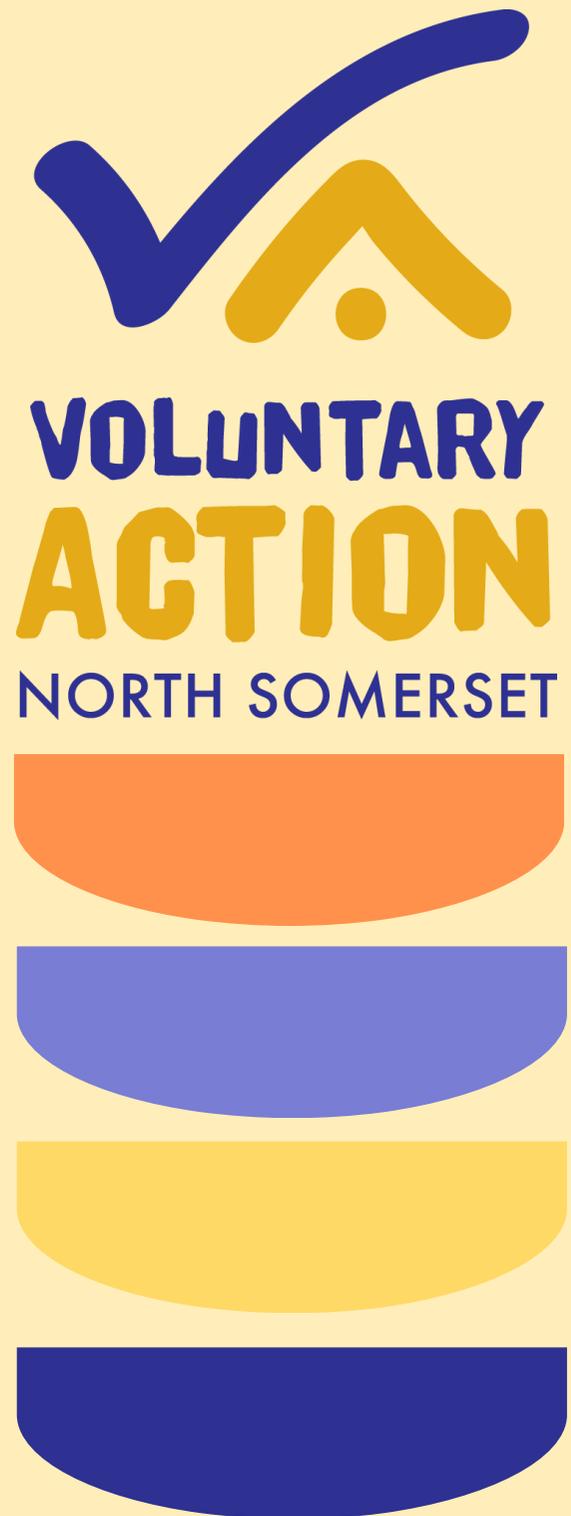


OUR IMPACT 2022/23



Online Volunteer Centre
363 volunteers registered and supported

261 volunteering opportunities listed



Ageing Well Programme

14 Grants distributed totalling £30,000



6 Workshops/forums run

198 Warm packs distributed

Vaccination Volunteers

450 Volunteers

28 Clinics supported

3,637 Volunteer hours



13 UKSPF Bid Writing Workshops/Webinar attended by

59 people from 55 different VCFSE groups



“All very helpful to me and prompted me to take a fresh look at the direction of my project. Thank you VANS!”



“I have always had a fear of bid writing but after attending this session, I feel more confident about the key information needed for the process.”



OUR IMPACT

2022/23

132

organisations supported as part of the Volunteer Coordinators Network



“It’s given me some useful and supportive links with great people and organisations and I’ve learnt lots from the VANS workshop.”

Shape of the Sector Survey

Additional support identified for sector that we have delivered:

✓ Volunteering Strategy

✓ Training Programme development



STEP FORWARD

Free courses to support people in recovery and into volunteering

123 Sessions delivered to

106 clients with

49 volunteering

RECLAIM
FREEDOM from abuse

692 Free counselling sessions delivered (683 hours)

98 Clients supported

“It’s both horrifying and at the same time helpful to realise the extent/ length of abuse one has faced/is facing. Strategies to recognise and establish boundaries have been very helpful.”
Client and Domestic Abuse Survivor

Children’s Centres Project

To recruit, train and support volunteers in Children’s Centres

68 Active Volunteers inc.

59 Breastfeeding Peer Support Volunteers



“I’m still breastfeeding 18 months on and I couldn’t have done it without the breastfeeding peer support volunteers.”

