



Annual Report 2010-11



THE BOXROOM

The Charity Shop
supporting the voluntary community



Who's Who...



L-R: Vivienne Tegg of VCA with members of the CVSA Management Team, Alan Young, Norma Makin & Cllr. Linda Clark

Management Committee

Chair - Cllr. Linda Clark

Treasurer - Norma Makin

Mark Allen, Maggie Cunningham,
Ahmed Gedik, Alison Mitchell

Advisors to Committee - Cllr. Graeme Clark,
Nicola Kenyon, Iain Ramsay

Company Secretary - Alan Young

Bank

Unity Trust

Accountant

The Grant Considine Partnership

Who's Who...



L-R: Alan Young, Valerie Cameron, Wendy Smith, Shonagh Thom, Alison Melville, Linda Babbs and Lindsay Allardyce

Staff

Chief Officer - Alan Young

Development Officer - Alison Melville

Information Manager - Lindsay Allardyce

Development Officer - Linda Babbs

Database Development Worker - Wendy Smith

Administrator & Information Support - Valerie Cameron

Administrative Assistant - Shonagh Thom

Boxroom Co-ordinator - Brenda Larkin

Boxroom Assistant/Business Development Manager - Renee Joss

Charity Shop Co-ordinator - Helen Coutts

Chief Officer's Report

CVS Aberdeenshire - Central and South: Achievements and Performance Summary 2010-2011

UK and Scottish Government policies - particularly those in relation to deficit reduction and the 'Big Society' agenda - had an increasing impact on CVSA during 2010-2011 as it went about delivering its core functions as the Council for Voluntary Service for Central and South Aberdeenshire.

On the one hand, the Chief Officer was increasingly being offered 'a seat at the table' where plans were being laid for the sustainable delivery of public services in the coming era of austerity in the availability of public funds. Small 'grass roots' community and voluntary sector organisations (the agencies that CVSA primarily exists to support and represent across the area) are seen as playing a key role in building vibrant and inclusive communities in villages and neighbourhoods across the Shire, in which people can both give and receive support with one another's emotional and practical needs, thus minimising the call on increasingly scarce local and national government resources.

In particular, the Chief Officer was asked during the final quarter of 2010-2011 to sit on a multi-agency working group, which was to meet regularly during 2011-2012 and beyond to explore in detail the increasing role that community and voluntary sector organisations might play in both the formal and the informal care and support of older people across the Shire. The group has an ongoing role in allocating NHS resources freed up under the Scottish Government's Change Fund initiative.

On the other hand, CVSA has adjusted its working arrangements with other 'Third Sector Intermediary and Infrastructure Bodies' in the area, in response to the Scottish Government's clear statement over the past few



years that as from 1st April 2011, it would fund only a 'Single Local Third Sector Interface' in each of Scotland's 32 local government areas. SG requirements in Aberdeenshire were met by CVSA entering into a formal partnership arrangement with BRIDGE CVS (its counterpart in the north of the Shire) and with Volunteer Centre Aberdeenshire (VCA). The three agencies took the decision that the partnership (which has not been constituted with its own legal personality) should operate under the name of Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action or AVA. It was decided that the launch of the AVA name and brand to its potential 'customers' - the wider community and voluntary sector across the Shire - should be rolled out during 2011-2012.



CVSA staff spent some time around the middle of 2010-2011 preparing groups for the transition from the previous system of 'Disclosures' to the Government's new Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme, after it was officially announced in November 2010 that this new, more comprehensive scheme for vetting staff and volunteers in positions of trust and responsibility with children and vulnerable adults would be brought into effect in February 2011.

Other CVSA staff provided guidance and support during 2010-2011 to a small, local voluntary sector organisation that for a number of years had provided much-needed social care in one part of the area, when the governing body took the reluctant decision to cease operations and to dissolve the charitable company, given the ever-increasing burden of regulation and inspection from a plethora of local and national government agencies that they no longer had the resources or the organisational capacity to meet.



On a more positive note, plans were laid within CVSA during 2010-2011 for 'Grow your Group', an event

aimed at giving 'grass roots' community and voluntary groups ideas as to how they could both survive and thrive in the 'interesting times' that lie ahead. The event actually took place in Laurencekirk one Saturday in the first quarter of 2011-2012, and was judged by all to have been a great success.



