

GRAPEVINE'S WORK IN COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE AND BEYOND...









### Hello. It's us.

What an incredible three years! Over the course of 2016-2019 we helped more than 3,100 people undergo a journey of transformation. Individually and collectively they rose up, unlocked their hidden talents and became connected to one another and their community in life affirming ways. With our help they took the lead in defining and achieving a life they wanted.

This year is especially important because October 2019 marks Grapevine's 25th anniversary. Since those humble beginnings in a drop in centre in Spon End we've grown to serve all groups of vulnerable people living in Coventry and Warwickshire. We now run twelve projects and watch proudly on as four social movements sparked by us snowball their impact across the area. Even more sparking is happening as I write this.

In the following pages you will see the impact we've achieved over the last three years. You'll read about how we've strengthened people and ignited community action. And you'll learn how we plan to continue this, as well as shifting power in more structural ways. We will show you where we aim to do better as well.

Thank you for your support. Powerful people and communities create better futures. Your help makes this vision possible.

Clare Wightman, Chief Executive, Grapevine









# We've become a triple action organisation

A few things have changed since our last report...

Grapevine helps all kinds of people experiencing isolation, poverty and disadvantage. We help them embrace their power and agency. Because when they do problems get solved, lives become better and futures become more shapeable.

Individually we help them get the hope, confidence and relationships they need to take control, turn their lives around and realise their potential. Collectively we help them build power to spark movements for change in their communities.

But we no longer stop there. We want to get at the root causes of the most difficult problems – not just treat the symptoms. So we work intensively with systems and services like the NHS and local authorities to understand issues together, shift power and solve the real problem – for good.

## Part 1: IMPACT, THE GRAPEVINE WAY

Since 2016 we've helped 3,173 people in Coventry and Warwickshire. Half were helped to develop naturally regenerating support networks, and the purpose, skills and confidence to grow within them.

The rest were helped to create community-led initiatives like Slow Roll (an inclusive bike ride) and Feel Good Community (by and for people with chronic illness). From protecting green spaces in Warwickshire to creating a safe and inclusive nightlife in Coventry, they've led the way.

Through this work power was shifted towards those who don't have it. Our 'Ideas Factories' brought together community, families and services to solve shared problems. 61 systems and services changed. They include the Autism Pathway in Warwickshire, Occupational Therapy in Coventry, Coventry's Family Hubs and the recommissioning of health advocacy services in Warwickshire.







