

**BCVS**

Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service

**50<sup>th</sup>**

Anniversary | 1973 - 2023

**BCVS**

Bolsover Community and Voluntary Service

# Annual Report 2023-24



# Contents

**Chair's Report**

**Introduction**

**Our Strategy 2022– 2025**

**Working together in Bassetlaw  
and Bolsover – Key Highlights**

**Future Plans**

**Accounts**

**Our Team**



# Chair's Report

Elizabeth Prime, BCVS Chair

**2023 saw BCVS celebrate their 50th anniversary year, and it was an important moment to also reflect upon the achievements and progress within the local voluntary sector over those past 50 years.**

It was very fitting that during this celebratory year the organisation hosted its largest volunteer recruitment event to date, followed by a Volunteer Awards ceremony during which some of the most dedicated and inspirational volunteers in Bassetlaw were recognised and thanked. This included our outgoing and longstanding Board Chair and Trustee Fran Walker, who received a Lifetime Achievement Award. Fran has been a trustee with BCVS since its inauguration, the Chair for many years, and has given of herself as a volunteer with many other local charities. Her retirement from the Board at the Annual General Meeting in December 2023 leaves a large legacy for me to take forward.

2023/2024 has also seen the funding landscape for the voluntary sector become increasingly challenging. Both funders and partners struggle to resource the ever growing level of need within our communities, and are working hard to find innovate and effective ways to provide support. The sector and partnership response to cost of living crisis has showcased the benefits that working collaboratively can achieve.

I would like to acknowledge and say thank you for the hard work of all the staff, partners, volunteers and trustees who continue to contribute so much to our ongoing work in both the Bassetlaw and Bolsover districts. The challenges for the year to come are many - but by working together, and to our strengths and core values, I am positive that BCVS will continue to provide invaluable support to our local voluntary organisations and our wider partner organisations.



A "Lifetime Achievement Award" was awarded to **Fran Walker**. Fran has been a stalwart volunteer in Bassetlaw for over fifty years. She has been involved with Bassetlaw Council for Voluntary Service since it very first started fifty years ago and steered it as Chair for the last **13** years. She has also volunteered her time and expertise to a number of other charities in Bassetlaw including Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw, The Gatehouse Trust, and Manton Community Sports and Leisure, which is now the home of Bassetlaw Food Bank, another charity that is close to Fran's heart. Fran is a shining example of a lifelong volunteer whose passion in life has always been to help others and set an example to future generations.

# Introduction

## Andria Birch, CEO

It has been my pleasure and privilege to continue to work as part of our fantastic local VCSE sector and to lead an incredibly committed staff team over the last year. It was a year filled with many celebrations and also moments of reflection and thanks as we said farewell to our outstanding Chair Fran Walker. Fran was and remains a true champion of our sector and BCVS and was both a role model and mentor to me throughout my first two years with BCVS. I cannot thank Fran enough for all her support and service.

However, BCVS is fortunate to have a strong and diverse board of trustees and Elizabeth Prime stepped up as our excellent new Chair at our December 2023 AGM. Therefore my thanks also go to Liz and all trustees for continuing to steer BCVS throughout the year.

2023/24 represents the second year of operation under our strategy #WorkingTogether. Our strategy provides both a road map and compass to keep BCVS on course and true to our mission to support the development of a sustainable, inclusive and healthy VCSE Sector for Bassetlaw and Bolsover.

Over the last year the legacy from the pandemic, combined with national and local funding challenges, have both amplified and created huge needs within our most vulnerable communities and the VCSE groups which serve them. In this context, BCVS has worked hard with our partners, members and funders to do all we can to make a difference for and with the communities we serve.

It has been a joy to look back on our successes and work over the last year and to reflect on the difference we have made **#WorkingTogether**. Our 23/24 annual report provides a flavour of this work and is organised for the first time to reflect our work towards our strategic goals. Sincere thanks as always to our fantastic team, sector, funders and partners who have gone the extra mile to make this all happen.



