



BVSC Strategic Outcomes...

...and how we've done! 22/23



Support for diverse volunteers:

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

1228 interactions to support voluntary organisations with their volunteers

1,225 enquiries from the public about volunteering

Four organisations achieved Valuing Volunteers Awards

>39k Supporting Bexley borough through grant funding

"Having someone to talk to saved me when I was at my lowest."
Community Connect Client

£40K BVSC distributed William Kendall grants to VCSE Groups

99% Would recommend Impact in Action training

Out of 5

- 4.7 I was able to fully participate
- 4.7 the session met my needs
- 4.7 the trainer was knowledgeable
- 4.7 the session will be useful

Average response for Impact in Action over 2 years

BVSC Strategic Outcome...

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

Connecting the Borough



- 40 Bulletins sent, 13 of which were specific to funding opportunities
- Led networks bringing 502 partners from different sectors together, sharing essential information & enabling collaboration.
- 4 Voluntary Forums hosted with 152 attendees
- 4 Adult, Health & Social Care networks delivered with 92 attendees
- 4 Children & Young People's networks delivered with 105 attendees
- 6 Sports Inclusion Network delivered with 96 attendees

Funding Support



- Arranged a 'Find out about Funding' event which was attended by 57 organisations and 19 Funders. The National Lottery said *"It is the largest in person funding fair that I have been to, great job!"*
- Active Member of Bexley & Greenwich Funder Forum, joined by 9 funders so far.
- Distributed £39,461 to the sector on behalf of William Kendall.
- Awarded £38,731 in grants to the Voluntary & Community Sector

"Through the support given we trained additional befrienders and did safeguarding checks, which enabled us to open a further Elderberries café and re-open the waiting lists"
- Evergreen Care UK

"We would never know half the things that are going on if I did not come along to the meetings. I may only pick up a couple of things at each meeting, but they are really helpful. We are grateful to BVSC for arranging the networks"

-Transform Bexley

"On a personal note, this network has not only given me inspiration, but provided me with a lot of local knowledge and partner contacts that would have been much harder to come by without this group. Tangible results, resulting in projects have been possible as a result of this network."

- Sense

"As a result of your last bulletin, I contacted Roots HR, they offered me an hours free consultancy. We have already met and they helped resolve an AL Query"

Carers Support Bexley

BVSC supported a seminar led by Councillor Leaf. 43 organisations attended and informed the Local Authority's response to the crisis, as well as increased awareness of local services, partnership working and improved communications.

We were successful in a joint funding bid to bring a new Food Poverty Network (Good Food) to Bexley.

We applied for, and were successful, in funding from NAVCA, distributing £5k of funding to Bexley organisations specifically for Cost of Living related services.



**£78,192
Distributed**

**19
Events**

**502
Attendees**

BVSC Strategic Outcome...

BVSC has a thriving, influential & sustainable sector that benefits Bexley People and communities



This year we reached the end of our 5 year Impact in Action Project.
We redesigned the service throughout the pandemic and in it's last two years, we delivered the following:

- 103 Training sessions delivered in a variety of formats including; micro training, funder feasts and 1-1s, attended by 793.
- Delivered a total of 315 hours of 1-to-1 support to demonstrate impact
- Created 76 different resources for the Voluntary and Community Sector

One group were finding it difficult to gain funding. They joined various Impact training sessions, and requested a 1-to-1 slot. They were later succesful in their funding bid and said "Thank you, our bid was a lot stronger due to your input!"

"I learned a lot and it had the added bonus of enabling me to talk/connect with other people from other organisations on the visit."



Visit to Funder combined with training

793 attendees

315 hours 1-1 support



Digital Champions are volunteers who are based in local organisations, such as libraries. These volunteers help anyone who need basic digital help, like online bookings for an appointment with their doctor.

Digital Champions are trained by BVSC, but are hosted by and supported longer-term by various VCSE organisations in Bexley. They provide essential support to linking Bexley residents to digital support. We work in partnership with organisations such as Blackfen Community Library & Isolation Help Bexley.

Frank wanted a Digital Champion because he had a cancer diagnosis and was finding it difficult to look up the online appointment details. The Digital Champion helped Frank not only find out about the appointments, but also helped Frank find a way to book cheap tickets to some entertainment as a little something to look forward to.

BVSC Strategic Outcome...

BVSC has a thriving, influential & sustainable sector that benefits Bexley People and communities



1533
Referrals

1472
Services
referred

We were delighted to be re-awarded the Social Prescribing contract and this year focused on evolving the model to reduce costs and increase front-line resource. The service was extended to include Children and Young People and we're able to fund four organisations as part of this project - Bexley Moorings, Counselling Matters Bexley, CRiBS & Little Fish Theatre.

