

it attracted few participants, even though money management is so important to prevent debt.

2017 Who is there to help? Was an online database developed by DPA where data collected about local caring organisations was disseminated. After several years this information was passed to Jon Sloper, a website developer, to be incorporated into 'Help and Kindness' a new county-wide website

Grant making – throughout DPA's history grant making has been at the core of the organisation. In 1995, £1446 was given in grants, but by 2017 this was £7,625 to 122 families and individuals. Reflecting the rising costs in the last financial year (2022-23) DPA distributed £62,000, including 208 grants to local families and individuals.

Open meetings — to update local people on issues of poverty and potential solutions.

DPA is run totally by volunteers for the benefit of those in DT1 and DT2. Last year expenses were only £859 in a turnover of about £62,000.

Volunteers are the life blood managing the grants, setting up new services, fundraising, and administration. Huge numbers of volunteers have supported the charity over its 30 year history. Without them none of this



Reg Ch No 1198452

History of Dorchester Poverty Action 1989 — today

November 2023

1989 Conference - "Poverty in Dorchester?"

organised by Churches Together in Dorchester held at United Church Dorchester and chaired by their minister Rev Barrie Snook. The conclusion was that there was poverty in Dorchester, so a committee was set up!

The committee was chaired by Canon David Letcher of St Georges and from 1991 by Margaret Barker.

Margaret and Lorraine Brown from the Quaker Meeting put together the aims, which led to the DPAG constitution. First trustees were Margaret Barker, Jill Tibbits, Hilary Roberts, Rev David Sim and Howard O'Bone secretary. There were also representatives from local churches, several of whom are still involved.

1992 DPA Group registered as a charity. More recently renamed Dorchester Poverty Action

1993 – DPA set up Second Chance Furniture

in Weymouth, the first furniture recycling scheme in Dorset. With Margaret Barker as chair, it was launched as a separate charity with a paid manager and large volunteer work force. It served the local population until 2018.

1994 – Initiated meal tickets for the homeless

which could be exchanged for a meal at the Top 'o Town café. In 2007 this service was taken over by The Hub

1997 First Dorset Credit Union initiated by DPA with Hugh de long and John Hilton putting together the large amount of paperwork necessary with David Hulme, Eric Austen and Joy and Brian Parkhurst becoming key players. Once recognised as a Credit Union, it has gone from strength to strength, with mergers along the way and is now part of the Great Western Credit Union.

2000 Purchase of £10 Coop vouchers for distribution by local helping agencies to those most in need around Christmas. Originally £2,000 in 2000 there are now 3 distributions a year to 15 agencies, last year totalling £12,000.

2002 The Hub a centre for the Homeless was opened first at the Salvation Army Hall and then in 2005 at its own premises by the West Station. Margaret Barker chaired and launched it as an independent charity. In 2009 a Housing Association took over the running of the service and a separate charity "Friends of the Hub" was set up to support the initiative. In 2018 when the contract was lost "The Friends" was wound up and the monies passed to DPA to support local homeless people.

2009 Made of Money a teaching scheme for money management for individuals was launched. Lee Rhodes, Wendy Hilton and Nikki Singleton trained and ran sessions for local people. However after 2 years this was stopped, as