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Willenhall
Community Hub



Hub & Spoke

Over the past two years Willenhall Community, Health and Resource Training (CHART) Centre, has seen tremendous growth. Service user numbers have increased significantly and the Centre has made major contributions towards local priorities against a backdrop of increasing sustainability and self-generated income. Yet there is still much more to do to continue to expand the offer from CHART and support communities of Willenhall and partner organisations to make progress against local priorities.

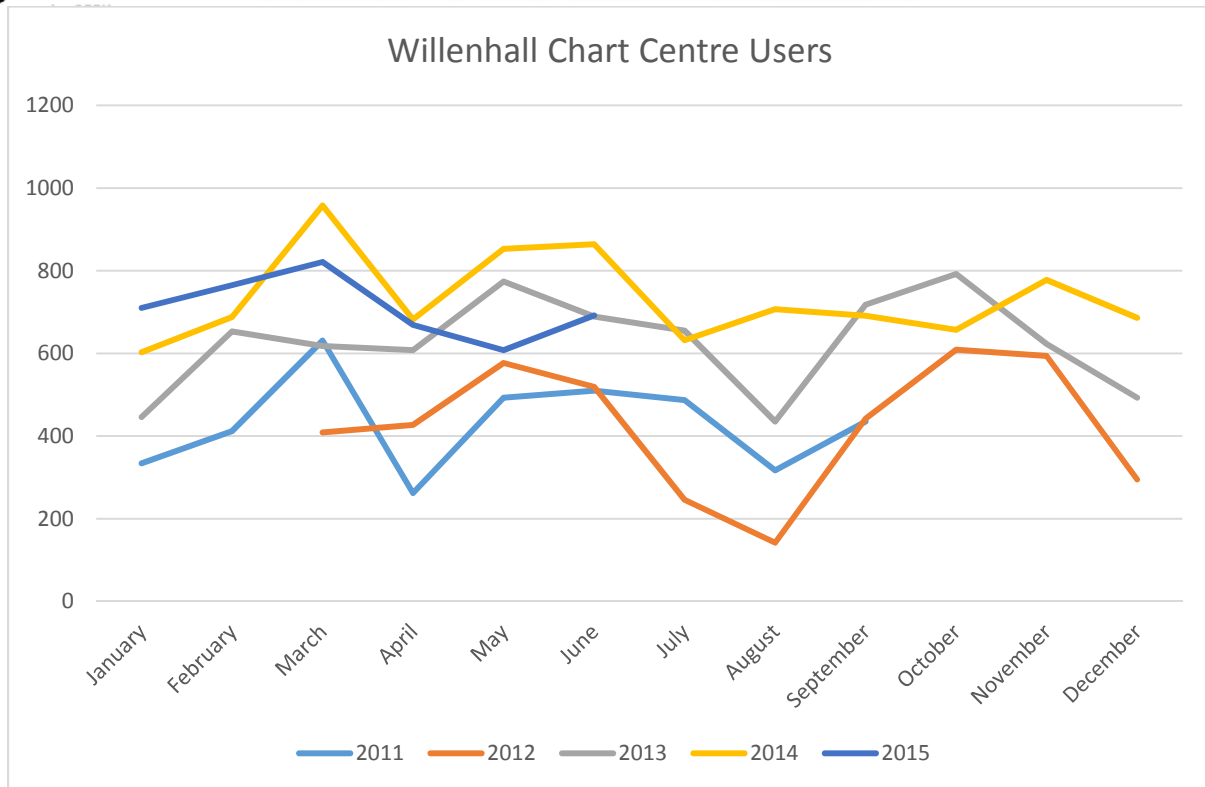
The Centre offers a fully equipped accessible venue from which to deliver community services and events.

- Our venue incorporating:-
- Sports hall
- Fully equipped community gym
- Social lounge
- Relaxation area
- Conference and events hall
- Fully equipped IT suite
- Private meeting rooms
- Catering kitchen.