# Our Strategy 2022 – 2025

#WorkingTogether

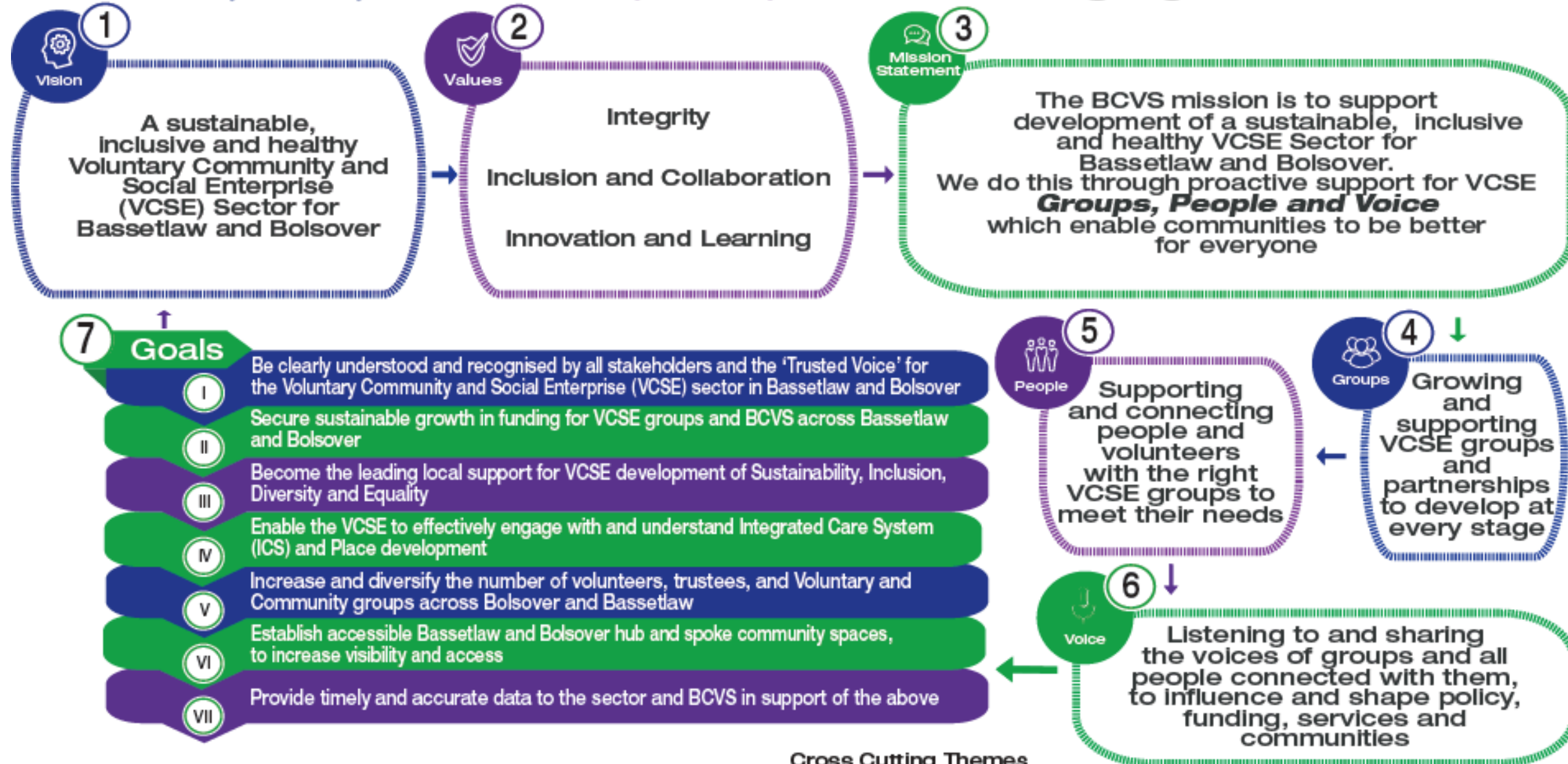
This year marked the mid-point of our strategy which is set out below.



Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service Bolsover Community and Voluntary Service

## Strategy 2022 - 2025

#WorkingTogether



### Cross Cutting Themes



www.bcvs.org.uk  
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 Charity Number – 1140782 | Company Number – 07232206

# Our Strategic Goals 2022–2025

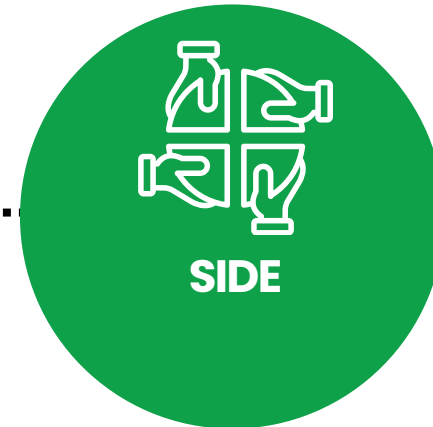
## #WorkingTogether



Be clearly understood and recognised by all stakeholders and the 'Trusted Voice' for the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in Bassetlaw and Bolsover.



