**FREE FOOTBALL SESSIONS**  
OASIS MUGA, HESTERS WAY, GL51 7SY

WEDNESDAYS: 6 AUGUST, 13 AUGUST, 20 AUGUST  
FRIDAYS: 8 AUGUST, 15 AUGUST, 22 AUGUST

OPEN TO ALL GENDERS AGED 8 - 14 YRS

For more info please contact [willm@tccotrust.com](mailto:willm@tccotrust.com)

Cheltenham Town Community Trust Charity No. 100030



# Resource Centres

## ASH TREE CAFE

The Ash Tree Café has been building a great regular crowd since the summer when new manager Iain (pictured right) took over with fantastic support from volunteers. The menu has remained the same since January but we're now introducing some tasty new fillings for the autumn including jacket potatoes and rice with beef chilli or mushroom and red pepper stroganoff.

We're also running a monthly COMMUNITY LUNCH where we'll be offering our pay as you feel meal. Servings start at 12.30pm so get there early before it runs out!!

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE

We worked with Gloucestershire College level 2 multi-skills students gain real world work experience.

Working at Hesters Way Resource Centre, students were tasked freshening up the facilities by painting the first-floor hallway, offices and meeting rooms spaces.

We were delighted to be able to offer the level 2 multi-skills students the opportunity to use their talents to refurbish the corridors, meeting rooms and offices of our Hesters Way Community Centre. The project was initiated through networking with David Cook, multi-skills lecturer and Gayna Griffiths at Cheltenham Borough Homes. Hopefully it'll be the first of many similar projects in years to come.

The colour scheme will match the new lobby area on the ground floor which includes the recently opened Ash Tree Café. Well done to all those involved!





# Hosted Activities

## CARERS HUB

Gloucestershire Carers Hub started a local Carers Cafe at The Hub earlier in the year and its been a great success with a regular turn out of up to 10 carers.

Maria will now be helping to run the activity on a monthly basis. People are welcome to come along for a cuppa and chat. If you are looking for a friendly and welcoming experience a Carer Cafe could be for you.

## COFFEE AND CHAT

The Listening Post monthly Coffee & Chat for Wellbeing takes place on the third Wednesday of the month at the Hub. This was the first of the community coffee mornings that have been hosted at Hester's Way Community Resource Centre. All are welcome to access the free, facilitated peer support drop-in, aimed at improving community support networks surrounding mental wellbeing and reducing isolation. And, as the name suggests, cake and coffee will be available supplied by Iain in the cafe!

## WATERCOLOUR CLASSES

The weekly watercolour class is facilitated by John and has been running for 18 months. The activity takes place in the Hub every Monday and regularly attracts up to 8 keen artists. A second and long standing class is run by Graham at Springbank every Wednesday afternoon. The class has space for up to 15 artists and has been running for 15 years.

A community of friends has developed at both classes all of whom have enjoyed the convivial atmosphere and thoughtful tuition offered by John, Graham and friends.



**Carer Cafe - Hester's Way, Cheltenham**

Come along and meet other Carers

**Location:**  
Hester's Way Community Resource Centre, Cassin Drive, Cheltenham GL51 7SU

**When:**  
Starts Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July and then held in the fourth Friday of each month

**Time:**  
1.00pm till 2.00pm

[www.gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk)



**Water Colour Painting Classes**

Join your first class for free.  
Afterwards, donations help support future sessions.

**Venue:**  
The Hub - West Cheltenham at  
Hester's Way Community Resource Centre

**Monday's 2pm-4pm**  
**Thursday's 2pm-4pm**



ASH TREE COMMUNITY CAFE  
HESTER'S WAY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

ASH TREE

**WEST-CHELTEHAM PARTNERSHIP**

**COMMUNITY LUNCHES**

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER  
FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER  
FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS SPECIAL)

FIRST SERVE 12:30PM  
LAST SERVE 1:00PM  
"PAY WHAT YOU CAN"



AT WEST-CHELTEHAM PARTNERSHIP,  
OUR VISION IS SIMPLE, BUT POWERFUL:  
WE ARE FLOURISHING COMMUNITY  
WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



# WEST CHELTENHAM COMMUNITY PANTRY

Thanks too, to Jake and Maria for their work to keep the pantry on financial track and to provide advice, guidance and signposting to pantry members.