# Sparking Community Action

2,145 people mobilised to take action;32 community-led initiatives



## Strengthening People

1,536 found new purpose, stronger networks, new skills and more confidence



## Shifting Power

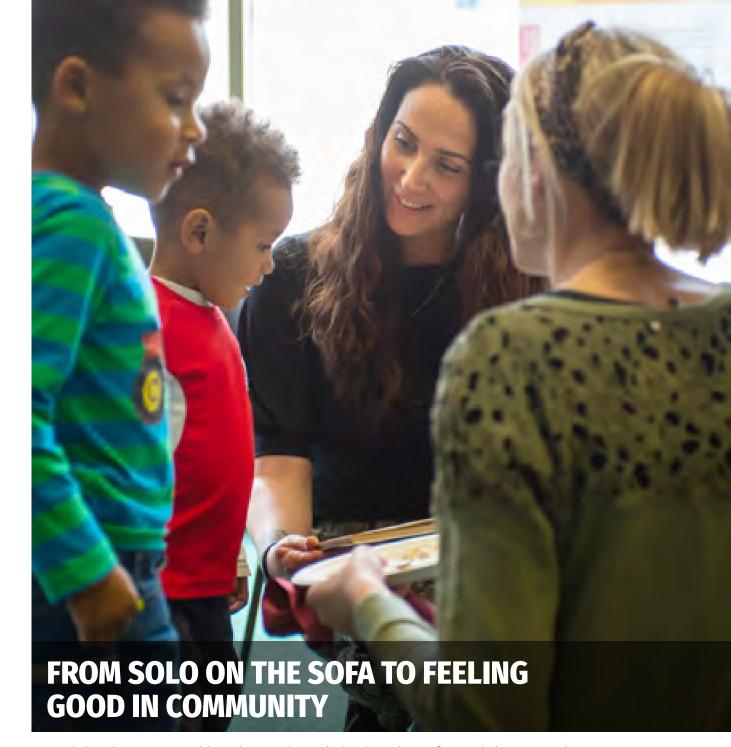
61 services influenced



With our help, Zach has embarked on a career in the kitchen of a Michelin star chef. Zach, who has autism, is now a trusted member of the team. What makes his achievements even more special is that Zach has found a new social circle centred around his job and an encouraging boss who works with him to steadily add to his skills. He's also moved out of the family home into his own flat close to work.

#### **GROUP ACTION CHANGES NHS**

We started an action group to turn our frustrations about health inequality into real change. Now NHS England is improving the way GPs promote life-saving annual health checks – from empowering communities to new regulations to training to IT.



Our job has been to stand beside people, to help them bring forward their own ideas and then do it. Take Melissa. Her life was a waiting game... for the next appointment, consultation or surgery. Diagnosed with a rare, painful spinal condition and later developing ME, she was stuck on the sofa and struggling – until we helped her set up the Feel Good Community. Now it's a 500-strong group of people creating activities that help them stay well and a burgeoning social business.



"Nobody is alone and everybody gets a chance to explore life's offerings and be a part of something." Leigha, autistic activist and mother to an autistic son

### Principles in the lead

Our work always involves practical guidance and support. But it's not just what we do, it's how we do it. Three principles guide how Grapevine works.

#### **Bottom Up**

People should be in the lead of improving their lives and communities. We use deep listening that tunes into people's real needs, their strengths and capacity, and their dearest hopes. Then we work in support of what they say.

#### **Connecting**

Services can't always be there, but other people can. So we help people develop relationship networks that strengthen and protect. Or we help them convene as communities and show them the skills and motivation to take action together. Everyone has something to contribute, no one gets left out.

#### **Dreams and Assets**

When we recognise and trust in people's strengths and aspirations, hope and confidence blossom. They realise their potential, take opportunities and meet their personal challenges.

These principles also apply to how we work with systems and services. First we listen deeply, recognising their strengths and problems, then we help everyone involved come together and unlock the potential to change from within.



"Grapevine have developed new ways of working with families and young people that have built confidence and resilience. The Grapevine approach has also been showcased by government as exemplary practice." Martin Bull, Assistant Director, National Children's Bureau





## The projects making it happen

We run twelve projects, four of which build social movements. Each movement building project sparks multiple movements and initiatives, many of which spawn further or continue without our involvement.

#### **Sparking Community Action**

**CONNECTING FOR GOOD** – a movement against isolation in Coventry

**BUILDING CONNECTIONS** – a movement against loneliness in Coventry

**SELF CARE SOCIAL** – an umbrella movement for six initiatives so far, led by people with long term health conditions or chronic illness in Coventry

**COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES** – a movement for community-led end of life care in North Warwickshire

#### **Strengthening People**

**COMMUNITY-POWERED ADVOCACY** – advocacy plus community connections in Warwickshire for people on the edge of needing care services

**HELP AND CONNECT** – for learning-disabled people to make a plan, get connections, get work, stay healthy and stay safe in Coventry

**ACCELERATE** – for disabled people to get work in Coventry and Warwickshire

**TEENVINE** – a development programme for teens with autism or learning disabilities in Coventry

#### **Shifting Power**

#### WARWICKSHIRE'S EMPOWERMENT AND CO-PRODUCTION SERVICE

**IGNITE** – one of three national 'system change' programmes. Helping Coventry help families earlier

**COVENTRY YOUTH ACTIVISTS** – a campaign group changing young people's lives **PLACE BASED SOCIAL ACTION IN STOKE ALDERMOOR** – people-led solutions that

help young people and families thrive in a hard-hit Coventry community





Michelle and Tracy met at a Coventry knitting group. With our help they've made a network of friends coming together weekly to chat, craft and overcome isolation.

