

## Monitoring Report 2024/25

Outcome 1	Outputs & Commitment	Measurement/Supporting evidence provided
<b>Community and voluntary groups can access appropriate support and guidance enabling them to strengthen their governance, financial/organisational sustainability and volunteering practice.</b>	Information, advice and support delivered to community and voluntary groups in the Borough, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>new trustees identified,</li> <li>trustees supported to understand governance responsibilities,</li> <li>improve volunteer recruitment, retention and management practices.</li> </ul> New member organisations supported to achieve membership eligibility criteria.  A programme of information, development and networking opportunities is provided.	Data demonstrating the number of organisations and support provided.  Details of new member organisations.  Details and data of the events hosted by RVS.  Case studies to demonstrate variety depth and impact of support provided.

**Number of member organisations: 337**

	<i>April – September</i>	<i>October - March</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number of groups supported:	18		18
Number of new member organisations:	9		9

New members:

- Creative Response Arts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Odiham Scouts\*
- Families Supporting Care\*
- 1st Swallowfield Scouts\*
- Cancer Testing South\*
- Andy Mans Club
- Aldershot Underwood Bowling Club
- Camberley Nepalese Gurkha Society\*
- Goodness & Mercy Healthcare Ltd\*

\*Affiliate members are those who register to hire minibuses only, as required by our HCC CT contract.

**Case Study** – Following the change of management at Farnborough Food Bank, they requested that an RVS manager join their management board to support the good governance of the organisation. Our Community Development Manager has joined the Board for an initial period of one year. To date, the focus has been on reviewing their mission, vision and strategy which will need to be approved by the Trussell Trust.

**Voluntary Sector Fora** - Rushmoor Voluntary Services (RVS) holds a Voluntary Sector Forum (VSF) four times a year to give voluntary/community groups the opportunity to get together, share experiences and learn from one another. Presentations are given from a variety of voluntary and statutory organisations which provide valuable information and support. This enables the voluntary sector to keep abreast of any changes which might have an impact on their organisation. We provide the opportunity for local issues to be discussed and events to be promoted. Strong partnerships have been formed because of the Forum.

Our quarterly VSF are planned to respond to emerging issues and need. We have held two VSF so far, attracting over 68 delegates from 37 organisations.

**What's New?** – Motivated by the change in leadership at Rushmoor Borough Council, we took the opportunity to invite speakers to speak to changes which will impact, or create opportunities for, the VCSE sector in Rushmoor.

Mindful of the restrictions imposed by purdah, Gareth Williams, the new elected Leader of the Council introduced himself to the meeting. Gareth reminded the meeting of the priorities of the Rushmoor Labour Party and provided an overview of the Cabinet portfolios.

Martha Earley, Director for Partnerships & Communities explained about the recent restructure within NHS Frimley ICB following a national 30% cut to budgets. Martha provided an overview of the priorities and the local work undertaken in partnership with the VCSE sector at 'place' and introduced Jonathan Sly who is taking over as Director for Partnerships & Communities for North East Hants & Waverley Place.

Angela Wilson, an RVS Community Support Worker spoke about the new Blooming Minds green social prescribing project, ahead of the pilot programme planned for the summer. Angela also raised awareness of the plans for the Great Big Green Week 2024, initiated by members of the new Rushmoor Green Community forum.

Two new member organisations provided an overview on their organisations: The Whole Hub (providing education for children still on the school roll but not accessing school) and Tourettes Action.

The Fora also provide opportunities for networking and sharing key messages. ICB colleagues advised that only 6,000 of the 15,000 carers in our area are logged on GP systems as carers. Attendees were encouraged to support the people they are working with who have caring responsibilities to register with their GPs as they may be able to access additional support.

**Funding Support** – Mindful of the cuts in statutory funding and their impact on the valuable work undertaken by the VCSE sector, we invited speakers to introduce some funding opportunities which may be available to member organisations.