CVSA's Magpie Project operated extremely successfully throughout the year as one of the ten pilot projects across the country taking part in the Scottish Government's 2009-11 Public Social Partnership Pilot Programme. Two containers, into which members of the public could donate good-quality items for sale and re-use (rather than simply dumping them into the waste stream to end up in landfill) were purchased (using INCREASE III funding) and delivered to the Crow's Nest Household Waste site in Banchory in May 2010. This was followed by a press launch at the Crow's Nest on 1st July 2010 to officially announce the scheme to the general public.

The public's response to this initiative was tremendous, in terms of both the volume and the quality of items donated into the containers. A renowned local businessman and philanthropist, Mr Bert McIntosh, very generously offered the project free storage space in one of the warehouses within his plant hire depot at Birchmoss, to enable the project to cope with the quantities of goods being donated. CVSA subsequently obtained the lease on a second unit on Banchory's Tillybrake Industrial Estate, which opened to the public in November 2010, selling goods diverted from the waste stream through the Magpie Project, complementing the organisation's existing social enterprise, the Boxroom, across the yard at Tillybrake.



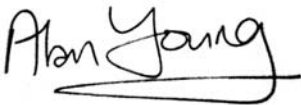
The Magpie shop has been a tremendous success in financial terms since its opening, but the Boxroom has also seen a marked increase in its revenue over the same period, helped no doubt by the publicity attending the launch of the Magpie Project.



Given the ongoing constraints in the availability of public funding over the coming years, CVSA expects that it will rely increasingly on income from its 'social enterprises' such as the Boxroom, the Magpie Project and the Charity Shop to sustain its 'core' operations in the years ahead. Development of these

and other related social businesses is currently high on the organisation's strategic agenda, and will feature prominently in CVSA's new Business Plan which is currently under development.

The expertise developed by CVSA in the creation and running of such 'social enterprises' will itself feed back into its core operations, enhancing both its skill base and its credibility in supporting other community and voluntary sector organisations across its area who are facing similar challenges to those which CVSA is itself visibly experiencing and tackling.



Alan Young

Chief Officer, CVS Aberdeenshire - Central and South

15th August 2011

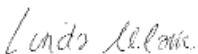
Chair's Report

The last year has been a very successful one despite the voluntary sector suffering its share of funding restrictions. CVSA has been innovative and prudent in the continuance of the Boxroom and indeed the charity shop, both excellent examples of Social Enterprise. My thanks to all staff and volunteer members.

Our Magpie Project has proved that the harvesting and harnessing of unwanted items bound for landfill is a very worthwhile exercise. The positive financial figures, use of volunteering man-hours, display of good and socially inclusive practice are testament to this being an area of future interest which the council has already acknowledged. I know I'm not alone in wishing all areas of Aberdeenshire could take up the opportunity, whilst of course, appreciating that there are already some excellent social enterprises out there. Our staff and volunteers under the stewardship and management of our Senior worker Alan Young deserve our grateful thanks for their stoicism and passion for the organisational aims and objectives.

As Chair, I merely steer a ship and the better the crew the less steering I have to do. To the board members, can I say a huge thanks for all your stalwart volunteering. Maggie and Ahmed are relatively new to the board and have made huge inroads in helping us to achieve good practice and appropriate governance. Colette Backwell joined us in the Summer and is a real asset. I look forward to working with her. Grateful thanks to all three. Mark plays a pivotal role as part of the support mechanism of the management committee. Many thanks to Mark. Norma, Alison and I have been the "Old Guard" for a long time now. I thank both ladies for their continued support. Cllr. Graeme Clark is the council's rep. on the board and is also a very willing volunteer at the Magpie helping out as his Council duties allow. Thanks to Graeme.

Here's to 2012.



Linda Clark (Councillor), CVSA Chair

The Boxroom

2011 has been an extremely successful year for the Boxroom with sales exceeding all expectations. A very big 'thank-you' goes to the people of Aberdeenshire for their generous donations. We also regularly receive donations from local shops in Banchory - Duncan's and Taylor's, so a huge thank-you also goes to them. These donations allow us to operate and gift goods to those in need - and we very much appreciate the quality of goods that are donated.

As well as selling on good quality furniture and household goods to the public, we also gift many items to those in need through the Social Work department of the Council. Homestart regularly receive donations from the Boxroom, helping families to set up home. This year the value of our gifting service was approximately £5724.