Secure sustainable growth in funding for VCSE groups and BCVS across Bassetlaw and Bolsover.



Become the leading local support for VCSE development of Sustainability, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity.



Enable the VCSE to effectively engage with and understand the Integrated Care System (ICS) and Place development.



Increase and diversify the number of volunteers, trustees and voluntary and community groups across Bassetlaw and Bolsover.



Establish accessible Bassetlaw and Bolsover hub and spoke community spaces, to increase visibility and access.



Provide timely and accurate data to the sector and BCVS in support of the above.

# Our Impact

Throughout 2023/24 BCVS has focused on its role of providing leadership across the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and advocating the vital role the sector plays in supporting local communities.

Our impact includes the creation of proactive and productive collaborations with key partners, pinpointing the delivery of services and support alongside generating new and diverse groups and volunteering opportunities across Bassetlaw and Bolsover.

Volunteering, is planned, targeted and developed to meet local needs. A key strategic goal is for BCVS to be the 'Trusted Voice' for the VCSE sector across Bassetlaw and Bolsover. From our activity in 2023 and into 2024 we have helped to build a positive environment that recognises the value of volunteering and for volunteering activity to grow and diversify.

It is vital that we are able to effectively influence the promotion, development and delivery of good practices in volunteering and can secure sustainable growth in funding for VCSE groups and for BCVS across Bassetlaw and Bolsover. In 2023/2024 we have been successful in accessing significant funds that we have administered across both districts to support local organisations to sustain their work, create new groups and networks that focus on key community priorities, build volunteering capacity and deliver essential support to local communities.

BCVS has **141**  
member organisations



# Our Impact

Overall, in 2023 and 2024 our delivery has created a positive impact on key areas of need including addressing health inequalities for priority disadvantaged groups, improving skill levels and connecting people with the support they need from our sector.

Specifically for volunteering, BCVS has continued to focus on coordinating the adoption of good practice in volunteering for groups and individuals throughout this period. Strategically we continue to focus on being the leading local support for VCSE development of Sustainability, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity.

Our work throughout the year has focused on expanding the range and type of opportunities offered by local organisations. Key projects, campaigns and events have helped us diversify volunteering delivery and involvement, reflecting positively on the demographics across our area, including local people from seldom heard or under-represented communities.

A further key strategic goal is for BCVS to enable the VCSE to effectively engage with and understand the Integrated Care System (ICS) and local Place development and our coordination of projects and activities have continued to play a vital role throughout 2023/24. Work includes managing the largest Social Prescribing Link Worker service in Bassetlaw, tackling key issues such as mental health, including dementia and the impact of long-term health conditions.

BCVS' role has also expanded throughout Bolsover leading to greater collaboration with local partners on joined-up approaches to improving wellbeing and reducing social isolation.

Last year, we supported **3090** individuals

**252** groups have been supported in 23/24





# Working Together in Bassetlaw & Bolsover

## 1 – Trusted Voice

BCVS' work as a 'trusted voice' for the sector is underlined by the community celebration of 50 Years of service and success at the Annual General Meeting and Celebration Event in December 2023.

Held at Retford Town Hall, the AGM was followed by a Celebration Event, attended by **140** people, including representatives from local groups and organisations, ex-Trustees, Bassetlaw District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, and Bolsover District Council.

The highlight of the event was the spotlight on The Point of View (POV) project which celebrated over **300** young volunteers that have taken part in the project to date.



We use a range of channels to communicate across both Bassetlaw and Bolsover. In Bassetlaw, we had almost **3500** subscribers to our weekly newsletter over the year and in Bolsover, this figure was almost **7400**, with the audience primarily being members, partners and wider stakeholders. At the same time, our website received on average 11,000 hits a month over the year.

We have over **2800** followers on Facebook in Bassetlaw and just over **1000** in Bolsover and these remain important channels to share voices and information with our sector and communities.

We also maintain a strong presence on X (Twitter) and LinkedIn and we have added a regular flow of information via Instagram to appeal to young audiences. To continue to widen our reach, we have increasingly used YouTube to demonstrate our successes via short films and these have been accessed over **500** times during the course of the year.

See our POV celebration film here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9IS4umQ9mY>

## 2 – Sustainable Growth

In support of this goal, BCVS has been managing and administering the Community and Voluntary Grant Programme on behalf of **Bassetlaw** District Council. Totalling £337,250 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, these funds are to support local projects and initiatives that enhance the wellbeing and prosperity of the Bassetlaw district through the work of community and voluntary groups.