Mark Gittos of Vivid Homes gave an enlightening presentation on using Crowdfunding for projects and services. Many groups are nervous of using these mechanisms so we will follow this up by running a workshop to support people to plan and prepare Crowdfunding campaigns.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation provided some pointers on preparing strong applications and promoted two funds which were open to support work in Rushmoor.

Kath O'Rourke provided information on the grants which were available through Rushmoor Borough Council including the Pride in Place fund.

Outcome 2	Possible Outputs	Supporting Evidence Provided
<p><b>Increased funding secured for a wide range of voluntary and community sector organisations.</b></p>	<p>Information shared about a wide range of funding opportunities accessible to local groups.</p> <p>Access provided to national funding databases.</p> <p>Member organisations actively supported to submit bids.</p> <p>Fundraising activities supported with advice, resources and volunteers.</p>	<p>Data demonstrating the number of organisations supported.</p> <p>Details of funding achieved, where feasible.</p> <p>Feedback from funders showing increase in applications.</p> <p>Case studies to demonstrate variety, depth and impact of support provided.</p>

	<i>April – September</i>	<i>October - March</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number of groups supported with financial/fundraising:	39		39
Value of bids supported:	£797,233		£797,233

We share information with our members on the many grants, trusts and funds which are available to community groups. This is achieved through our bi-weekly newsletters, through direct e-mailshots to members, sharing funding bulletins, through access to searchable databases, also via our website - [Funding Help – Rushmoor Voluntary Services \(rvs.org.uk\)](http://Funding Help – Rushmoor Voluntary Services (rvs.org.uk)).

Due to the specific criteria of eligibility, the needs of the group and the increasing competition for monies, a number of bids may need to be submitted to different grant makers in order to achieve the funding required.

**Grants** – RVS have provided a grant to one local group so far this year. This was to support the social integration and engagement of diverse volunteers.

**Case Study** – During the two quarters we supported the preparation of funding bids for £797,233 and reported success of £356,766 so far (some bids are still pending). In addition to this, our CEO - representing the Rushmoor VCSE sector - sat on two panels which considered and granted funds amounting to an additional £120,346.00. The Frimley Integrated Care Board Innovation Fund was a collaboration with Hampshire County Council and granted funds to 22 health organisations and VCSE groups local to Rushmoor and awarded £104,785. The Rushmoor Community Lottery Panel considered 18 bids from VCSE groups operating in Rushmoor for £15,561.00. Both require the panellists to assess the individual applications and to prepare questions for the applicants to provide additional information ahead the panel meeting. In depth discussions consider the bids, analyse the priorities of the expenditure and submit recommendations for awards.

<b>Outcome 3</b>	<b>Possible Outputs</b>	<b>Supporting Evidence Provided</b>
<b>Enhanced capability, capacity and resilience in the sector, which reflect the diversity and breadth of Rushmoor communities and activities.</b>	<p>Communications signposting organisations to sources of local and national support.</p> <p>Signposting to local, regional and national training, conferences and professional development opportunities.</p> <p>New groups/activities established, in response to emerging needs.</p>	<p>Newsletters, social media and comms to share information.</p> <p>Examples of new information/training delivered in response to expressed need.</p> <p>List of training delivered and number of attendees.</p> <p>Data demonstrating the number and diversity of new groups, activities and members.</p> <p>Case studies to demonstrate variety depth and impact of support provided.</p>

	<i>April – September</i>	<i>October - March</i>	<i>Total</i>
New groups or projects established:	1		

New Groups:  
 Andy Mans Club has been established, see below, three others are in progress.

	<i>April – September</i>	<i>October - March</i>	<i>Total</i>
Training events hosted:	14		14
Training learners registered:	126		126

RVS distributes information to members and stakeholders via a bi-weekly e-newsletter. Our newsletter 'padlet' includes information from local groups, organisations and partners, funding opportunities, local events and activities, training workshops and courses and information of general interest to our members - [RVS Members Newsletter 43 \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com).

Our social media highlights similar messaging and is accessible to the public. We re-post information provided by partners including news from Hart Voluntary Action which might benefit Rushmoor residents and groups.