The two-hour Tuesday session at Bell Green Library provides a space to craft and catch up on the week's events, lend an ear, or give advice and practical support. Members have enjoyed Christmas lunch together at a local café and cooked breakfasts at another eatery across town. When one is having a bad week or thinks they may not show up, the others rally round and they come anyway. Small gestures make a big difference.

#### **Sparks flying**

Just a few of the social actions we helped people start in 2019.

**THE INDEPENDENTS**. A group of local coffee shops connecting isolated people in Coventry city centre with a fortnightly Sunday dinner.

**THE ART BEVERAGE CLUB**, a free weekly drop in art session started by Mark at his local pub.

**AROUND THE KITCHEN TABLE** gathers people who feel lonely around a skill or idea they'd like to share for little or no cost, just the offer of a table to meet around.

**SELF CARE SOCIAL** brings people with experience of chronic illness together to create activities and groups that help them find joy and purpose together.

**THE FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO PARTY** movement strives for inclusive nightlife in Coventry, powered by a community of disabled and non-disabled people and venues.

## Part 2: THE ROAD AHEAD

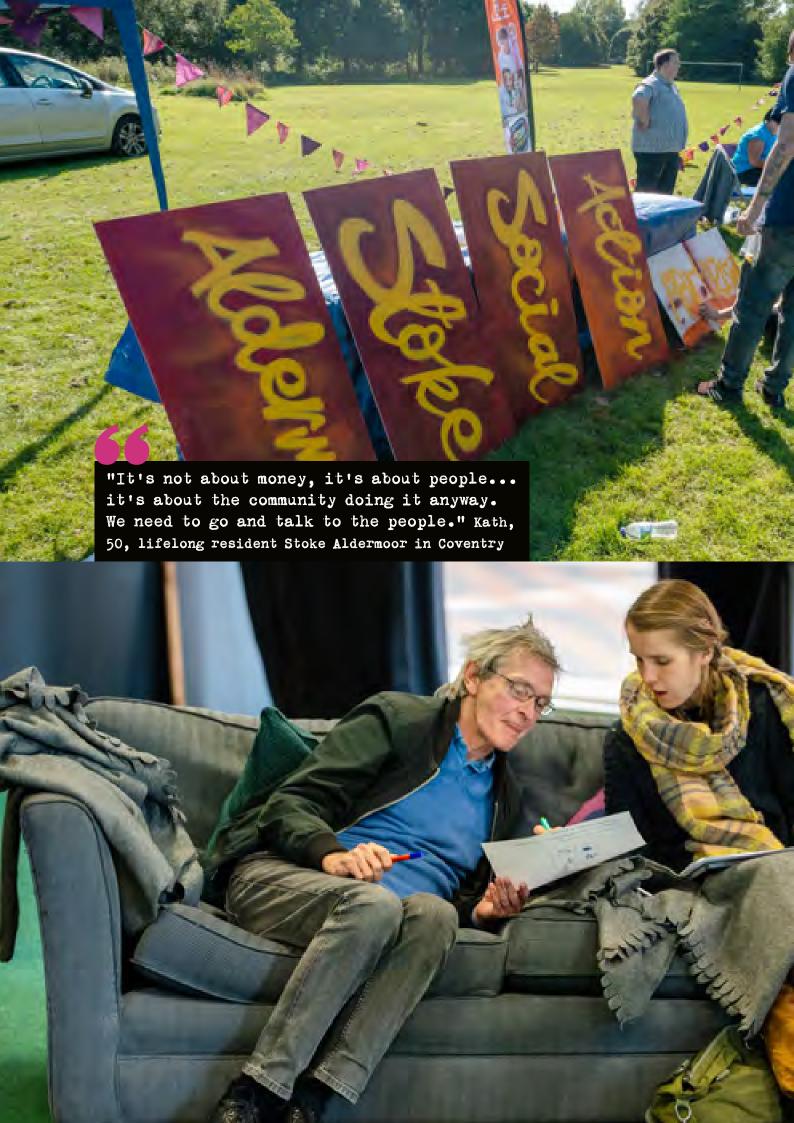
#### **SPARK MORE ACTION, SHIFT MORE POWER**