During 2023/24, we administered two opportunities for groups and organisations to apply for Communities and Place funds and we have distributed **£176,365 across 17 projects** with a further **£160,885** planned for 2024/25.

Funds have been distributed through a grants panel made of some fantastic local volunteers, with key priorities including increasing volunteer engagement, promoting community cohesion and enhancing the health and wellbeing of residents.

Groups and organisations have been supported from across the district, with funding helping directly in the following areas:

- **Volunteer recruitment and development**
- **Food poverty**
- **Community hubs/events**
- **Skills development**
- **Family support**
- **Young people**
- **Physical activity/sports**
- **Mental health**

In **Bolsover**, we supported the distribution of People and Skills funds on behalf of the Bolsover District Council and Bolsover Partnership. Nine projects have received funds to improve the skills and employability of local residents totalling £112,980. Funding has helped groups and organisations to support the following:

- **Employability skills**
- **Employment support**
- **Upskilling**
- **Green job skills**
- **Support for skills development for those with learning disabilities**
- **Mentoring**
- **Digital skills.**

**Nine projects totalling  
£112,980**



## 2 – Sustainable Growth

Across Bassetlaw and Bolsover we have supported groups with advice ranging across key areas including promoting volunteering, funding and accessing grants, legal structures, including assisting development of:

**13 new groups**

Through a focus on social connectedness, we have responded to community need and created opportunities for new networks and groups alongside helping individuals and groups develop themselves for the benefit of those around them. This has included support with developmental plans and DBS checks for:

**80 staff and volunteers**

We know Bassetlaw and Bolsover do not get a fair share of national charity funding at approximately 1/3 the value per population head compared to the England average (Insight data 23/24). We will therefore keep campaigning to raise awareness with the goal that our local VCSE groups and members secure a fair share of funding moving forwards.

As part of this work, we were delighted to secure a small grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation this year to support our core work as outlined in this report.





### 3 – Sustainability, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity (SIDE)

The BCVS commitment to SIDE runs like DNA through all that we do. We have an active staff working group that meets each quarter to plan actions – a few of the many actions in 23/24 include:

1. Development and delivery of Anti-Racism Training
2. Identification of staff leads for all protected characteristics
3. Menopause awareness training delivered
4. Attendance at Worksop Pride
5. All staff supported to include a SIDE objective in annual objectives
6. Sustainability for VCSE groups training developed and delivered with NTU
7. Disability confident action plan developed and delivered
8. Adult Deaf and Visual Impairment Service (ADVIS) training delivered
9. Development of an application to the National Lottery Fund to support Green volunteering and group development
10. 20 events to engage young volunteers

An example of our focus on VCSE development and SIDE in Bassetlaw is our work in Manton. We have worked with the local community to increase access to community space for conversations, collaboration, and shared experiences that enhance the quality of life for everyone. We believe in the power of community and the input and participation of local residents to achieve great things.

Working with partners including local PCNs, ABL, Public Health, Bassetlaw Place Based Partnership and Bassetlaw District Council in addition to key VCSE groups including From the Heart Charity and St Pauls including:

- Communicating health and wellbeing support available through Your Health Your Way to encourage healthier lifestyle choices
- Assisting with establishing a peer support group for those with tinnitus
- Various events at the Willow Garden/green space activities
- Slow Cooker course to support healthy eating



## SIDE – Sustainability, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity

**Throughout 2023/24, BCVS remained an active member of a national Anti-Racist Working Group organised by the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) to coordinate a call to action at a national level.**

Throughout the year our leadership and involvement in the development of the Anti-Racist Alliance has helped push forward the positive focus on building a coalition of local organisations that promote a zero tolerance to racism and are committed to becoming and remaining a proactive anti-racist organisation.

The Alliance, which is coordinated across Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire and involves 20 charities, is helping local areas to create new groups and support networks to tackle anti-racism and develop policies that harnesses anti-racist principles. This has increased collaboration, learning and implementation of the Anti-Racist Principles across the VCSE sector.

As a member of the Black Leadership Group (BLG), BCVS organised and resourced training for 12 leaders from Infrastructure organisations across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire which was developed and delivered by BLG and resulted in a 10 Point Plan to lead Anti-Racism work across our sector. BCVS staff and trustees have embraced and led this work with excellent support from BLG throughout the year.

BCVS implemented the 'Everyone Everywhere' agenda late last year, involving bi-monthly Anti-Racism slots at whole staff team meetings and updates on progress at all trustee meetings. Plans are now underway to disseminate into all volunteer training and group development across the district with new external campaigns in the pipeline.