We host training for Senior First Aid at Work and Food Hygiene training as these can be essential for local groups. Alongside this, through our established relationship with Hampshire Libraries, they provide Emergency First Aid in Farnborough and Aldershot libraries through their Hampshire funding for Learning in Libraries. The additional benefit of this partnership working is that the training is free to volunteers. Three workshops have been held this year.

We host MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) training as this is required for all drivers from community groups hiring our minibuses. This has been a challenge this year due to the national loss of qualified trainers and the uncertainty of the future of this training. It is due to be moved to an on-line course followed by an in-person assessment, but this has been delayed by Hampshire County Council multiple times.

Members are directed to partner CVs in Hampshire and national organisations such as NCVO for mainstream training needs.

**Case Study** – Andy's Man Club (AMC) are a men's suicide prevention charity, offering free-to-attend peer-to-peer support groups across the United Kingdom and online. They want to end the stigma surrounding men's mental health and help men through the power of conversation. #ITSOKAYTOTALK

They are a growing national charity that relies on local volunteers to set up new groups. The nearest groups to here are Bracknell, Woking and Guildford.

#### **Action Taken**

- We met with Paul, who wanted to set up a local group to explore the support needed.
- Following an initial meeting with a Community & Partnerships Officer from Rushmoor Borough Council, Paul was introduced to Aldershot Town FC Foundation. They welcomed him enthusiastically.
- Aldershot Town FC's Chairman is being very supportive including promotion by match day announcements and providing free meeting space.
- Paul has recruited seven volunteer facilitators, who are all required to complete the online training with national AMC.
- We introduced Paul to a local Nepali group, Project Together to explore joining forces and to encourage Nepali men to attend, possibly with translators. It was acknowledged that language can be a barrier and like the British culture, for Nepali men to talk openly about their mental wellbeing is a challenge.
- We also introduced Paul to Equal Potential CIC founder Natalie who explained the challenge for Nepali young people is not so much language as the understanding of cultural barriers – traditional Nepali vs modern British. It was identified that younger Nepali volunteers would be a great help.
- AMC would like to encourage Gurkha Veteran's and younger Nepali men to join the support group.
- AMC Aldershot launched in July.

- We considered their application to register the group as an RVS member and supported him to achieve the necessary eligibility criteria.
- As usual we promoted as new member on social media and website and invited representatives to present at Rushmoor Voluntary Sector Forum.
- In August, Paul from AMC called to ask for help to recruit more facilitators and to give an update. Key points:
  - They have asked to move space at the football club because 30+ men are attending each week.
  - The connection with Equal Potential has been productive.
  - They have recruited a serving Gurkha as a facilitator.
  - They are aiming to set up a new group in January, specifically for Nepali men. This will be based at the Enterprise Centre, which was supported by Rushmoor Borough Council.
  - They have a QR code created for this group, to help promotion.
  - They need assistance to recruit Nepali facilitators for the new Nepali group. We helped to complete the paperwork for the Volunteer North Hants website and followed up quickly.
  - AMC had a stall at the Motor Show in Farnborough recently which provided good promotion.
  - The organising company has adopted AMC as this year's charity, will be taking the information round to display at all the Motor shows across the country and will put adverts in their magazine.
  - AMC also had a stall at Rushmoor Pride on 28<sup>th</sup> September.
  - A Grenadier Guard Welfare Officer is now asking for a military based group set up on the base, for military personnel.

The success of AMC Aldershot is another great example of Rushmoor Voluntary Services, VCSE organisations and the borough council working collaboratively to support a much needed service.