"Thank you very much for your support, from me and also on behalf of my Mum. I think the day care activities would be perfect for her, so I will keep everything crossed. I really appreciate your help and your call came at just the right time" Mrs M

"Without your support I would be back in a black hole. Thank you so much to you and your organization. I appreciate all and every effort and will look into the links provided, It's been a pleasure speaking with you" Mr B

Debbie was referred to us in early 2023, during the first meeting she shared that she struggled with anxiety, we spoke about her hobbies and activities that would help improve her health and wellbeing. A plan was agreed between Debbie and her co-ordinator, who made three referrals to different organisations - including Re-instate and Centrepieces.

Two months later, Debbie said "After six years of no activities, I now have all of this" - she had been attending groups at all organisations and stated that she enjoyed having a routine and purpose. A month later, Debbie shared she was now a volunteer at Centrepieces, describing the charity as a 'lifesaver.' She had also completed multiple courses with Re-instate and felt more prepared for getting back into employment.



1260
assessments
completed

One Bexley is consortium made of up eight voluntary sector partners including: Age UK Bexley, Bexley Mencap, BVSC, Carers Support Bexley, Crossroads Care SEL, Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice, Inspire Community Trust & Mind in Bexley.

Together they deliver the Pathways Project, providing Adult Social Care tasks such as Care Act Assessments & Carers Assessments to Bexley residents. This enables residents to get support quicker, and often by people they already know. BVSC's role is essentially the front door to the service.

This year, Pathways completed 1260 total assessments which included 624 Needs Assessments, 128 Carers Assessments, and 508 reviews.

Ralph, 13, was referred by his GP Practice for bullying in school, struggling with self-image from both the bullying and Social Media. We met with Ralph over a period of sessions and he disclosed online-grooming, and that he'd started to make himself vomit from the stress of it all. We reported the incident to the Police & School, and discussed available services.

Ralph chose talking therapies and had 12 sessions of 1-to-1 counselling with Counselling Matters Bexley, he explored his anxiety around school, worked on his eating disorder and has since taken control of his meals & no longer vomiting. Ralph now attends online-school, where he is more comfortable and is connected to volunteering opportunities.

Ralph said "Thank you for giving me my own space to talk about my feelings and for checking in"



"The Volunteer Centre have supported us to achieve a Gold Award in Valuing Volunteers in Bexley, helping us to evaluate and assess our volunteer recruitment, training and management policies and procedures. They provide ongoing support to ensure that, as an organisation, we are making the volunteer experience enriching and worthwhile for our volunteers." Evergreen Care Bexley

This year we have run a number of events, including:

- **4 Volunteer Managers' networks, covering topics such as Disclosure & Barring Service, Impact of cost of living on volunteer management, and discussions around how volunteering can do more to engage global majority residents.**
- **1 Celebration of Bexley Volunteers event during Volunteers Week, which included a Cook along with Rosemary Shrager & 1 thank you Tea Party for all Covid Marshall Volunteers.**
- **We ran 3 Volunteer Fairs, two were held in person and one was virtual, and we had a total of 125 attendees looking to volunteer in Bexley.**
- **9 different training events including courses such as Motivating & Retaining volunteers, Introduction to Volunteering & Volunteering Management, Developing Roles & Volunteer Recruitment.**

1225
Volunteer
Enquiries

807
Volunteers
Registered

74 New
Organisations

We conducted research into what our Voluntary and Community Sector wanted Volunteer Centre Bexley to deliver. This included Questionnaires, forum events, face to face engagement and interviewing local residents interested in volunteering. The results included streamlining internal processes and a renewed focus on diversifying roles such as on micro-volunteering.

We awarded 4 organisations with Valuing Volunteers Certificates. Congratulations to Re-instate, Irish Community Services and Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice (GBCH) for achieving Bronze Award, and to Blackfen Community Library for achieving Silver Award!

We provided bespoke support to Volunteer Managers around Cost-of-Living Crisis which included training and forum events.

We set up and launched the brand new Small Organisation Hub which provides more specific and targeted support for small and developing organisations.

We ran our signature Trustee Speed Matching Event which was attended by 18 volunteers and 13 organisations, 12 of those volunteers went on to become Bexley Trustees.

There needed to be more Bexley based services providing support for LGBTQ+ young people. We wrote a funding proposal with Just Like Us (an LGBTQ+ organisation who use volunteer ambassadors aged 18-25), to visit schools and talk about their lived experience. This project was funded by Bexley Wellbeing Partnership.

We increased our outreach offer, doing more sessions than before at Bexley Business & Employment (BBE) and Job Centre Plus (JCP), as well as supermarkets & libraries.

We developed our Youth Volunteering Programme, working with local organisations such as Youth Build UK to speak to young people and conduct research into the types of volunteering opportunities & development young people are looking for to inform our programme design.

We Supported the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, working closely with London Borough of Bexley. We supported existing events including one led by St Johns Evangelist Church, and held two network sessions, mobilising a pool of volunteers available to support.