



Social Value Report November/December 2022

Local Recruitment

Vecteo has recognized that it should employ its staff in the local area and that the staff should reflect the diversity of the local communities that it serves.

We firmly believe in local jobs for local people and recognize how local employment feeds into the local economy

To achieve this, we have

- Recruited our employees locally through the job site Indeed and mixture of local posters on vehicles, social media, local shopping areas and through word of mouth from existing staff
- We have proactively looked and employed where it is possible to do so employees with disabilities, as an example we currently have four employees with various levels of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and one who is an amputee
- Where work is tendered out to other operators, preference is given to local companies to ensure that those employed by these companies is also kept local.

Supporting Local Groups and Charities

At Vecteo we believe that we are not just here to deliver and service a contract, we feel it is our duty to help and support within the local community and deliver transport services where we can, helping groups and charities within the local communities.

On occasions we have managed to offer support and vehicles free of charge and where we can do this we will, this can often be achieved by utilizing available staff and vehicles at a time when they might be available, our staff are committed to this ethos and on occasions especially for charities they donate their time free to enable us to give this much needed support.

We are aware that we are a business that has to offer best value to both SCC (Southend City Council) and the communities we serve so sometimes we may have to make a small charge to help support some groups and charities, this is normally to cover any fuel costs and possibly some staff costs depending on what is being asked for, however it still supports the groups and charities as they are able to minimize spend on transport that may otherwise have cost them more enabling them to get more services for their available funds.

Recently we have supported

- SCC, when they required transport to distribute electric blankets and slow cookers out to Charities and support groups within the City

- We have provided a number of Private hires booked out to local schools at competitive rates, one was for Fairways School to the Olympic village.
- We have begun to raise funds for a member of our vecteo team who has been selected to play football for the GB team in this year's SEND Olympic games in Berlin. He is amongst five local & Essex people to represent the GB at the games in Berlin and they need to raise £2,500 each to enable them to get out to the games
- We have started a Vecteo public page on Facebook and off of this we have two private groups one for staff (Vecteo teams) and one for parents of those children we carry on our services (Vecteo Family) this is designed to improve communications, gain feedback and to be better involved with the community we serve, this is proving to be a great way to provide information and keep in touch with the community

SCC.

Vecteo are actively seeking opportunities where we can help SCC get better value from the contract.

- As mentioned above we provided a vehicle and driver free of charge to help distribute Slow cookers and electric blankets
- We provided free transport for Kingsdown school to help get the Children to their Christingle service and then back to the school.
- We allowed the use of a vecteo vehicle by one of our drivers that also works at Kingsdown in the day as an LSA, (Learning Support Assistant) they had booked a trip out and did not have an available vehicle and were going to have to cancel the trip, by allowing the use of the Vecteo vehicle the trip was able to take place.
- We assisted in the moving of residents from a local rest home that closed in December, we were asked to help by SCC and by carefully using our resources were able to keep cost low and even helped move their belongings with them.
- We have attended a working group on Community transport to better understand the transport needs of local Charities and community groups and how Vecteo can help to support their needs
- We have held a meeting with Garon Park Community Interests Company & Wellness center GP about their community transport needs and have already agreed to take adult students from SACC (Southend Adult Community Collage) to the center twice a week so that they can use their facilities. We have been able to do this free of charge given the availability of a vehicle and driver and SACC and Garon Park being able to arrange the transport requirement around the availability of our team.
- We are also in talks with Garon Park CIC, Wellness center GP and welcome to the UK Charity about local transport needs for refugees in the area to better understand their needs and how we can help.

- We have arranged to collect files from the Allen Cole Centre as and when required and deliver them securely to the post room at the Civic Centre as and when required – We are able to do this free of charge on a Tuesday or Friday as we are already in that area with a vehicle for Libraries.
- We are actively attending various events such as local meetings, Coffee Mornings, Open days with local SEND groups, Charities and forums to better understand families and carers difficulties to enable us to meet and manage expectations, promoting a better working relationship between these groups Vecteo and SCC.
- We were able to gift a number of toys (provided to us by Rochford Council) to some families facing hardship that attend Kingsdown school.