



Building Better Life Chances through supporting volunteering and social action

Case Study

Cheshire West and Chester's Shared Prosperity Investment Plan aimed to support projects which would build better life chances particularly for deprived communities or groups or for people known to be a risk due to the cost-of-living crisis such as disabled people.

The Council held two fully open application calls, with projects wanting to establish or extend volunteer projects helping some of our most vulnerable residents prioritised.

Projects which sought to try out new ways of working which would make them more resilient and sustainable were particularly welcomed.



Dial West Cheshire secured £49,520 from Cheshire West and Chester Council's Shared Prosperity Funding until March 2025 to deliver **Mentor and Grow**, a peer mentoring project, training volunteers with lived experience of Autism to provide support for the wider Autistic community.

We aim to build capacity and resilience for the Autistic community by recruiting and training volunteers with lived experience of Autism to undertake a wide range of interventions that help Autistic adults to meet their personal goals and develop a positive autistic identity.

Our volunteers create a welcoming atmosphere at the Autism Hub's Pop in and Chat sessions, field enquiries, and provide information, advice and sign posting around issues that impact the autistic community. Some volunteers have also been trained to provide one to one interventions, supporting individuals to meet their goals and grow their circle of support.

Between January and August 2024, the Autism Hub supported 200 people.