**[Watch our video on YouTube here](#)**



## 4 – Integrated Care System (ICS) Engagement

**Our engagement with the Integrated Care System and Place developments in Bassetlaw and Bolsover is focused around a number of key activities.**

In Bassetlaw, our BCVS Voices work facilitates engagement with VCSE leaders, volunteers and forums. We have reached out to over 3000 citizens at events such as Worksop and Retford Pride, Bassetlaw Food festival, Retford Healthy Sunday, SPF Community Fun Day, Langwith Show, Bassetlaw Multicultural Celebration Event, Healthwatch Community Roadshow.

Three Bassetlaw member organisations were finalists in the Nottinghamshire NHS Health and Care Awards – Bassetlaw Food Insecurity Network (BFIN) which has been coordinated by BCVS, Bassetlaw Action Centre and Oasis Centre. The Bassetlaw Food Insecurity Network (BFIN) won the “prevention award” category for their collaborative efforts in addressing the critical issue of food insecurity locally.

In the “Value for Money award” category, Bassetlaw Action Centre were also winners, with their dedicated work in promoting independence for local residents to lead more independent lives being recognised. The Oasis Centre were shortlisted in the Equity category, with their constant efforts to champion inclusivity and ensure that every member of our community feels welcome being recognised.

Our work to champion our sector continues through active engagement in the VCSE Alliance in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, each NHS Place Board and system level working groups throughout the year.



The TLC involves representatives from Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Nottingham City Council, Bassetlaw CVS and a diverse group of representatives from organisations, groups and services within the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire VCSE sector.

The Collaborative has 190 members, and we host the lead coordinator here at BCVS on behalf of the partnership. During 2023/24, TLC has:

- **Held 18 meetings across three collaborative strands: Public Advisory, Collaborative Development and a wider 'full' TLC network**
- **Issued monthly newsletters**
- **Chaired a campaign to end loneliness workshop involving 40 attendees across the TLC.**



A key aspect of the partnership is to promote the work across a wider area, helping to shape the generation of ideas and consolidate the collaboration for the network. This has involved a series of Local Design team meetings across **11** Nottingham and Nottinghamshire locations. Underpinning the network and the regular collaborative groups sessions is a focus on TLC via a dedicated website – the Tackling Loneliness Hub, featuring an ongoing Blog, access to resources and a portal of evidence base to inform planning and action locally.



# Social Prescribing in Bassetlaw

At a direct level, our established team of Social Prescribing Link Workers are based at **5** locations throughout Bassetlaw, including Accident & Emergency at Bassetlaw Hospital.

The team have received over **1900** referrals during the course of the year - an **18%** increase in caseload per Link Worker over 2022-2023 levels.

The most frequently occurring issues requiring support via the Social Prescribing Link Workers are:

- **Social Isolation**
- **Benefits and budgeting**
- **Mental health**
- **Housing**
- **Dementia support**
- **Home support and gardening**
- **Carer support**
- **Long Term Health Conditions**
- **Befriending and Advocacy**
- **Financial worries**



**At the same time, each referral into the team has generated an average of 1.9 onward referrals totalling 3569 and an increase on 2022–2023 levels. Organisations we have partnered with and signposted to include:**

- ADVIS
- Age UK
- Alzheimer's Society
- Aurora Wellbeing Centre
- Bassetlaw Action Centre
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Bassetlaw Foodbank
- BPL
- Citizens Advice North Notts
- Claylands Allotment
- Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw
- From the Heart Charity
- In Sam's Name
- MIND & Crisis Sanctuaries
- National Trust Clumber Park
- North Notts College
- Notts County Council
- Notts Energy Partnership
- Notts Fire & Rescue
- Notts Talking Therapies
- Oasis Community Centre
- Rhubarb Farm
- South Yorkshire Housing Association
- Tuvida Carers Hub
- The Centre Place
- The Crossing
- Your Health Nottinghamshire
- Willow Gardens



In Bolsover, two pilot projects have contributed over the last year to the engagement of the VCSE sector with health and place-based initiatives.

The **Bolsover Social Circle** is a collaborative pilot which has trialled innovative ways of modelling social prescription to improve people's wellbeing and reduce their need to access mental health provision. This twelve-month green social prescribing pilot, supported by GreenSpring, was coordinated through BCVS. Three partners – **Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise, Pleasley Pit Visitor Centre and Rhubarb Farm** – delivered a range of nature based interventions and over the course of the pilot 371 people were supported, with 52% of these reporting an increase in their wellbeing and 55% a growth in their social circle.

