

# Community Action Network



## Action with heart



### Strategic Plan 2024 / 2025

**Everyone deserves to live happy healthy lives in a good society that promotes fairness and social justice.**

**We want to see communities across the county of Dorset that are strong, healthy, diverse and thriving.**

There is a sense of community where everyone can play an active role. People volunteer and work for the causes and organisations which are close to their hearts, minds and values. We know that charities and community groups play a vital role in supporting health and wellbeing - creating and facilitating opportunities for participation, action and decision making in local communities.

**We serve Dorset's voluntary and community sector.**

We provide professional information, advice and training. We're collaborative - growing networks, building partnerships and supporting people to make a difference. We're compassionate advocates - inspiring social action and equitable representation.

#### Our strategic goals:

Help VCS organisations deliver sustainable high-quality services.	Collaborate and influence to improve community well-being	Increase volunteer engagement and positive impact	Promote equity, diversity and inclusion	Strengthen VCS infrastructure through member-led leadership	Sustain a strong successful charity
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#### 1. Strengthen VCS organisations to deliver high-quality services sustainably.

- Provide expert bespoke advice and guidance to VCS groups through 1:1, group work and online resources
- Procure and deliver high quality training and webinars based on identified need
- Provide expert fundraising advice and support
- Work with partners to bring investment into the sector
- Bring VCS groups together to tackle the climate emergency

- Offer an enhanced level of support to groups supporting ethnically diverse communities in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

## **2. Enhance collaboration and influence to improve community well-being.**

- Carry out research to identify gaps in service provision and lead on transformation with partners to take social action
- Champion Dorset VCS and influence local public policy on behalf of the VCS
- Be the point of contact, reference and information for the sector locally enabling collective interventions
- Facilitate networks – geographical and thematic bringing people together to connect, collaborate and enhance our knowledge and intelligence about the VCS
- Develop and facilitate VCS Involvement Partners – enabling VCS leaders to influence public policy
- Deliver projects:
  - BCP Early Help Partnership
  - Ethnically Diverse Communities
  - Trusted Reviewers
  - Access to Community Support Services
  - Access to Health Checks for people with Serious Mental Illness
- Provide a Wellbeing Volunteers offer – enabling people to stay well and recover well
- Deliver face to face Information Stations across the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area connecting people to the services they need
- Facilitate a Professional Network – Virtual Hub, connecting professionals with the information and advice they need to best support the people they serve
- Work in partnership with BCP Council to distribute one off wellbeing grants supporting discharge from hospital
- Co-design with VCS/NHS/Councils/Communities the wellbeing offer across the county of Dorset including wellbeing hubs/spaces
- Communicate with our members and the public via our eNews social media and website
- Conduct annual State of the Sector survey

## **3. Increase volunteer engagement and positive impact.**

1. Promote volunteering to benefit communities and individuals
2. Deliver and maintain an online volunteering platform, which enables organisations to recruit volunteers and volunteers to access volunteering opportunities
3. Provide one to one support for people needing help to volunteer
4. Ensure volunteers are recruited and managed safely and effectively

## **4. Champion equity, diversity and inclusion**

This approach runs through all our work. However, there is sadly still work to be done, and so we are investing energy, time and funding to drive change.

- Work with Public Health Dorset to deliver the Trusted Voices project
- Facilitate networks that bring together groups supporting people with protected characteristics

- Through our Ethnically Diverse Communities project based in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole we get alongside people and communities to:
  - Amplify their voices
  - Secure sustainable funding
  - Expand their service delivery
  - Participate in service design
  - Build strong core teams
  - Develop leadership
  - And engage the next Generation.

## **5. Strengthen VCS infrastructure through member-led leadership.**

- Actively recruit and support a strong membership of VCS and Public Sector organisations to lead and inform our work
- Support our members to access what they need and have a voice and influence
- Enable private businesses to connect with the VCS
- Support private business and VCS groups to deliver Employer Supported Volunteering
- Collaborate with partners for the greater good of the sector

## **6. Sustain a strong successful charity**

- Our values inform all our decisions
- We are accountable to our members and evidence this through our board that sets the strategic direction of CAN and demonstrates diversity of perspective
- Clear vision, mission, goals and objectives are agreed / monitored / evaluated
- Good governance practice is in place and sustained
- Sound financial practice is demonstrated
- Overall strategy is in place to drive results
- Fundraising strategy is in place to inform funding
- Policies and processes are in place to drive good practice
- Excellent leadership is supported and promoted
- Excellent recruitment, induction and management for staff and trustees is in place