



COMMUNITY ACTION
NETWORK

VCS in Dorset

- Annual contribution of volunteers/trustees across Dorset - £700m per year
- Value of volunteering £640 - £950m per year
- 2300 registered charities & 4600 community groups in Dorset.

Community Action Network

- Serve and champion Dorset's voluntary and community sector
- 800+ members
- Led by a Board of Trustees that provide accountability to the sector.



A group of people are seated around a light-colored wooden table in what appears to be a meeting or workshop setting. In the center, a woman wearing a black hijab and a dark blue long-sleeved shirt is looking towards the camera with a neutral expression. To her left, a woman with red hair tied back in a ponytail with a red bow, wearing a green turtleneck and a yellow lanyard, looks off to the side. In the foreground, a woman with glasses is partially visible, holding a white cup. To the right of the woman in the hijab, a man with long brown hair wearing a red hoodie is looking towards the camera. In the foreground on the right, a woman with dark hair is seen from the back, wearing a light-colored sweater. The table is cluttered with various items including a water bottle, a small black bag, and some papers. A large window in the background shows a blurred outdoor scene. The text "Action with Heart" is overlaid in white, with a small red heart icon to the right of the word "Heart".

Action with
Heart



Strengthen VCS organisations to deliver high-quality services sustainably



Increase volunteer engagement and positive impact



Enhance collaboration and influence to improve community wellbeing



Promote equity, diversity and inclusion



Strengthen VCS infrastructure through member-led leadership



Sustain a strong successful charity



In 2024



- 55 new groups supported
- 400 groups accessed advice and support
- 390 groups attended training/webinars
- 98% would recommend CAN
- Supported 700+ people to volunteer
- Engagement with the sector and wider community
- 300+ groups attend CAN networks
- Advocacy and sector representation

OUR WORK

BCP Council projects include:

- Early Help Partnership
- Ethnically Diverse Communities
- Trusted Reviewers
- Wellbeing Collaborative

County- wide:

- Access Wellbeing
- Access to Community Support Services





STATE OF THE SECTOR REPORT

Primary services

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Advice and information
- Community services

Main beneficiaries

- Older people
- Disabled people
- People experiencing mental health issues

STATE OF THE SECTOR REPORT

Challenges

- Recruitment and retention of staff & volunteers
- Higher demand – some seeing 50% increase
- Relationships with public sector organisations could be better
- Challenging financial landscape – increase in demand, decrease in funding.

Gaps in service provision

- Social isolation
- Mental Health support
- Accessible transport



Recommendations



- Enhance funding flexibility and stability
- Focus on financial resilience
- Address staffing and volunteer challenges
- Strengthen relationships across the system
- Innovate and adapt services
- Target key service gaps
- Collaborate and share best practices.





**THE
CHATTERBOXES**

PART OF YMCA BOURNEMOUTH





GET IN TOUCH

For information, support or to find out more about how we can help you.

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THANK YOU