BCVS has also led the **Bolsover Compass**, a multi-agency partnership with the aim of increasing physical activity in the district. This pilot, supported through the Walk Derbyshire partnership funded through Active Neighbourhoods Pilot funding, has focused on both engaging young people and working with communities to gather as much intelligence about walking and physical activity habits in the area.

Our work has been split into two distinct stages, with the first stage over the course of this year involving detailed engagement with primary schools and local community-based events and organisations.



## 5 – Volunteers

**During the year, BCVS successfully achieved Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (VCQA) status for the next three years.** The VCQA is a quality mark awarded by NAVCA that provides confidence to local communities, voluntary and community organisations and local strategic partners, funders and commissioners.

Whilst this is a re-accreditation of BCVS work in Bassetlaw, it is the first time BCVS has held accreditation for the support provided in Bolsover. VCQA demonstrates the quality of the BCVS Volunteer Centres and their impact in supporting local voluntary, community and social enterprises across Bassetlaw and Bolsover, connecting volunteers with groups, organisations and initiatives that need their support.

We are proud of our Volunteering services and the positive impact volunteering has on our communities. This recognition signifies our commitment to excellence, providing high-quality volunteering services and best practice through transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement. It will help us to assure our volunteers, communities, and stakeholders of our commitment to high standards of excellence.



This was followed by our Volunteer Awards ceremony, recognising and thanking some of the most dedicated and inspirational volunteers in Bassetlaw. We celebrated winners in eight categories – Volunteer of the Year; Young Volunteer of the Year; Cost of Living Support Volunteer of the Year; Health & Wellbeing Volunteer of the Year; Fundraising Volunteer of the Year; Supportive Volunteer of the Year; Outdoor Volunteer of the Year and Heritage Volunteer of the Year plus a Lifetime Achievement Award to our outgoing Chair, Fran Walker. All award winners were celebrated for their dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to giving up their time to make Bassetlaw a better place.

We have hosted 5 Volunteer Voice and Forum meetings and run 3 volunteer campaigns over the course of the year in Bassetlaw and in Bolsover, we have facilitated **14** volunteer events or forums, with **117** volunteers engaged or brokered to local groups and organisations. Over **100** organisations have been assisted in Bolsover district over the course of the year with volunteer brokerage or development, including actions such as DBS checks, provision of example volunteer policy forms and other areas of risk assessment support.

In both areas, volunteers have been matched to opportunities in gardening projects, other environmental activities, organising quizzes, distributing Christmas presents to families, helping heritage organisations, litter picks, developing specific skills such as IT.

In addition to our annual focus on Volunteer Week, we also ensure that we promote designated days such as 'Giving Tuesday' and support volunteers through specific 'Volunteer Meet Up' drop-in sessions.



Throughout 2023 BCVS continued to collaborate on the Arts Council funded POV Project. POV was delivered in partnership with Bassetlaw Action Centre, Centre Place, Inspire, Junction Arts, Mansfield CVS, Rhubarb Farm, South Yorkshire's Community Foundation and Voluntary Action Doncaster across Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Doncaster and Mansfield. Collectively we supported over **300** volunteers. In early 2024 we published this infographic to support dissemination of POV recommendations which can also be found via the QR code below:

# The POV (Point of View) Programme

Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

- To help build new strong and lasting relationships between arts organisations and the wider voluntary community, and the social enterprise sector.
- Affect organisational change by putting the voices or 'Point of View' of young people at the centre of the project activities across the partnership.
- Develop and test eight pilot projects to strengthen volunteering provision for young people in the regions of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire.
- Create over 100 new volunteer opportunities.
- Facilitate and amplify the voices of young people in project creation and delivery - creating a **GOLDEN THREAD**.

**BARRIERS**

 <b>Volunteer Voices</b>	 <b>The Beaver Project</b>	 <b>Peace of Mind Booklet</b>	 <b>Enviro-Mental</b>	 <b>Next Gen</b>	 <b>FE Volunteers</b>	 <b>Green Art</b>	 <b>Communicating Through Arts</b>
<b>Representation</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Recognition</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Anxiety</b>	<b>Language</b>
<p>Young Voices put at the heart of BCVS and POV through: governance and representation at advisory groups, new young volunteer awards and the creation of POV film:</p>	<p>Use of a minibus and expenses to support young people and take them directly to volunteering projects; creating the magnificent 'Beaver' and allowing more young people to access volunteering.</p>	<p>Creation of the POM mental health booklet by young people; co-designed to be engaging for them. Mindful activities have been created by the young people and are now accessible to all.</p>	<p>Centring the voice of young people to create new volunteering roles to address the barrier of lack of time. Creating flexible/ad hoc green arts volunteering opportunities, which make volunteering accessible to all young students learning with Inspire.</p>	<p>Monthly socials – a proposal developed by the Next Gen volunteer group. Socials designed and planned by the young people as a reward for volunteering within a range of arts projects.</p>	<p>Linking to the local College, and developed as part of studies and a progression pathway, this pilot has enabled young people to make volunteering part of their college week.</p>	<p>With a focus on volunteering in green art and open spaces and creating a piece of Art on an external building. This showcased the art for all to see and both reduced anxiety and promoted confidence for the young people involved.</p>	<p>Making volunteering and arts accessible. This pilot focused on involving refugees in volunteering and using art as a transnational method of communication.</p>

