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**Who are we?**

The Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) is a well-established partnership of Community Resource (previously known as Shropshire RCC), Qube, Energize, and Shropshire Youth Association. Collectively we have been delivering infrastructure support to the voluntary sector in Shropshire for more than 20 years.

Our aims are to:

* Improve the lives of people living and working in Shropshire
* Support and encourage community-led action and strong local governance
* Strengthen the long-term sustainability of local community life

Together we offer services to build a well-informed, vibrant and sustainable voluntary and community sector, equipped to address local needs whilst also able to benefit from funding, campaigns and initiatives at both local and national level.

The covid pandemic has highlighted voluntary activity and its importance to communities, and local support has never been more needed than in recent times. We have been working throughout the pandemic with embryonic and established local groups across Shropshire to help them operate successfully and meet local need.

**How can we support you?**

The SIP Voluntary & Community Support Team offers free advice, guidance and support to local charitable groups and organisations.

Whether you are thinking of setting up a community group, a fairly new group or organisation, or have been established for many years, we can support you with the following:

**Advice and Guidance**

* Governance, legal structure and decision making
* Compliance and sustainability
* Policy and Policy Development
* Good Practice in Volunteer Recruitment and Management
* Gaining charity commission accreditation
* Financial Management
* Roles & responsibilities of trustee and committee members.
* Buildings and Assets
* Annual Reporting

**Training**

We have a programme of commissioned and accredited training online and in person to support your group, organisation or volunteer needs and drive community leadership and social action.

**Grant and Funding Promotion**

* Grant and Funding advice
* Finding funding opportunities
* Support & guidance with writing a funding application
* Access to small grant awards.
* Meeting funder reporting requirements

**Volunteer Brokerage**

We also provide free volunteer brokerage services placing local, trained volunteers into community groups and organisations, to facilitate positive volunteering experiences with the most impact. We aim to promote best practice in all areas of volunteer management, ensure choice and opportunity for people wishing to volunteer and contribute positively through enabling an environment in which volunteering flourishes.

**Meet the team**

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| **Allison Richardson**  Team Manager (all of Shropshire)  [Allison.richardson@community-resource.org.uk](mailto:Allison.richardson@community-resource.org.uk) |
| Alli has worked in the voluntary sector for 13 years, previously worked for BT for over 20 years. She started in the voluntary sector at Shropshire RCC now ‘Community Resource’ as the Preventative Services Development Officer. Alli then went on to set up and manage the regional ‘My Sighted Guide Service’ at Guide Dogs in the North-West region. Alli has now returned to Community Resource to set up and manage the new Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership team.  Alli has a passion for supporting the voluntary community sector in Shropshire, which she also lives in. Through her previous roles, she is very much aware of how communities in Shropshire support each other and help change lives.  Alli also enjoys living in the country, where she has several chickens, a retired Guide Dog called Farley and a horse called Chubbaka AKA Chubby! Alli also loves getting away in her caravan at weekends and exploring Britain’s beautiful coastlines. |
| **Duncan Spilsbury**  Volunteer Engagement Officer (Central & South Shropshire) [Duncan.spilsbury@community-resource.org.uk](mailto:Duncan.spilsbury@community-resource.org.uk) |
| Duncan has been involved in community development and regeneration throughout his working career. He has worked around the UK in both the public and private sectors.  He is passionate about the role volunteers can play in their local communities, during the pandemic he was a volunteer at the Shrewsbury Bowls Vaccination Centre where, as a Team Leader he experienced first-hand the important and compassionate work volunteers undertake. He is keen to build on this work and to harness the enthusiasm of volunteers across the county.    Duncan enjoys sport particularly rugby and football and is a season ticket holder at Wolverhampton Wanderers, if you can’t find him there he may well be at the cinema enjoying the latest releases. |
| **Eden Ihle-Vance**  Volunteer Engagement Officer (North Shropshire)  [E.ihle-vance@qube-oca.org.uk](mailto:E.ihle-vance@qube-oca.org.uk) |
| Eden has worked in International Development, Education and Charities for the past 10 years and supported and onboarded hundreds of youth volunteers and trained professionals into volunteer placements across Africa and Asia.  Eden grew up and worked in London and across the South East. She has also volunteered extensively in Namibia, Kenya and Sierra Leone. Eden now lives with her young family in Shropshire where she set up The Marches first Careers Hub for schools and colleges across Shropshire, Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin, elevating good practice in careers education for young people.  She is really passionate about community action, harnessing the energy of volunteers to deliver meaningful projects.  Eden is also a ceramicist, printmaker and mural artist and enjoys spending time with her family at weekends and rambling in the Shropshire hills. |
| **Carole Moreton**  Funding & Grants Officer (all of Shropshire)  [Carole.moreton@community-resource.org.uk](mailto:Carole.moreton@community-resource.org.uk) |
| ImageCarole has worked in the charity sector for 12 years, and before that held several administrative posts within training and education, private business and the NHS. In a varied career, she has worked in garment manufacture, notably with Courtaulds and Laura Ashley. She has owned a village post office and stores with her husband, run a greeting card franchise and an art studio and alongside her work in the charity sector has a part-time bespoke cake design business which she operates from her home studio in Myddlewood.  Carole is passionate about supporting people who are disadvantaged in some way and is very keen to help communities become strong and resilient.  In her spare time, Carole loves to be creative with painting, crafts and sewing, is a keen reader, loves film and is a huge fan of musical theatre. |

**Contact us**

If you are interested in volunteering, or are a group or charity looking for volunteers, advice and guidance or training, please get in touch with the team - we look forward to hearing from you.

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