CHART runs an extensive programme of in house services and also serves as a base for the delivery by a wide range of statutory partners and community groups. As a member of the Council-led Willenhall Area Partnership, CHART retains strong links with over 40 local statutory and voluntary and community sector (VCS) Organisations at the strategic level, supporting delivery against local strategic plans addressing local issues.



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(The above graph gives an idea to the footfall that passes through CHART, this does not include activities/events and other service providers delivery of projects)

In addition to providing services for the community, CHART's Community Development Manager provides direct support to other community groups in order to build the capacity and range of organisations seeking to support the people of Willenhall.

Which is where the Hub and Spoke model was identified for a need of addressing in Willenhall South and Short Heath. Working in partnership with Walsall Voluntary Action (WVA) both organisation being approached for direction, governance, help, funding and sign posting.

(The Hub and Spoke model is named for the bicycle wheel which had a stable centre connecting to many spokes = CHART/WVA being the centre based at CHART and the spokes being other organisations)

CHART applied to Walsall Area Partnership for £3410.00 for a 5 month project to provide a dedicated community development support project for new, emerging and established





voluntary sector groups in the area working with Walsall Voluntary Action. To increase the capacity of Willenhall South and Short Heath VCS groups to provide well governed Sustainable service to the local community. To also develop the capacity and skills of VCS groups to grow and develop in order to take on contracts and larger funding pots. (Working in line with the area plan work stream by:- Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people into work and creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities). With the support and help from WVA, CHART's Development Manager gained knowledge, understanding and increased their skills sets around governance and development of third sector organisations. The funding was used to cover the Development Manager's time to deliver this project over a five month period. The project was extensively advertised through the area in our newsletter, poster campaign as well as social media and throughout partner organisations. This was also included in WVA's funding newsletter sent out to numerous voluntary and third sector organisations.

The table below summarises the support provided during the project. One of the main outcomes was the amount of funding bought into the organisations in the local area which has assisted them with their sustainability. Another outcome was the capacity building provided to groups. This support has enabled groups to understand the need to produce high quality bids based on robust project planning. The development support provided also made organisations aware of what other services and activities are delivered locally and help them think of ways of linking in with each other.

Organisation	Support delivered	Funding received
Substance Matters	Funding advice, assisting with bids, service delivery, planning events and projects. Waiting decision on Wolves Aid Food and building cost's	£22,705.81 £22,000 (two years)
Cheer Leading Group	Funding advice	£1,000
Dodgeball Club	Funding advice and assisting with bids	£1,962.00
Boxing Club	Development advice	Referred to WVA





Willenhall Church	Funding advice	On going
Elderly Group	Development advice & bid writing	£1,200
Group for people with physical and learning disabilities	Development & funding advice	On going
Willenhall Heritage Trust	Funding advice & assisting with bids	On Going support including funding advice and avenues
Choir Group	Funding and Development advice	On Going
Patient Participation Group	Development advice and events/project help and promotion	On Going
Local Drama Group	Development advice & bid writing	£5,000
	Total	£31,867.81

A joint networking event, delivered by CHART, WVA and Willenhall South Area Partnership, was held in April. The aim of the event was to bring together local third sector organisations and partner agencies to gather and share information. Although widely publicised the event failed to attract many third sector organisations, however a number of partner agencies were present and those community organisations that were in attendance felt the event was very useful.

Conclusion

The Hub and Spoke model worked well to aid the above groups as mentioned and professional organisation that support groups, individuals and service users locally. CHART being the Hub for this service meant that it was locally based and easily accessible to all.

The outcomes for local groups:

- increased capacity of groups
- increased sustainability of groups
- improved knowledge and understanding of local providers

The outcomes for the local community (which are also in line with local priorities):

- reduced isolation of the elderly
- increased activities for young people





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- increased additional service's for people with drug and alcohol dependencies and their families and friends
- increased support and activities for the whole community

The outcome of the networking event highlighted the need for us to be doing more to engage with the local voluntary and community sector. Future plans include looking at how we can begin to engage with these groups and how we ensure our support is relevant to their needs.

Our future plans at CHART also include; delivering further activities for young people, increased provision for the elderly and people with disabilities, Health and wellbeing activities and projects around worklessness



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