**COMMUNITY  
PANTRY**

Please help us if you can by donating

The **West Chichester Community Party** relies on donations in order to provide quality food and essential household goods for those that need it.

You can donate either by offering a one-off payment, regular weekly or monthly standing order. (See details below.) Alternatively we welcome the following:

[illegible]

Donations can be delivered to:

Class 2B on Wednesday and Thursday 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Reception Paper Donations Box on weekdays 9am-5pm

Financial donations can be paid via the link on the website [www.worldbank.org/donations](http://www.worldbank.org/donations)

Thank You

**TO DONATE: [westcheltenhampantry.org/donate](https://westcheltenhampantry.org/donate)**



# Sustainability

## GREEN FLAG AWARD

Ongoing partnership work with CBC in Springfield Park has been rewarded by the achievement of a 15th Green Flag award. New benches were installed in the park last year and a new park sign at Hesters (Fishy) Park is now in place.



## RAIN GARDEN

We worked in partnership with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to create a raingarden in at the courtyard outside the Springbank Community Centre. This project aims to reduce localised flooding, whilst also creating a 'corridor' for wildlife. But will also be a showcase, demonstrating to other local residents the benefits of this approach.



## SOLAR POWER

The solar PV system continues to help HWP secure our energy, future-proof electricity costs and reduce the carbon footprint. We produced 57 MWh of electricity last year saving over 50,000 kg of Co2 since installation.

The original solar PV system will supply green energy for tenants at the centres at no cost with grid supplied energy providing an income to support local community projects.



## GARDENING CLUB

Our gardens contractor Jay of Goldfinch Greenscapes has worked with us and Ian at Monkscroft Community Group to improve the gardens at Hesters Way Community Centre. Community members attend the monthly gardening club and help tend the gardens and have developed a small vegetable patch which supplies herbs to the Ash Tree Café.



# Business

## FINANCE

Financial security will as always depend on the level of occupancy at the Community Centres and efficient facilities management. At present the lettable offices are full and hall hire income is stable.



Project support has been received from the NHS ILP, GCC, CBC The National Benevolent Charity, Feed Cheltenham, and St Thomas More, Leckhampton, and St Barnabas Churches plus Pates and St Marks schools have helped stock the pantry. .



## COMMUNICATION

We have completed the 55th issue of Viewpoint magazine highlighting the work of partners and promoting positive views of West Cheltenham.

This combined with the Partnership's website: [www.westcheltenham.org](http://www.westcheltenham.org) our X (twitter) account @hwpartnership and Facebook pages ensures local people, organisations and agencies are informed of meetings and issues of local interest.



You will notice an increase in the number of posts in the coming year as Maria gets to work on increasing our profile in teh community

We also keep clients informed via the community pantry web site [westcheltenhampantry.org](http://westcheltenhampantry.org) and updated the West Cheltenham Directory [www.westcheltenham.org/directory](http://www.westcheltenham.org/directory)

# Future Developments

## STRATEGY

The Partnership Board has been progressing the strategy initiated in 2024. An action plan for year one was completed, particularly focusing on increasing the number of activities at the community centres, engaging more young people, recruiting more volunteers and improving internal and external communications. The new strategy set out these priorities;

1. To focus on using a **community development** approach to increase connection with residents, groups and organisations
2. To develop the **sustainability** of the organisation,
3. To improve **governance** management systems and processes including creating **secure financial** position
4. To influence the design and development of the **Golden Valley** Development and its **integration with communities** in West Cheltenham





# West Cheltenham Partnership

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Dreamscape children—Jacquie Boyer 2025

