

East Sussex Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Alliance

Edition 1 – November 2022

Welcome to the Alliance



The East Sussex VCSE Alliance is a collaboration between countywide VCSE organisations, set up to enhance the benefits we collectively deliver to local communities. We believe the Alliance can help build a more strategic relationship with statutory partners and make more effective use of our assets and resources. The Alliance enables increased opportunities for VCSE income generation, inward investment and social capital, as well as minimising duplication and competition.

The VCSE is a natural home for co-operation and partnership, and we work to empower people and communities to have control of their own lives. We value approaches that are bottom-up, user led, and seek to draw on the strengths and assets of local communities. We will tackle inequality and injustice and ensure equality of access to our services for members of all communities.

Through 'generous leadership' we seek benefits for the wider voluntary sector, especially small, local community organisations that form a crucial part of social capital in the county.

Spotlight on an Alliance Member: The Advocacy People

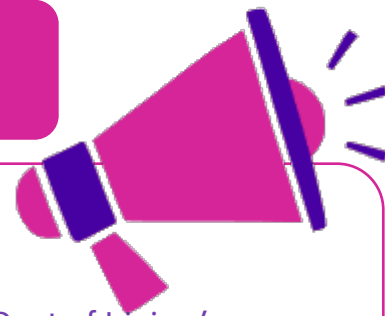


It's been a busy and exciting year for us at The Advocacy People with several new contracts getting underway across the South of England.

For the past 25 years we've had our main base in Hastings, and we'll very soon be moving our Contact Centre into Rock House. We're looking forward to being part of this growing community space in the White Rock neighbourhood!

We've been doing some positive partnership work with the East Sussex Healthcare Trust complaints team, helping ensure that clients are supported in the best way possible.

We really enjoyed meeting other VCSE Alliance members and being part of the Healthwatch event at Uckfield in July, and our advocates have recently been part of the Healthwatch East Sussex Listening Tour.



Alliance activity and latest news

- Alliance members are promoting [East Sussex County Council's 'Cost of Living' webpage](#) which provides advice and support around money, health and benefits uptake
- [Possability People](#) and [Southdown](#) are collaborating on a new service – supporting mental health service users to share their views and feedback to commissioners and decision-makers across mental health services in East Sussex. A new service user group will meet to discuss experiences, suggest improvements and connect with other mental health service user groups. Contact Tasha on inclusion@possabilitypeople.org.uk or call 07305034311 for information to join
- There will be an East Sussex VCSE Alliance representative on the new SUSSEX ICS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD – this will enable the VCSE sector to share knowledge, expertise and influence future strategic direction
- Alliance members are involved in the Sussex ICS Population Health Management and Place Development Programme. Statutory and VCSE Partners are working with a GP surgery, focussing on systems working to reduce hospital admissions in people aged 80+ with frailty and dementia
- [East Sussex Community Voice](#) hosts [Healthwatch East Sussex](#) - the local independent watchdog for health and care services. They have just completed a two-week Listening Tour in Eastbourne, meeting local people to understand the needs of the community. Healthwatch will use this feedback to make recommendations to support positive changes to local care and health services.
- Partnership Plus is a coming together of Alliance members with leaders from the statutory sector to enable closer partnership working. Our two priorities are currently tackling health inequalities and reducing loneliness and social isolation. The ongoing Partnership Plus initiative 'Connecting Health Communities' explores how statutory and VCSE partners (through the Alliance) can work together to reduce health inequalities, with a focus on increasing the uptake of cancer screening within ethnically diverse communities in Eastbourne.

To submit an item to be considered for future editions of this newsletter or for further information about the Alliance, please contact:

Anna McCollin-Moore, East Sussex VCSE Alliance Development Officer

anna.mccollin-moore@escv.org.uk



Meet our newest member:
Brighton Women's Centre



BWC (Brighton Women's Centre) has been supporting women across Sussex for over 45 years and into West Kent since 2020. Creating a safe, inclusive, women-only space, our aims are to empower women and promote independence, giving every woman the freedom, support and power to change her life.

Run by women for women, we help women from all backgrounds, facing all kinds of issues, to live happier lives. Women dealing with bereavement or trauma, women who have been through homelessness or the criminal justice system, survivors of abuse or discrimination - we've welcomed them all.

Our services include our Women's Support and Information Phone Line, Well-being Hub and Foodbank, Women's Counselling and Psychotherapy, Women's Peer to Peer Support and Well-being Activities as well as the Musculoskeletal (MSK) Support Service.

We provide support for women who are homeless and insecurely housed through our Women's Accommodation Support Service (WASS) and lead Inspire supporting women with multiple vulnerabilities at all stages of involvement in the criminal justice system. In recognition of the importance of childcare in supporting women to succeed, ToyBox, our Ofsted-registered Early Years provision, runs alongside our services.

BWC welcomes all self-identifying women, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, belief, and sexuality.

Contact: admin@womenscentre.org.uk

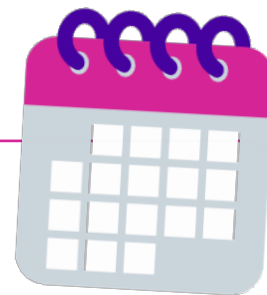
Brighton Women's Centre
Empowering women since 1974
womenscentre.org.uk



Become an Alliance member - if your VCSE organisation works across East Sussex and shares our principles of collaborative working, accountability and generous leadership, we would love to hear from you!

Contact: Anna McCollin-Moore, East Sussex VCSE Alliance Development Officer
anna.mccollin-moore@escv.org.uk 07983 855324





Upcoming Alliance events

- Alliance monthly meeting: **29th November 2022**
- A second Commissioning workshop, partnered with ESCC and NHS commissioners, facilitated by the Institute of Public Care, is taking place on **30th November 2022**. It plans to look at how to co-produce and co-design services, with a focus on:
 - Proportionality in contracts
 - Commissioning Academy
 - A Commissioning case study

Read about the first workshop [here](#).

Upcoming member events

[Hastings Voluntary Action](#)

Form Filling Friday

- **25th November, 10:30am -12:30am. Central Hall, Hastings**

Offers face-to-face support for people who are completing applications for council grants, rebates and other related forms.

Age Friendly Christmas party

- **13th December 11.30am onwards. Central Hall, Hastings**

Enjoy a yummy two course Christmas lunch and celebrate the festive season with new and old friends! Two courses plus coffee and mints £8.50. Further information on both events or to book, email debby@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk or call 01424 444010/07513 234 307.

[Southdown](#)

Recovery College: Spring Term Open Day

- **11th January 2023 from 11am-3pm. Brighthelm Centre in Brighton.**

A Recovery College offers educational & creative courses that promote good mental health and wellbeing. With a focus on recovery, courses and workshops are designed to increase your knowledge and skills and help you manage your symptoms and become an expert in your own recovery and self-care. For further details click [here](#).

For further information on the Alliance or how to join, please contact:
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