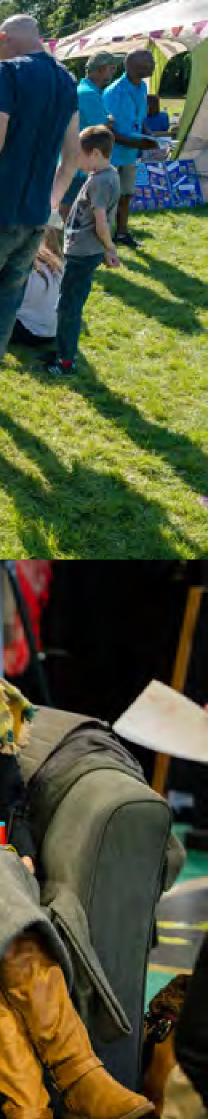
#### Poverty and austerity need a stronger response...

Right now too many people struggle on the edge, unable to take control. Service models are struggling to adapt and local government resources are diminishing. Political decision-making and power feel out of reach. The social fabric to help doesn't yet exist.

So we've a new plan to help people and communities use their untapped potential to get stronger and create better futures. It's based on three strands of action: sparking community action, strengthening people and shifting power. Within these strands we're ready to experiment with new means and models of meeting needs.







## **Sparking Community Action**



Since 2016 we've mobilised 2,145 local people to build 32 initiatives – some well-established and self-sustaining, some still growing. We want to double this to 4,300 by 2021.

#### How do you get 1,400 people physically active...?

...when 50% are disabled, in 18 months, in lasting ways... for less than £53 each?

By mobilising people to mobilise others, and connecting them in ways that nourish and sustain involvement.

Between June 2015 and March 2017 we'd sparked five initiatives led by local people (e.g. Slow Roll inclusive bike ride, Swim 'n' Tonic). 1,465 took part and two other offshoots grew ('Wave Rave', a fun family pool event and Feel Good Community for people with chronic illness). Four out of seven initiatives still continue independent of us with regular meetups and events attended by 20-130 people each.

Evaluation discovered wildly more impact on loneliness, isolation and physical health than expected: "Deep, extensive, networked relationships have been created that provide infrastructure for innovation, and naturally regenerate in the face of challenges". (Re:valuation, 2017)

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Four social movements will create, organise and lead solutions to their challenges but solutions will be low cost and long lasting as a result. All participants will experience a stronger and more connected sense of community.



#### **Stoke Aldermoor Together**

We will continue to help the community of Stoke Aldermoor in Coventry develop a radical partnership of local people and local government. It will be an active, connected and thriving community that enables them to solve problems together.

#### #ConnectingforGoodCov

This movement will mobilise 3,000 people in Coventry by 2022. It'll spark multiple isolation tackling initiatives led by hundreds of local people.

#### **Self Care Social and Building Connections**

Our aim is to end loneliness for 940 Coventry people with long term health conditions. Everyone will get a network that celebrates who they are and a safety net that protects them in times of trouble.

#### **Community Organising Training**

As a Hub for Social Action affiliated to Community Organisers (the national membership and training body for community organising), we are recognised as a centre of good practice and will provide accredited training across Coventry and Warwickshire.