Outcome 4	Possible Outputs	Supporting Evidence Provided
<p><b>Council and partner organisations value the strengths of the community and voluntary sector and understand the scale and nature of the challenges faced.</b></p>	<p>Proactive engagement in local networking and working groups/events specifically including the Supporting Communities Working Group.</p> <p>RVS highlights emerging issues and challenges facing the sector to RBC and other key partners.</p> <p>RVS acts as a credible voice for the sector, gathering and sharing insight and evidence from its member organisations.</p>	<p>Examples of issues raised and any resulting changes in policy/practice/procedure.</p> <p>Examples of evidence gathered highlighting the benefits and impacts the sector brings to communities and to partner agencies.</p> <p>Case studies demonstrating the forums/networks where RVS represent the sector and how information is shared back to the sector.</p>

It is a legal requirement of each Integrated Care Board (ICB) to establish an alliance with their local VCSE sector. Some have achieved this with engagement happening at a high level only. Frimley ICB Directors were clear that they wanted to establish a meaningful forum whereby representatives of even the smallest community groups would have an opportunity to engage with health.

As one CVS in the Frimley ICB footprint, we have joined with colleagues to establish an Alliance Leadership Group. We have agreed our Vision, Mission, Terms of Reference, MoU, our membership model, initial branding design and comms.

Our mission is to create a Partnership between the Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Sector and the Health and Care System. To be a thriving, diverse and sustainable VCSE sector that contributes as an equal partner to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in the Frimley Health and Care geography.

We intend that the VCSE sector is party to producing and shaping strategies, plans and services with the ICB, to deliver improved health and wellbeing for populations, delivering solutions to reducing inequalities.

Membership is open to individuals representing organisations together with nominated ICS staff. Registered Members will have full voting rights in our main Alliance meetings which will take place three times a year. Members are also invited to join thematic sub-groups which will focus on specific elements: 1, Starting Well, 2, Living Well 3, Ageing Well with a fourth for Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity.

It is hoped that the Alliance will provide a “front door” for communication, engagement and reach into VCSE organisations, advocating on behalf of the sector and facilitating greater collaborative partnership working and clear communication channels. This will enhance the value the sector can bring by providing an informed voice and enabling both large and small voluntary organisations to bring their experiences and have their voice heard.

RVS have promoted this widely to our members and the wider VCSE sector. The launch event in July was a success and more than 20 local groups have signed up as members.

Outcome 5	Possible Outputs	Supporting Evidence Provided
<b>Increased volunteering to meet and respond to local need.</b>	<p>Campaigns/events/promotions held and local events engaged in.</p> <p>Increased involvement of Rushmoor residents with the local voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>Organisations supported to attract new volunteers and to retain existing team.</p> <p>Organisations registering their new opportunities with RVS.</p> <p>Volunteers matched to opportunities.</p>	<p>Data showing number of opportunities promoted.</p> <p>Data demonstrating the number of placements achieved.</p> <p>Case studies demonstrating the variety and impact of volunteering, including the number of bite sized opportunities fulfilled as well as traditional placements.</p>

	<i>April – September</i>	<i>October - March</i>	<i>Total</i>
Active placements for micro/bite-sized volunteering:	56		56
Number of volunteers recruited and placed during the quarter via brokerage:	79		79
Annual value of the brokerage placements*:	£129,237		£129,237
Number of volunteering opportunities advertised during the quarter:	79		79

We were contacted by a young woman with sensory impairment who wished to volunteer. Rather than utilising our usual brokerage service, we needed to identify opportunities that would be appropriate and organisations that would be able to support her needs. She really enjoys spending

time and talking with older people, providing company for them. She has previous experience and was valued by the care home she previously volunteered at. We approached trusted Rushmoor Voluntary Services' member organisations that are local to her and had the potential to offer the right setting and appropriate support. We have been able to facilitate a supported volunteer placement with Brendon Care and offered ongoing advice and information if this is needed. This is a great example of how volunteering can be as beneficial for the volunteer as it is for the people she is supporting.

\*The value of volunteering is calculated by:

Annual Value = number of active volunteers (a snapshot - the figure from the most recent quarter) x 11 (average number of hours in a 4 week cycle as per Institute of Volunteer Research) x 13 (4 week cycles/yr) x £11.44 (minimum wage) = estimated economic value per annum.

**Donna Bone**  
**October 2024**