

West Windsor Hub Report to All Saints' Dedworth ACPM, May 2021

West Windsor Hub began in response to the need for social isolation imposed by the Covid pandemic, hosted by All Saints' Dedworth and with the support of local shops, businesses and RBWM. During the periods of lockdown and restrictive Covid precautions set by the Government, it has provided a shopping delivery service, a prescription collection and delivery service and phone buddies for anyone living in Dedworth or Clewer. WWH is very proud to have been nominated for the High Sherriff of Berkshire's award and to have been chosen as one of the three finalists.

WWH currently operates with a small core of 16 committed and capable volunteers who undertake the tasks of call taking, shopping, delivering and hub working. All these volunteers are DBS checked. WWH has progressed to work with a network of local charities and the RBWM to address the needs of those in the community who are facing food poverty. It refers clients to FoodShare, Baby Bank, Driven Forward and the Windsor Homeless Project. The charities work together to identify emerging needs and to meet them in various ways.

Since its formation, grants totalling £12,500 have been granted to enable WWH to carry out its mission to support those in need. It has become necessary for to apply to the Charity Commissioners for Registered Charity status. Our most recent large-scale funding was the Government's Winter Support Fund via RBWM. This was specifically to cover 1st December 2020 to 31st March 2021 and had to be spent by the end of March. Much of it was earmarked for fuel payment support and the rest was used it to provide 'snack packs' to augment food supplies during periods of home-schooling, school uniform fleeces and tracksuit bottoms and cosy packs for some vulnerable elderly clients.

Community support as well as financial support has been great. We were magnificently supported by the community over the Christmas period following a series of burglaries at All Saint's when stores for Christmas treats were stolen. Money and food were donated, re-donated and extra help given in response.

WWH is hosted by All Saints' Dedworth and thanks go to the PCC and congregation for providing premises. Our operation will soon be moving into the Porch in the courtyard at All Saints', with its own purpose-built storage facility. This will enable the church to resume 'new normal' activities and the congregation to spill into the Prayer Room when social distancing needs demand.

The future is unknown. The Covid pandemic is likely to have long-term economic effects. WWH is in the early stages of developing a counselling service to signpost those in need to organisations and services offering support which they would find helpful and to which they are entitled. In this work, it is led by the RBWM Community Embedment and Engagement project. Such help may include guidance with form filling, making applications for state benefits, signposting to job clubs and debt counselling, in conjunction with Kerith church and Christians Against Poverty. WWH hopes to support the community in the most appropriate ways it can.