## **Strengthening People**



Over the last three years we have helped 1,536 young people and adults identify a purpose, get stronger networks of support, as well as new skills and confidence. We want to double this to 3,100 by 2021.

#### From crisis to opportunity...

Rishard was realising he was different. But he didn't know how to talk about it. Instead he got angry. He threw a TV at his gran and he hit his mum. One day he asked her to get the doctor to give him a pill to take his Down's Syndrome away.

We focused on Rishard's ambitions and removed any limits. When asked what he wanted most he said "to be an actor". Now Rishard is flourishing, with solid friendships and a purpose in life. He is part of an accepting theatre community and his old frustrations have faded. And he's got a part in 'Doctors' BBC TV show.





#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**HELP AND CONNECT** will help 2,000 people with a learning disability in Coventry by 2023. It will improve their independence, health and wellbeing. And it will help them remain safe and secure in community, to volunteer or to work.

**ACCELERATE** will intensively support 60 disabled people in Coventry and Warwickshire into paid work between 2018 and 2022.

**TEENVINE PLUS** in Coventry will help 80 young disabled people to have the relationships, confidence and skills to mature into ambitious young adults by 2021.

**COMMUNITY POWERED ADVOCACY IN WARWICKSHIRE** will tackle people on the edge of immediate problems, then connect them to natural networks of community support.

We will also explore how digital technology might help people connect, understand and support each other.

I came to Grapevine as a service user, I grew to believe in their work and saw how much it helped our family to grow and change our thinking." Mel, wild swimmer and Grapevine worker

Grapevine's support changed what my life looks like. I do things now I didn't think were possible. My friends are now there to help." Carol, 63, victim of financial abuse

I got a lot of different thinking – I notice a lot more now about what I can do. Even with big problems you feel like you can do something about it." Julian, former user of mental health services, Coventry

This is definitely helping her through the grief as well as the isolation. She really enjoys meeting new people... it's nice to see her happier and more willing to participate. If Amanda's happy, I am happy." Jane, mother of Amanda, Coventry



## **Shifting Power**



Over the last three years we worked with participants to improve 61 services. In Warwickshire we re-designed the Autism Pathway and learning disability partnership boards and helped people with autism co-design with the council autism friendly libraries. We helped

20 young people labelled complex and challenging to get their own homes and support teams and in spring 2018 Coventry Youth Activists (CYA) began multiple campaigns and actions to champion disabled people's right to a good life.

#### **Igniting change**

One of three national 'system change' programmes, Ignite has proven that helping services help families earlier is the key to building a resilient future in a tough neighbourhood.

Set against a landscape of ongoing public budget cuts, Ignite combines our know-how in mobilising community with Central England Law Centre's legal expertise in unlocking people's rights in Willenhall, Coventry.



The project has brought local Children's Services and partners along on a learning journey in how to connect community to systems – ultimately establishing a blueprint for family hubs across Coventry.

Initiatives 'ignited' by local people have included a uniform swap shop for parents; a weekly grub club; a Wednesday walking group; a women's support group; and a homework club run by a local teenager.

A legacy of people doing things for other people and accepting early help from services that understand what they need is fast developing in Willenhall.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

We want to go further and create many more confident communities working on what matters to them, with stronger co-production practice. We believe that radically shifting power will create a stronger and more resilient web of help and support.

We will continue our partnership with Central England Law Centre, shifting how public services work with the hardest hit communities.

Coventry Youth Activists will challenge the barriers faced by young disabled people – galvanising their response as a campaigns group. Each year it will run two major campaigns and multiple small actions.

Warwickshire Empowerment Service will enable disabled people to co-produce services. It will help them voice issues that affect them and bring people-led change to their communities.

## Part 3: NOTHING WITHOUT YOU

#### **HOW WE GREW OUR WINGS**

2019 was no ordinary year. It was our 25th one helping people in Coventry and Warwickshire.