How will your organisation? (NEXT STEPS: 10-point self-assessment and dissemination plan to share the learning and key questions asked by young people of the VCSE and Arts Sector for 24/25.)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - Listen to and embed the voices and involvement of young volunteers in your governance structures?</li> <li>2 - Address the barriers of access to transport and cost of transport for young volunteers?</li> <li>3 - Support the mental health and wellbeing of young volunteers?</li> <li>4 - Visibly recognise and reward contributions of young volunteers?</li> <li>5 - Promote engagement with art as a medium for expression of voice for young volunteers?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 - Develop micro, hybrid and online volunteering opportunities for young volunteers?</li> <li>7 - Develop further links with Further Education to create progression pathways into volunteering for young volunteers?</li> <li>8 - Explore the use of arts to cross cultural boundaries to engage diverse communities and widen participation in volunteering for young people from minority ethnic or refugee communities?</li> <li>9 - Help to share these questions?</li> <li>10- Listen to the voices of young volunteers involved in POV and start or continue your organisation's journey towards widening participation in volunteering?</li> </ol>
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**Evaluation Partner**

## 6 – Visibility and Access

BCVS has continued to facilitate accessible hub and spoke arrangements to ensure that members of the community and partners in Bassetlaw and Bolsover can access services.

During the year, a detailed analysis was carried out in Bolsover and Bassetlaw on Volunteering in preparation for Volunteers Week, to highlight the range of opportunities open to volunteers from Tree Planting, Charity Ambassadors, Painters, Welcomers, Food insecurity support, Grants Panel Members, Secretaries, IT buddies, Befrienders, Application development.

The analysis highlighted the importance of both a base in Bolsover Market Place, whilst at the same time the potential to replicate the 'shop window' approach on other localities across both districts. This was underlined by taking a Volunteer Roadshow to 5 locations across Bolsover during Volunteer Week – Clowne, Shirebrook, Bolsover town, South Normanton and Creswell. This resulted on over **500** people engaging across these localities, with partners also supporting these events in each area.

In Bassetlaw we paid particular focus on reaching into communities of identity supporting translated materials and diverse new groups to establish themselves including 'Polonia Worksop', 'Asians in Bassetlaw' and the 'Multicultural Association'.



**Volunteering MYTH BUSTERS**

**Volunteering will affect my benefits**

**X**wrong.  
You can volunteer as many hours as you want each week and your benefits won't be affected.

**BCVS** **Volunteer Roadshow**  
1st - 7th June across Bolsover  
[www.bcvs.org.uk/volunteersweek](http://www.bcvs.org.uk/volunteersweek)



**Volunteering MYTH BUSTERS**

**Volunteering is for old people**

**X**wrong.  
Volunteering is for all ages 16+. It's for anyone that wants to make a difference in their community.

**BCVS** **Volunteer Roadshow**  
1st - 7th June across Bolsover  
[www.bcvs.org.uk/volunteersweek](http://www.bcvs.org.uk/volunteersweek)



**Volunteering MYTH BUSTERS**

**Volunteering is just charity shops and serving cups of tea**

**X**wrong.  
There are roles in nature, gardening, marketing, social media, sewing, crafts, walking, wellbeing, befriending and so much more. But if you do fancy a charity shop or making cups of tea then yes, this is always needed too!

**BCVS** **Volunteer Roadshow**  
1st - 7th June across Bolsover  
[www.bcvs.org.uk/volunteersweek](http://www.bcvs.org.uk/volunteersweek)

# 7 – Sector Intelligence

**During the 2023–24 operating year BCVS has continued to use primary and secondary sector data/intelligence to inform our support to the VCSE sector.**

Our work includes continuing to engage with national state of the sector research to understand how the national perspective impacts on local issues. We have actively encourage engagement with research from our sector to increase response rates and produced better data. We also actively disseminate national NCVO Almanac data and present summaries to our sector and partners. We have then taken forward key priority themes to inform our own research that has produced primary data to help plan our ongoing activities.

