



Hi All,

I am very sorry I am not able to attend your meeting in person. I am a Village Agent for CCS and cover the Glastonbury, Wells and surrounding villages. I have done a quick overview of CCS and what we do below.

What do we do?

CCS (Community Council for Somerset) is a leading local charity that started in 1926 and works in the heart of Somerset's communities to inspire and enable positive change.

Through our wide network of passionate local experts and our diverse projects, consultancy and funding, we bring the right people and services together to improve the lives of individuals, building community capacity and support amongst emerging and existing enterprises right across the county – helping Somerset to thrive.

We receive funding direct from County as well as putting in for various large charity grants such as the Lottery. We also ask for our own smaller pots of funding from local companies that we can use in our own areas. For example, we have a local giving page for Mendip agents:

<https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/project/mendipcrisisfund/>

We have crisis grants for individuals, families or the CEV in our community. Or we ask other charities for help such as the Rotary Club, Armed forces charities etc if they fit the criteria. Or pop into supermarkets and ask for donations!

The CCS 'Army' of Agents

CCS Village and Community Agents provide confidential, practical community-based solutions for people, wherever they are in Somerset. CCS Agents support people to:

- Be healthy and well
- Be able to manage their affairs
- Stay independent and safe
- Be part of a strong and thriving community

Some examples of what these grants have been used for recently:

- To buy 2 mattress protectors for a carer who was supporting their loved one with night time incontinence
- To buy children's clothes for a family who had recently lost Dad to cancer
- To buy half a tank of oil for a lady with a chronic health condition who was struggling to heat her home
- Paying to PAT test and move a donated Fridge Freezer to a family in need
- To buy a washing machine for a carer who is struggling to keep up with washing demands

Community Agents

Community Agents work with people following a referral from Adult Social Care. **They cannot be contacted directly without a referral.**

- They offer free, confidential practical support and refer or signpost to relevant agencies and service providers
- They explore a holistic range of solutions and support for people and develop a package to help the individual
- They can find, apply for and secure grant funds for individuals to help meet a wide range of issues

Cancer Support Agent

Are you or your family affected by cancer? If you are living with cancer in the South Somerset and Mendip area our Cancer Support Agent is here to help.

They can help you access practical, financial and emotional support within your local community, tailored to when you and your family need it.

Examples of how the Cancer Support Agent can help are with:

- Transport
- Benefits guidance
- Practical help
- Emotional support

They can also put you in touch with a team of dedicated volunteers who offer help with practical household tasks and someone to talk to.

Contact Mel Rose | melanie@somersettrcc.org.uk | 07958415345

Homefirst Agents

Our Homefirst Agents can support you or a loved one's transition home from hospital.

- From health and housing to finance and transport – advice and support is here for you
- NHS staff who would like to discuss discharge options & support available for their patients are welcome to contact their local Homefirst Agent
- Help deliver a package of care for you or your loved one as you leave hospital

Talking Cafés

Free help and advice every Wednesday at 1pm – LIVE on Facebook

Talking Cafés are a great support if you are looking for help and advice for staying safe, information about important services such as housing, finance, adult social care and children's services.

<https://www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/>

Our in person talking cafe's are now also back up and running in the following locations.

<https://www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/events/>

- Bridgwater: The Hub @ Angel Place Every Thursday 11am – 1pm
- Minehead: The Beach Hotel Every Monday* 10am – 12noon
- South Petherton: South Petherton Library Every Friday 10am – 12 noon
- Taunton: Great Western Hotel, Station Approach Every Monday* 10am - 12 noon
- Williton: Williton Pavilion, Killick Way Every Tuesday 1pm – 3pm

***Please note, Talking Café's will not run if it's a Bank Holiday**

In Mendip all talking cafe's are run by Health connections, for the west of Mendip these are at the following locations.

- Wells - Bishop's palace cafe Thursday 10-12
- Glastonbury – St John's church Monday 10-12
- Street – Fondo lounge Wednesday 10-12

CCS is contracted by Somerset County Council to run the [Somerset Carers](#) service. There are over 60,000 unpaid Carers in Somerset. If you regularly look after someone in an unpaid capacity, Somerset Carers can support you with advice and guidance.

The person you care for maybe your partner, parent, child, friend or Neighbour – **we are here to support you, the Carer**, if you are over 18 years old, no matter how formal or informal your caring arrangement. We are in the process of setting up a Carers Hub on our website where carers can access training materials, support groups and download resources or video tutorials. This will mean all information will be in one central place for carers to access at any time.

If you are a Carer, and would like to chat about how [Somerset Carers](#) can support you, please do get in touch via our freephone Carers Advice line 0800 31 68 600 or text CARER to 78070 or visit: www.somersetcarers.org

Food Resilience

As part of the Somerset Food Resilience Taskforce, CCS and [Somerset County Council](#) have been working together to increase food security for residents in Somerset.

This project is coming to an end at the end of March but there is still funding available to help any community group who are offering a food program, it is designed to help food resilience groups to remain sustainable for the future the grants are upto £2000, any questions or to apply please contact Jinny Uppington on jinny@somersetccc.org.uk

Health Connectors

I use the Health Connectors website for finding out what is going on in the local area and they have a directory for every aspect of health and wellbeing. It is always kept up to date and we work very closely with them in the Mendip area. You can refer clients to them as well:

<https://healthconnections-mendip.org/>

If there are any questions or you feel I may be able to help yourself or someone you know in the community please feel free to give me a call on 07494883541 or alternatively we have an online referral system which can be found here ccslovesomerset.org and then click “request and agent call back”

Many Thanks

Bella Lapwood (CCS Village Agent)