Quote from mother responding to the 2022 Breastfeeding Champions nomination

North Somerset Community Lottery

85 Good Causes benefitted

Funds raised totalled: £29,515

“Being a lottery good cause has made such a difference to the funding of the Woodspring Junior Football League, helping it to expand and offer more sessions to children across the area.”

Refugee Welcome Point

4,557 Volunteer hours

5,334 Refugees greeted

£4,300 Donations collected

2500 bottles of water and 900 SIM cards given out

Befriending Alliance

14 Organisations involved in Alliance

5 Development meetings held

29 Network meetings attended to deliver Alliance presentations



Welcome to our 2022/2023 impact report.

At the end of my first year as the CEO of VANS, I am delighted to be able to present some of the highlights and impacts that our team has achieved over the past year. As you can see, we have been busy.

I would like to say a huge thank you for the commitment, resilience, and passion displayed by our exceptional team, volunteers, and the numerous VCFSE organisations and groups we have had the privilege to collaborate with. I would also like to take this moment to extend our gratitude to our invaluable funders. Your contributions have not only sustained our operations but have allowed us to innovate, expand, and make a lasting impact on the lives of our communities in North Somerset.

Please enjoy our Report and I look forward to working with you again in the coming year.

Mandy





Online Volunteer Centre

Over the past year we launched a new Online Centre, that improves the user experience for both individuals and organisations accessing the system to recruit and apply for volunteering opportunities. Data was imported to the new system following a comprehensive data cleansing exercise in collaboration with registered volunteers and organisations.

Impact: Improved functionality for individuals seeking volunteering opportunities and greater involvement by organisations in the recruitment process of volunteers.



Ageing Well Programme

Programme launched in April 2022 with our Ageing Well Lead chairing the Ageing Well prevention workstream that included falls prevention, delivery of the Care Home befriending project, consultation with the older population to identify issues affecting them, and input into Ageing Well Boards in Weston and Woodspring.

Impact: Established and developed collaborative partnership relationships with organisations and statutory colleagues to successfully deliver a range of projects and funding to meet the needs of the ageing community across North Somerset.



Vaccination Volunteers

A continuation of the programme that commenced during COVID-19 where we maintained a volunteer workforce to support both clinics and GP practices to deliver the mass vaccination programme using volunteers.

Impact: People across BNSSG had access to a wide range of vaccination clinic options including within their GP practices and outreach clinics.



UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Bid Writing Project

A programme of bid writing workshops run by us to support organisations who were applying for UKSPF funding which needed to comply with specific framework criteria to be successful.

Impact: North Somerset Council assessment team acknowledged that the quality of bid applications were strong reflecting on our input provided to those organisations/individuals who attended the workshops





Step Forward Project

A series of training/counselling sessions to support people in recovery to get their lives back on track and encourage them to explore volunteering as an option to ultimately return to employment. Weekly outreach sessions across rural communities were also delivered.

Impact: Worked collaboratively with specialist organisations to offer support to their clients and other individuals with a 46% conversion rate to volunteering.

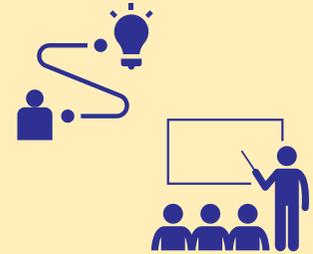
STEP FORWARD 



Shape of the Sector Survey

A bi-annual survey that collects sector-specific data allows us to deliver the services the sector needs to operate efficiently and effectively.

Impact: Based on the survey results, we have produced a Volunteering Strategy and are building a training programme to meet the needs identified by the survey respondents.



Volunteer Coordinators Network

This network, led by us, was formed to bring together Volunteer Coordinators from organisations across North Somerset to explore best practices within the sector and to find ways to work more collaboratively. Topical subjects relevant to the sector are discussed and guest speakers present on a variety of subjects.

Impact: The network has covered a variety of topics with many lessons learnt and organisations have been able to adopt different practices which have proven to be successful in their own organisations.



Reclaim

Reclaim is a specialist counselling service with 11 counsellors offering free sessions to people across North Somerset affected by domestic abuse. Coffee mornings and therapeutic group sessions have also been provided to clients and people on the waiting list to see a counsellor.

Impact: People affected by domestic abuse have been able to access free counselling and networking opportunities to support them in their recovery.

RECLAIM
FREEDOM from abuse 



Children's Centres Project

We lead on the recruitment, training and support of volunteers operating alongside the employed staff in North Somerset Council's Children's Centres.