#### 1994

Back in October 1994 we opened our doors as a drop in centre. Led by people with learning disabilities, it was ahead of its time. The mission was simple: take charge of your life and be a full part of your community. Instead of experiencing rejection they experienced being lifted up. Speaking Up groups sprang up to give everyone a voice in the issues that mattered to them.

We continued that way until 2002.





#### 2002 to 2008

We also began helping people through an approach we simply called Connecting People. The power of relationships has been at the heart of our mission ever since. Thousands of times we've witnessed how far people will go for those they care about.

We broadened our remit to include disabled children and young people. Tackling negative attitudes and creating friendships across the disability divide won us Coventry's first Community Cohesion award (2010). Eleven years on we have our 11th cohort of young people building independence, confidence and friendships.

#### 2009 to 2015

We turbo charged our work shifting power in the social care system. Person Centred Planning gathered momentum with comprehensive work around direct payments and personal budgets.





Learning disabled people had shown us how friendship, hope and the ability to shape your own life can help anyone. Now we began sharing that gift with all kinds of people facing tough times, whatever labels or diagnosis they were given. In doing so we became a charity for all groups of people in Coventry and Warwickshire.

#### 2016 to present

We became even more ambitious about changing the system people live in. Centre stage has been Ignite, a £1.5 million systemic shift programme delivered in partnership with Central England Law Centre. Ignite is helping public services and communities act earlier on the root causes of people's problems.

We've kept on innovating. Walks and Talks, Ideas Factories and now Collaboration Stations have provided spaces and relationships for change inside systems.

We added movement building to the creative mix. Three movements, against isolation and for connectedness, are getting over 4,000 people to take action.

Our work has become an acclaimed example of how people and communities can meet each other's needs through two-way flows of support that solve problems for good.



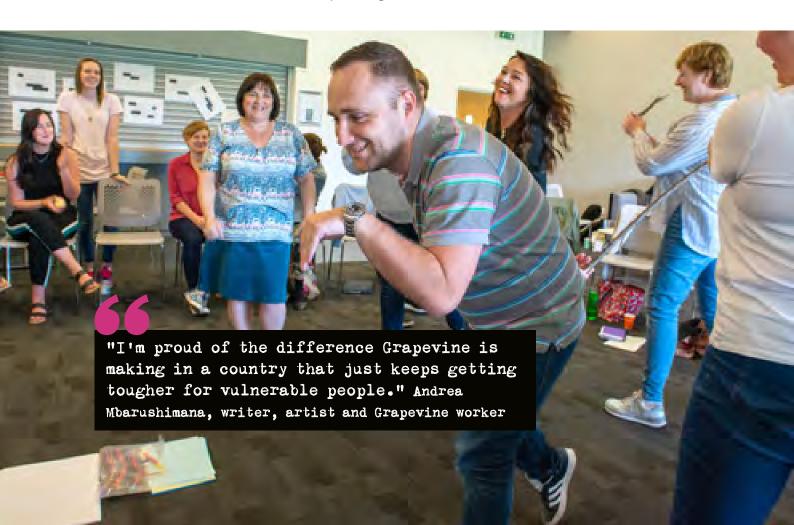
### **The Team**

Grapevine's power comes from the skilled and passionate people who live and breathe our mission everyday. We believe deeply in them, and in the process of nurturing and unlocking their talents. They bring brilliance to our work.

- 1. Adam Hives
- 2. Alex Rigler
- 3. Andrea Mbarushimana
- 4. Ben Steventon
- 5. Cathy Allen
- 6. Chloe Andrew
- 7. Claire Hobson
- 8. Clare Wightman
- 9. Coleman Kerr
- 10. Danielle Breslin

- 11. Danny Parrott
- 12. Dom Taylor
- 13. Gemma Musgreaves
- 14. Georgina Bradley
- 15. Helena Bagg
- 16. Jen Cooke
- 17. Joanne Tasker
- 18. Kirsty Baxter
- 19. Kitty Wright
- 20. Kyla Craig

- 21. Laura Thompson
- 22. Louise Watts
- 23. Mel Smith
- 24. Melissa Smith
- 25. Michelle Reid
- 26. Molly Gillespie
- 27. Naomi Madden
- 28. Samantha Collins
- 29. Sophie Greener



# Doing better: things we want to learn more about

Nobody gets it right all the time. Here's a selection of things we want to get better at. If you can help, get in touch.