The Boxroom epitomises the effect of the recycling of goods and materials that diverts significant amounts of waste going into landfill. We held an open day for the Boxroom in May and we were delighted that Provost Bill Howatson was able to speak at the event.



The Boxroom could not function without valuable time and commitment from our team of staff and volunteers. Their dedication is very much appreciated and make The Boxroom an on-going success - our sincere thanks to the team.

Brenda Larkin & *The Boxroom Staff*

Magpie Project

The Magpie project officially launched on the 2nd July at the Crow's Nest, Household Waste & Recycling Centre, Banchory. CVSA placed two containers on site in the reuse area allowing members of the public to leave their good quality unwanted household goods in the containers instead of in the skips.



In the past year more than 45 tonnes of goods has been diverted from landfill. A significant amount of this has been gifted to different agencies and charities in need of support. The good quality items donated to the Magpie project have exceeded our expectations and for

the past year and local businessman Bert Mackintosh of McIntosh Plant Hire has kindly let us use one of his storage facilities free of charge. The Magpie has been greatly helped by Secureastore Bucksburn, who donated full container loads of new goods from shops that have closed down.

On the 8th November the CVSA Magpie opened its shop at Unit 4, Tillybrake Industrial Estate, across from the well established Boxroom shop.

In January we placed a container at the side of shop to help with the amount of goods received. We also donate items for various raffles. This would not be achievable without the time and support given by staff and volunteers - without their dedication the charity would not be as successful. Our thanks go to all who have made the Magpie a success. Thank you to all.



Renee Joss, *Magpie Co-ordinator*

The Charity Shop

The Charity Shop continues to do very well and sell on good quality clothes and bric-a-brac. We are very grateful to everyone who donates to the shop - we are lucky to have such a high quality stock and the shop is increasingly busy.

Our takings this year have been excellent, up significantly on last year to £48,813. This figure includes our income from the unsaleable goods we send to Clyde Recycling. Each year, although most of the donations are good quality, we also receive goods that are not fit to sell on. But nothing is wasted because these goods are then sold on to Clyde Recycling who are a textiles recycling company and this year, that income has made up approximately 4.25% of our income.

My thanks, as ever, go to all our volunteers for their endless hard work and support, without whom none of the above would be possible.

Helen Coutts, Shop Co-ordinator



The Year in Brief...

During the year CVSA staff have supported local groups with a variety of aspects of their development and progress and have provided them with a wide range of information to encourage good practice and forward planning.

Here are some statistics:

- We helped
- 13* groups with their *governing documents*
 - 3* groups with *re-structuring*
 - 1* group with *winding up*
 - 5* groups with their *accounts*
 - 16* potential new groups with *setting up and structures*
 - 1* group with support for a *local authority tender*
 - 37* groups with various aspects of *funding*
 - 12* groups with miscellaneous *development work, group work and partnership working*

We have sent out 6 CVSA ebulletins, 6 CVSA newsletters and 3 editions of the Community Planning newsletters. We continue to receive positive feedback from the information we send out.

Our Charities Fair in Stonehaven in October raised over £600 and awareness for local voluntary groups and charities. Using feedback and experience from previous fairs, we put plans in place for making the 2011 fair bigger and better than before.



The Year in Brief...

We produced a Governance Pack for groups to borrow and return - full of advice on good practice and support on running a successful and sustainable group.

In June we set up a CVSA Facebook page - a great way to keep in contact with groups and publicise our events.

In October we compiled all the Good Practice Guides we'd published with the newsletter and put them into a folder for groups to take away and use.



We extended our website to include information and contacts for our new Magpie project/shop.

We secured funding for the promotional material for the Grow Your Group event due to take place in May 2011.

Santa visited the new Magpie shop to give out presents to children!

We had over 2000 hits on our website.

February 2011 saw the introduction of the PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) scheme which replaces the Disclosure scheme for staff or volunteers who work with vulnerable groups. The new scheme means considerably more administration and monitoring of groups' policies and procedures and after careful consideration by CVSA, it was decided that we did not have the capacity to continue this service to local groups, other than the smallest of groups. We now signpost groups to sources of help for the Disclosure service.



This document was produced by CVS Aberdeenshire - Central & South and is available on request in larger print.
Images on the cover by Alan Young & Norma Makin.

Scottish Charity Number: SCO14223
Company Number: 137343
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