Impact: Utilising volunteers in the Children's Centres including the recruitment and training of breastfeeding peer support volunteers means that new mothers have access to free support and the volunteers add value to and enhance services for children and families using the Children's Centres.



Befriending Alliance

The Befriending Alliance is a new initiative to build and develop capacity in befriending schemes across North Somerset comprising 14 organisations. We lead on this collaborative project coordinating sector research and promotional campaigns to increase the number of befriending volunteers for the 14 organisations who form the Alliance.

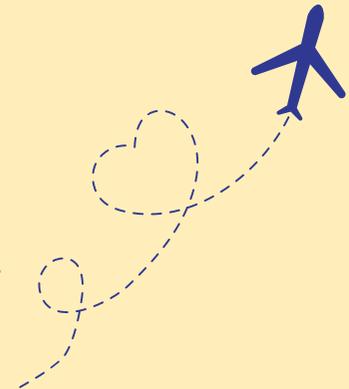
Impact: Recruiting befrienders minimises the risk of social isolation and loneliness within communities allowing in some cases people to continue living independently with the support of a befriending volunteer.



Refugee Welcome Point

We utilised a large number of the mass vaccination volunteers as well as recruiting a further 117 new volunteers to man the welcome point desk for refugees arriving at Bristol Airport. Volunteers covered 5 shifts per day with 4,557 volunteer hours worked. 5,334 refugees were welcomed and £4,300 in donations was collected through the Welcome Desk.

Impact: Our volunteers provided a friendly welcome to refugees arriving in the UK, following in many cases a very traumatic journey. Volunteers provided resources/information to assist host families and their refugee guests.



North Somerset Community Lottery

We manage the North Somerset Community Lottery in conjunction with Gatherwell (the Lottery Owners), recruiting good causes, supporting their promotional activities to maximise lottery ticket sales.

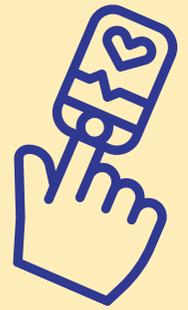
Impact: The North Somerset Community Lottery has raised £29,515 for the 85 Good Causes that are involved. Ticket sales generate 50p per sale for the nominated good cause, as well as providing a chance for the ticket purchaser to win up to £25,000 in the weekly draw.



✓ Pulse Oximeter Programme

We arranged the delivery of pulse oximeters across BNSSG using volunteers on behalf of Sirona care & health. We were responsible for the recruitment, scheduling of shifts and training of the 211 volunteers during the delivery programme.

Impact: Volunteers delivered pulse oximeters to people who had been referred by their GP's to monitor their blood oxygen levels whilst staying in their own home, rather than being admitted to hospital and placing more pressure on hospital services.



✓ Community Resilience North Somerset

We have taken over the responsibility for the Community Resilience volunteers from North Somerset Council. These volunteers work across North Somerset and are deployed when there are emergencies. We have also worked closely with the volunteers to identify extensions to their roles which will potentially include good neighbour befrienders.

Impact: In the event of a crisis, coordinated by Emergency Services and North Somerset Council, the volunteers can assist the emergency teams, therefore increasing the presence in communities and aiding people who may be isolated or live alone.



✓ North Somerset Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF)

Following North Somerset's successful bid, this enabled the partners in the bid, with the funding allocated from North Somerset Council, to develop the community hubs based on their community needs. We worked with our partners and provided support, research, testing and sharing of information to ensure the project's success. As a strategic lead, we used our connections and networks to promote the CRF.

Impact: We commissioned a web-based community map as a geographical platform for organisations to register their locations and services to communities and individuals.



✓ Locality Lead Partnership

We are a member of both the Locality Partnership Board for Weston, Worle and villages and the wider Partnership Board across the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire region. These Boards focus on working together with colleagues from Health and North Somerset Council to tackle long-term health inequalities in our area.

Impact: We are able to influence and advocate at a strategic level, for the voluntary sector to improve wellbeing and health outcomes in our North Somerset communities.





University of Bristol Project

We led one of the workstreams to map the community assets for this community network project to understand and reduce the health inequalities in Weston-super-Mare as a coastal town. The project scope was to focus on end-of-life care, bereavement, what support was available to mitigate social isolation and loneliness,

Impact: Through our contacts and research, we provided a directory of support which gave information at a local, regional, and national level, both online and in-person support. Using the details of organisations, we also supported the information provided at the Good Grief Festival held in Weston-super-Mare.



