



BVSC Strategic Outcomes...

...and how we've done! 23/24

Bexley has a vibrant, inclusive, and diverse volunteering culture



Volunteers in Bexley have a positive and rewarding experience



Bexley has a thriving, influential and sustainable sector that benefits Bexley people and communities



BVSC is well led and well governed, providing a high-quality service valued by the VCS



Support for diverse volunteers:

- specialist volunteers
- those nervous about volunteering
- those new to volunteering



interactions to support voluntary organisations with their volunteers

1,225
volunteering
registrations



12 Volunteering
training sessions
delivered

Increased funding for the sector to meet community needs by administering grants. This includes William Kendell, and other small grants with Bexley Wellbeing Partnership.



New community directory launched connecting residents to local services and support.

BVSC Strategic Outcome...

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Connecting
the Borough



15
Events

284
Attendees

24 Bulletins
Sent

Funding
Support



Distributed £20,323.60 to the sector
on behalf of William Kendall.

The main activities undertaken during this year were focused on continuing to support the local voluntary and community sector throughout challenging times, particularly around rising costs, inflation and cost of living crisis. We particularly focused on increasing partnership working and strengthening relationships across sectors. BVSC's activities support the achievement of our strategic aims and build on the incredibly community and voluntary sector that already exists in Bexley. This year we achieved the following:

- We led 14 networks **bringing together 211 partners** from different sectors together, sharing essential information, facilitating collaboration & supporting cross-sector solutions.
- Sent regular communications via bulletins, networks and social media to share good practice, local information, initiatives and funding opportunities.
- Provided information to the sector and partners to empower, strengthen and increase resilience.
- Provided training to voluntary sector organisations including “Communicating with Impact: Public speaking for leaders.”
- Supported organisations to successfully achieve funding and develop stronger links with funders including working with Bexley and Greenwich funder forum, and local grant funders.

Amplified the voice and contribution of the sector at key strategic meetings including Health and Wellbeing board, and Bexley Wellbeing Partnership.

- Community Connect services were expanded including an increased focus on personalised care and introducing Social Prescribing in local hospitals.
- Launched a brand-new community directory (connectedbexley.co.uk), with new technology features for easier access to Bexley's Voluntary sector organisations. The launch event had a total of **73 attendees**.

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Disability Sports Network

We continued delivering the successful Disability Sports Network, increasing partnerships and disseminating small grants funding to local organisations for inclusive sports.



- NEW deaf bowls club
- NEW SEND trampolining session
- Inclusive Toolkit for Bexley orgs collaboratively produced

3 collaborative school projects for SEND children

Food Alliance Network

Bringing together charities, community groups and organisations supporting Bexley residents with food access, financial assistance and other essential services.

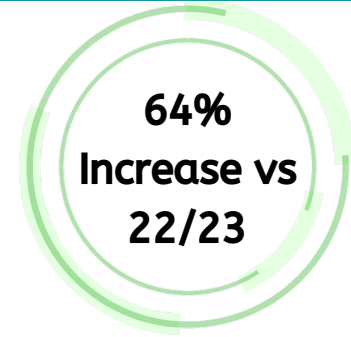


- “Cash first” leaflet was collaboratively produced for Bexley

We were successful in a funding bid to expand the Food Alliance Network

BVSC Strategic Outcome...

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We have seen a major increase in referrals for both the Children and Young People (CYP) and Adult service in 23/24. In total we have supported 1827 residents in Bexley by connecting them to local organisations. We have made over 600 referrals to local organisations and statutory services and signposted to drop in services and online resources with a total of 1280 times. Additionally we held 4 CYP Networks across the year, with an average of 20 organisations and statutory partners attending. We have attended several events and attended many board meetings to discuss the social prescribing project and increase awareness.

BVSC's role as the front door to the service allocated over 2200 referrals and handled 970 phone calls, in addition to providing process support to the Trusted Assessors.

This year One Bexley increased the number of assessment completed by 64% vs 22/23., this was aided by the recruitment of a further 5 Trusted Assessors. We have also attended a number of community events which has helped raise our profile, which is reflected in the number of community referrals received.

"The services have been useful but the biggest part was not feeling alone which has been massively helpful. Even in terms of things I can do for myself, I have been able to do them now thanks to the support."

"Genuinely, without Madison, I don't know where we'd be. She changed my son's life and now he's doing really well. My son was non-verbal and now he's actually got a voice. She is incredible. She always called and checked in on me as well and it made a difference to me as a person."

Mum wanted to thank you for doing such a good job; you are so lovely, kind and on the families level. She never had someone like you, it's really nice to have the support and wished they had it years ago

It was quite daunting but I was treated with kindness & understanding and at no point did I feel rushed or feel like it was a "tick box exercise"
"I think 'One Bexley' have assembled a team that are helpful, knowledgeable, professional and most importantly trustworthy

Katie* was referred to us by Station Road Surgery due to significant anxiety, which had worsened after lockdown disrupted her school routine. She also experienced periods of low mood, struggled with self-imposed academic pressure, and felt her worth was linked to her grades.

Although initially hesitant about support, Katie engaged well with our service and enjoyed exploring the resources provided. Following a review of support options, she chose to access CBT through Bexley Moorings to help manage her anxiety. During our final follow-up, Katie's mum reported that she was "doing great," with a more stable mood and increased confidence, including attending boxing classes. She expressed pride in Katie's progress and thanked us for our support.

A resident was referred into Community Connect, in addition to support and signposting provided by them, it was identified that they would benefit from an assessment by One Bexley for home adaptations.

Feedback received from the resident was "I am 'overwhelmed' by the amazing support I received. I now have a raised sofa, a sit-on for the bath and a perching stall and described the service as 'really fast and effective, it was the best thing ever'!



This year we ran 10 events, including:

- 3 Volunteer Managers' networks
- 3 Volunteer Fairs with a total of 165 attendees
- 1 Celebration of Bexley Volunteers event during Volunteers' Week, 120 people in attendance including the Mayor of Bexley, and local MPs
- 2 Trustee events - Trustee Speed Matching & Trustee Networking
- 1 Go Digital event to raise awareness and support Bexley residents that may be digitally excluded



We delivered 12 training sessions for both Volunteers and Volunteer Managers, including courses such as How to Demonstrate Impact as a Volunteer Manager, and Introduction to Volunteering. We partnered with organisations such as Protection Approaches who ran a free 3 hour Active Bystander workshop for Volunteer Managers in Bexley.

'I found out about the volunteering opportunity at Re-instate last summer through BVSC. The process of applying was very straight forward and after an initial visit and chat with the hub manager I agreed it was something I would really like to do.'

Once my DBS came through, I started attending once a week. It has been and continues to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Since leaving work it gives me a sense of purpose and I look forward to the sessions I help with. I feel part of the community and it feels good to give something back. I have learnt so much from the people at the group which has helped me grow as a person. I am learning new skills and attributes all the time.

I would thoroughly recommend to anyone with some spare time to consider volunteering, it's fun and rewarding.'

Jan Austin, Re-Instate Volunteer

Through funding we received from Bexley Wellbeing Partnership, we commissioned LGBTQ+ Charity Just Like Us to deliver talks in secondary schools across Bexley. These talks were delivered by volunteer ambassadors aged 18-25, sharing their experience growing up LGBTQ+.

Just Like Us worked in 9 new schools in Bexley, reaching over 5,000 students. These schools now have access to over 150 free resources provided by the charity. Following this partnership, Just Like Us are now linked in with a new LGBTQ+ Forum for Bexley Schools, of which BVSC are also a part of.