In support of the BCVS strategy **#Working Together** and particularly our work to support point 6 ‘Voice – Listening to and sharing the voices of groups and all people connected with them to influence and shape policy, funding, services and communities’. BCVS regularly reviews draft policy, strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment documents and feeds back on behalf of our membership, sector and communities we serve.

Over the last 12 months this has included detailed feedback on development of Integrated Care Strategies, Joint Forward Plans, Place Plans and a wide range of related documents. We have taken an evidenced based approach to position the issues and voice of our communities within these key strategic areas, leading to a stronger recognition of the importance of the VCSE sector in addressing wider determinants of health and wellbeing and the building blocks of health across both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Integrated Systems.





**It has been vital for BCVS to present intelligence and evidence to inform the decision to release community investment funds and also monitor the impact of investment against strategic aims .**

We have produced regular and insightful data to assess outputs from the Investing in Communities Project, Trusted Voices, POV, Social Prescribing, and as part of 30 different contracts to evidence the outcomes from the work overall.

BCVS is an active members of Food Joint Strategic Needs Assessment strategic leadership and working group, influencing the agenda across Bassetlaw and the wider county alongside our key partners.

Another key example has been the focus on the cost-of-living impact on the VCSE sector throughout the year. BCVS has researched how reduced income streams alongside rising costs which in turn causes increased demand for support from local communities have increasingly limited the VCSE capacity to provide vital services. Consultation through impact surveys such as promoting responses to the VCSE Barometer survey and member fora have highlighted the scale of challenge that the sector faces, including deterioration of financial positions and a real risk that insufficient volunteer capacity means that the sector is unable to meet its key objectives.

BCVS uses sector intelligence and national research, including shifting policies and emerging funding streams, to develop the priority focus across our People, Groups and Voice strategic approach. Key examples include the ongoing work of the Social Prescribing Link Worker service, which is able connect multi-organisational support to individual needs by taking a person-centred approach and the sustainable growth focus via the Community and Voluntary Grants programme.



# Future Plans

## In response to rising risks and new opportunities, in 24/25 we will focus on:

- Supporting our sector to secure a fair share of national funding
- Continuing to increase the visibility of the work and impact of our sector
- Support our sector to embrace new technology and AI
- Increased focus on the diversification and accessibility of volunteering
- Better data to inform development of our sector, services and communities



## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
<b>Income from</b>				
Donation & legacies	£17,251		£17,251	£19,615
Charitable activities	£21,394	£826,147	£847,541	£931,501
Investment income	£5,118		£5,118	£2,562
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£43,763</b>	<b>£826,147</b>	<b>£869,910</b>	<b>£953,678</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>				
Charitable activities	(£40,009)	(£913,425)	(£953,434)	(£960,232)
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(£40,009)</b>	<b>(£913,425)</b>	<b>(£953,434)</b>	<b>(£960,232)</b>
Net movement in funds	£3,754	(£87,278)*	(£83,524)	(£6,554)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward	£604,819	£677,156	£1,281,975	£1,288,529
Total funds carried forward	£608,573	£589,878	£1,198,451	£1,281,975

\*A loss of £87,278 in restricted funds in the 2023/24 financial year is covered by funds carried over from 2022/23.

# Our Team

As part of our duty of care to staff, we have established an Employee Voice Group. Following feedback from the Group, we created a Health and Wellbeing room, officially opened by Fran Walker, former Chair of Trustees on 10th October to mark World Mental Health day.

In honour of Fran, the room has been named "Fran's Room of Peace and Calm". The room is a quiet, comfortable space for staff to either take a moment alone or with a colleague when needed.

**A big thanks as always to our team of staff and trustees for all their work over the last year, our team is simply amazing.**



# Thank you to all our funders and partners for their ongoing support in 2023-24



**Bassetlaw**  
Place-Based  
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DISTRICT COUNCIL  
— North Nottinghamshire —



**Nottinghamshire**  
County Council



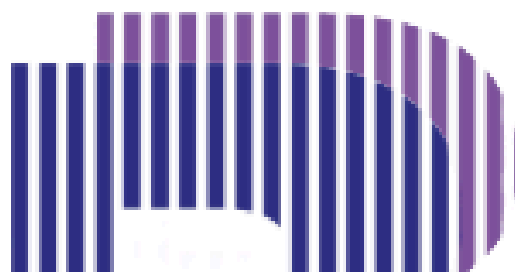
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