North Somerset Wellbeing Collective

We work in partnership with others to develop a programme of events that bring together individuals who want to improve the wellbeing of people in North Somerset and encourage new and deeper relationships to flourish amongst the Collective's members.

Impact: In partnership, VANS supports the programme of events that bring together individuals who want to improve the wellbeing of people in North Somerset and encourage new and deeper relationships to flourish amongst the Collective's members. Significant influence at strategic levels of Health and Local Authority on the value of the VCFSE sector has been achieved.



Community Voice and Engagement

We represent the VCFSE sector at a number of groups, including Anti Racism Group, Police Independent Advisory Group, North Somerset Council's Equality Scheme Implementation Group, the Race Hate Incident Group for North Somerset and Active Weston.

Impact: We have strengthened and developed the links between organisations and VCFSE sector groups, provided support and access to expertise in specific areas benefitting those groups that need it.



Community Mental Health Small Grants

We delivered a small grant scheme of £40,000 on behalf of BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group Healthier Together Programme and North Somerset Council.

Impact: We worked with organisations applying for funding, supporting them in the completion of their applications and delivery of their programmes which have benefitted the wider communities they work within.





Physical Activity 'Back in the Game' Fund Scheme

In conjunction with Wesport we supported several groups in applying for sports/activities funding through this scheme and managed seven small grant awards, supporting the successful clubs/groups to deliver their programmes.

Impact: We have supported the work to offer greater participation in sports across certain socio-demographics within North Somerset.



Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support across North Somerset

With the continuing need for communities to respond to the needs of refugee families relocating to North Somerset, we coordinated the growth in the VCFSE sectors capacity to meet the increased demand for help by creating a network of organisations who could collaborate to find solutions to help these families and individuals settle in their new country.

Impact: Our involvement in this project reduced the pressure on Council services and we were able to coordinate resources from across the VCFSE sector which helped the refugee families adapt to their new country and have support navigating their way around government and local authority systems and schemes.



Support for Ukrainian's Programme

We worked to establish and grow ten active local hub groups across North Somerset, building a network of local connections between hosts, their Ukrainian guests and a variety of support agencies.

Impact: We have provided on-going support for these hubs and secured funding for a variety of different activities, events to be held and gifts for children to be distributed. These actions have been well received by the Ukrainian families and has helped them adapt to their new lives, by feeling as though they are integrating into their new communities.



Wesport's Together Fund programme support

We worked with the North Somerset Bangladeshi Association to apply for funding and supported their bid to secure money which would allow them to organise weekly women-only swimming sessions in a local leisure centre in Weston-super-Mare.

Impact: From a cohort of 85 Bangladeshi women, many of whom were not 'physically active' and who faced significant barriers to accessing swimming, over half now regularly attend swimming sessions.





Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I) and Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) Engagement

We delivered three primary school workshops reaching an audience of 150, year 5/6 pupils covering the subjects of ED&I and STEM.

Impact: Feedback has been very positive with these workshops adding value to the pupils learning and knowledge.



Maqbul Project

Our Maqbul project is an initiative involving work with displaced people currently living in Weston-super-Mare that incorporates coaching, playing and community engagement opportunities, in partnership with Somerset Cricket Foundation, Weston-super-Mare Cricket Club and Somerset County Council.

Impact: Delivering this programme has provided opportunities to people who would not have been able to participate in cricket as a sport, by involving them in cricket training, playing in social fixtures and attending other associated events.



Rugby Projects at Hornets Rugby Club

With our support, a number of initiatives have been rolled out at one of Weston-super-Mare's local rugby clubs. These include the launch of a men's health club (Talk Club), regular Touch Rugby and Walking Rugby.

Impact: These initiatives have provided opportunities for people who may have mental health issues, be socially isolated or lonely to participate in some activities.



The true value of assets in our communities are not solely bricks and mortar and are much more around what so many demonstrate in communities particularly in times of need. Immeasurable in monetary terms, it is the building of resilience and active citizenship that will have long and lasting impacts. VANS continues to provide a pivotal role, bringing experience and guidance of volunteer management, co-ordination and regulation to enable the safe deployment of volunteers and meet community need.



Much of our activity is only possible with support from commissioners and funders which has enabled us to continue to make significant strides within our own charity and provide a package of support to the sector which we so passionately represent.

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has given up their time to volunteer across North Somerset over the last year. We look forward to continued support for the voluntary and community sector by committing time or resources and enabling the amazing work to continue across communities in North Somerset. I hope you enjoy reading the impact report and learning more about our achievements.

**Delyth
Chair**



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