How do we all make sure disability is authentically and proportionally represented in social change making? Disabled people care about climate change too!

How do other organisations develop young people as leaders?

How do we have better conversations with those people whose 'vulnerabilities' are newer to us?

How can the voluntary sector and public sector commissioning work differently together?

### Thank you

#### We thank and celebrate...

...everyone who has ever crossed our doorstep for help. You gave as much as you got ...everyone in Coventry and Warwickshire who ever said 'Yes' to us when 'No' would have been easier. You are too many to mention by name ...all Grapevine's trustees, staff members and volunteers since 1994 ...Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council ...everyone else who has funded Grapevine. Lloyds Bank Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, BBC Children In Need, Comic Relief, National Lottery Community Fund, DCMS, Early Action Funders Alliance, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Henry Smith Charitable Trust and many others ...all our partners and supporters, there are so many of you from so many different times, places and sectors.

Coventry and Warwickshire Co-

Act Build Change and Stephanie Leonard Alan Van Wijgerden Dr Archana (Archie) Anandaram, Clinical Fellow in Learning Disabilities CWPT Andrew Marsh Backhaus and Co., Fargo Village Coventry BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Bell Green Library Coventry The Business Improvement District team, Coventry, Trish Willetts and Richard Walls CAFAG, One Voice and Kellie Iones The late Carl Poll Changamiri Coffee shop CoLab Dudley Central England Law Centre, Sue Bent and Karen Ashton. Coventry and Warwickshire's clinical commissioning groups

operative Development Agency and Cathy Allen Coventry Building Society Coventry City of Culture Trust Coventry College Coventry MIND Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Coventry Sports Foundation Coventry University Social Enterprise Unit The Dice Box Board Game Cafe, Leamington Drapers Coffee Shop Coventry Food For All, Coventry Geek.Zone The H Team - Billy Bates, John McGowan, Tracy Inott, Rachel Lord, Tina Bombroffe, Martin Hancox and Carl Warwick Henry Iles designer

Herbert Art Gallery Coventry Hereward College Coventry and Warwickshire **Imagineer Productions** Coventry Jane Coates, Warwickshire County Council Jane Moffat, Coventry City Council Jayne Heavey at Riverbank Academy School Coventry JJs night club Coventry Jo Orchard Webb, Independent Social Research Scientist FRGS, Joe Roberson, Tech for Good Consultancy John Whitmore, photographer Jonathan Hunt, European City of Sport 2019 Karen Mogan, University Hospitals Coventry and

