

# PETROC

## Innovation for Youth and Community

PROJECT SUMMARY



HM Government



COMMUNITY  
RENEWAL FUND  
**PETROC**

## Introduction

The UK Community Renewal Fund, *Innovation for Youth and Community (IYC)* project, in which Devon County Council (DCC) is the local lead authority, is a project that was led by Petroc and took place in 2022.

Petroc worked in partnership with a range of organisations and stakeholders, with the activity being delivered across the whole of the DCC area, including North Devon, Torridge, Mid Devon, East Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge, Exeter and West Devon.

The partnership work focused on supporting a rapid mobilisation of our programme of innovation and piloting new activity. Partner relationships were managed through key contacts and there was a great benefit from bringing operational staff together and ensuring direct communication. The partners co-designed and delivered new activity that identified and addressed barriers, raised aspirations and developed skills. This innovative process has enabled the sharing of best practice.

The activity involved working with a range of participants, including:

- Young People aged 19-24 years old who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET
- People in care or leaving care,
- People who face wider barriers to work or learning
- People living in rural, coastal and urban communities with significant and ongoing challenges around unemployment, educational attainment, health disparities, or other factors of deprivation
- Communities facing additional economic pressure from COVID, business in tourism, hospitality and leisure sectors
- People over 50, particularly those lacking lower-level transferrable skills

The project has seven strands of interlinked activity designed to address the needs of young people who are NEETs and disadvantaged adults. This collaborative and innovative learning process involving all the partners, was designed to generate lessons to be learnt and recommendations for new and improved services and provision for young people and unemployed adults. The project was able to produce the following:

## Strand 1

### Employability Grants Devon

A framework for delivering an effective delegated grants scheme for Devon – and potentially beyond.

[Click here for more details.](#)



Strand 1

## Strand 2

### Best practice model for Facilitating Youth Social Action, Volunteering and Work Placements in Rural Areas

Community engagement to build on positive outcomes from the pandemic and develop new volunteering, social action and work experience opportunities for young people.

[Click here to access the document.](#)



Strand 2

## Strand 3

### Adult Success Coach Pilot Project

A best practice model of providing coaching to unemployed adults and disadvantaged adults to return to employment or learning.

[Click here to access the document.](#)



Strand 3

## Strand 4

### Developing the Involvement of Young People in the Management of Projects and Initiatives

A best practice model for involving hard-to-reach beneficiaries in the management of support services and provision which supports them.

[Click here to access the document.](#)



## Strand 5

### Needs of Rural Young People and Accessibility of Youth Support Services

A suite of new data and intelligence to develop a better baseline understanding of geographical hotspots, the definition of 'rural' and accessibility of urban services.

[Click here to access the document.](#)



## Strand 6

### Youth Workers Navigating Support Services

A suite of data and intelligence regarding challenges around accessibility of support services for young people to help youth workers navigate these services effectively.

[Click here to access the document.](#)



## Strand 7

### In-Work Support

A best practice model of providing in-work support to those who have been unemployed or economically inactive to improve their ability to sustain employment.

[Click here to access the document.](#)



Due to COVID, contact and communication with partners predominately used online engagement throughout 2022.

It is important to highlight that this research has been completed following two years of COVID 19 disruption. The pandemic has affected people and businesses in various ways. Some people have been isolated even further thus affecting their confidence and motivation as well as their mental health. With digital communication being the preferred option for some others over face-to-face interactions, this had major implications - especially for people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD). Concerns about safe environments and health and safety regulations have been a priority for many. Some, especially those with additional needs, are still concerned about the health implications of the pandemic and will prioritise safe environments. These not only refer to matters of physical health, but also relate to supportive environments where individuals' needs and abilities are understood. Businesses were similarly affected by the pandemic.

For these reasons, organisations faced many challenges when offering support to their clients. Many businesses, SMEs in particular, were faced with uncertainty related to the current economic and political situation and the uncertainties generated (increase in prices, energy crisis and staff shortages). As a result, most of them were anxious about the prospect of employing new staff and expanding their teams. Others were conscious of staffing and skills shortages and therefore their attitudes swung more towards supporting individuals remaining in posts.



Petroc used a mixed methodology for each strand of activity. This included participants and organisations collecting data via paperwork completed by the partners and grant recipients.

Regular meetings were held throughout the lifecycle of the project with all partners to discuss and share their findings, which Devon Communities Together and Petroc synthesised into guides designed to help other individuals and organisations working with young people and unemployed adults.

These documents serve as guides to help organisations and businesses develop ways of support adjusted to their needs and of those they work with. The recommendations and best practice models shared here are intended to aid individuals to be better equipped to access and maintain employment, education or training.

These models will have a lasting legacy and we hope that they will be used widely to support individuals and influence change in our communities and beyond.

## Glossary

Term	Definition
CRF	The UK Community Renewal Fund is a UK Government programme for 2021/22. This aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK, to pilot programmes and new approaches to build community resilience and prepare for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It invests in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people into employment.
DBS Check	Disclosure and Barring Service: A check of an individual's criminal record, and by extension their suitability for working with children and/or vulnerable adults.
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan. Young people with SEND between the ages of 4-25 years have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which is a legal document that outlines the level of support they need whilst within education and their transition into employment.
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises

SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SENDIASS	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Services
LLD	Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
Neurodivergent	Differing in mental or neurological function
Access to Work Scheme	It is a fund accessible to those who have an EHCP and transitioning out of education to help them access the appropriate support or placement. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work">https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work</a>
Placement	Usually an unpaid, temporary or a one-off commitment. Can include paid work, volunteering and group activity sessions
Placement Provider	A business or individual that offers a work placement, also called 'employer'. This can also be an organisation (charity or community group).
Support service/Service Provider	Organisation or business that offers a key service to individuals. For example, those that offer housing or financial advice, or Jobcentre Plus. Also includes health and social care and education providers.
Young People/ Young Person	Those living in Devon aged between 19 and 24
(Youth) Support Worker	A key individual in a (young) person's life (in an official capacity) such as a mentor or support worker
Careers South West (CSW)	Not-for-profit organisation contracted by the Local Authorities of Devon County Council, Cornwall Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Somerset County Council to assist them in meeting their Statutory Duties under the Education and Skills Act 2008. CSW supports businesses, young people and adults through key transition points. <a href="https://cswgroup.co.uk/">https://cswgroup.co.uk/</a>





# PETROC