Warwickshire

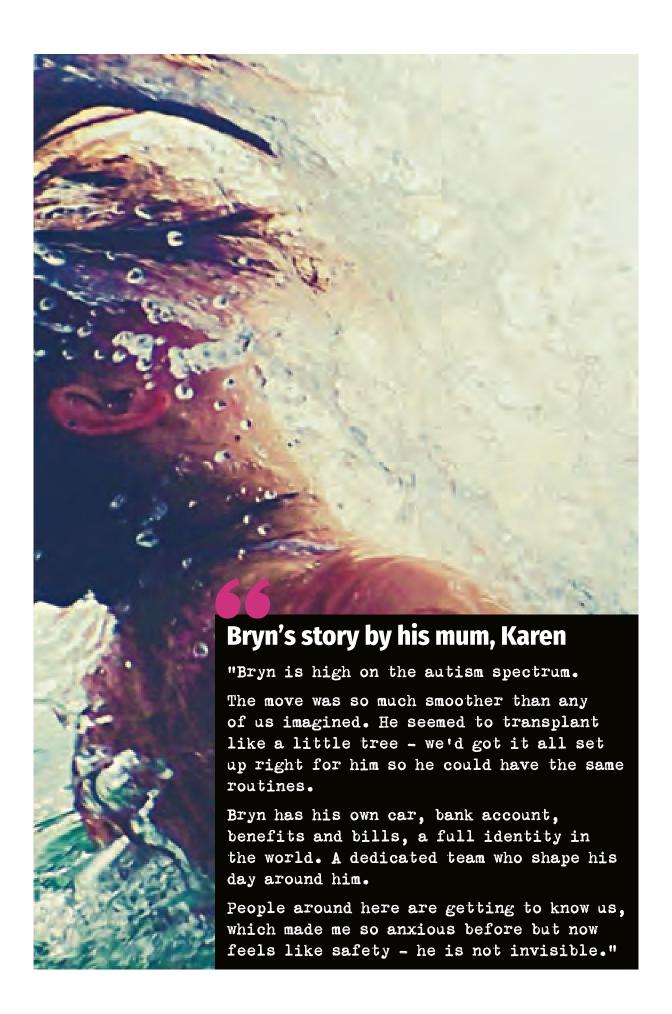


Kevin Elliott, NHS England, Transforming Care Team Livingwell Health club Coventry Media Mania Coventry Meena Bharadwa Development Manager, Locality Michelle Cresswell, Clinical Transformation Lead, Quality and Nursing Team, NHS Coventry and Rugby & Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning Groups MySafehomes Oasis Community Cafe Coventry The Patel Family

Positive Youth Foundation
Radio Plus
Re:valuation: Andrew Darnton
and Andrew Harrison
Redcorner Gym Coventry
Rethink Theatre Coventry
Richard Hayhow, Open Theatre
Company Coventry
St Mary's Lodge mental health
service in Leamington
Sydni Centre in Leamington
Sustrans, Chloe Booth and
Daryl Colborn
Associate Prof Tara Mulqueen
Warwick University Law

Department

Tin Music and Arts Coventry Theatre Absolute Coventry Tom Kohler, Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy, Georgia, USA Valley House, Coventry Vicky Sandy-Davis, Senior lecturer in Learning Disability Nursing at Coventry University Warwick Road Church and Centre Coventry Warwickshire College Woodside Family Hub, Coventry The Yard bar and café Coventry



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## GRAPEVINE STRATEGY

2019-21

A 3 YEAR PLAN TO HELP PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES USE THEIR UNTAPPED POWER TO CREATE BETTER FUTURES

### **POVERTY** and **AUSTERITY** need a stronger response





#### **LOCALITIES THRIVE** when:

- they think more as a whole
- local citizens have the skills and confidence to act on what they care about
- communities collaborate together to design public services fit for purpose.

#### SPARKING ACTION and SHIFTING POWER



#### **HELP PEOPLE UNCOVER THEIR POTENTIAL**

We will listen to and trust them, support their strengths and skills, and champion the value they can bring to our shared challenges.



#### **HELP COMMUNITIES GET STRONGER**

We will open up prospects, develop support networks, and help them take charge of delivering their vision for their place.



#### **EXPERIMENT WITH NEW SERVICE MODELS**

Experiment with new service models as public services lose traditional roles.

#### **THREE ACTION STRANDS for 2019-21**



#### SPARKING COMMUNITY ACTION

- > Tackle isolation and loneliness with 4100 people
- Help them self-organise and lead their own solutions
- > Become a Social Action Hub.



#### STRENGTHENING PEOPLE

- Uncover 2100 people's talents and passions
- Create natural networks of community support
- > Help people take charge.



#### SHIFTING POWER

- > Help people voice issues
- Shift how services work with hard hit communities
- Work in partnership with people, groups and activists.















