



The East Sussex Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Alliance

Meet Steve Hare, Vice Chair of the East Sussex VCSE Alliance

Steve is a committed champion for the VCSE sector as a strategically important voice for local people and communities and for its demonstration of generous leadership and collaborative working principles.

His over 30 years' experience of working in the VCSE includes dealing with a range of people and issues including homelessness, mental health, substance misuse, domestic violence and poverty.



He brings a strategic partnering and influencing capability and a service co-design and provider perspective to the Alliance.

In 2006 he became the Chief Executive of [Age UK East Sussex](#), an independent local older people's charity working directly with over 10,000 local older people a year and representing on later life issues.

Steve is the East Sussex VCSE representative on the Sussex Health & Care Assembly and amongst other roles is one of the Alliance's Partnership Plus Executive representatives and co-represents on the East Sussex Health and Care Partnership Board.

Married with two grown up children, Steve is a keen marathon runner and is passionate about live music.

The Alliance – Year on a Page

The Alliance has been busy since being awarded three years funding by East Sussex County Council in 2021

We have put together a few of our highlights on the following page



2021

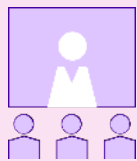
- Grant agreement with ESCC to fund East Sussex VCSE Alliance for 3 years
- 15 founder organisations represent the sector across East Sussex

January 2022

- [East Sussex Vision Support](#) join the Alliance

March 2022

- First [East Sussex Commissioning Workshop](#) - held in partnership with VCSE and ESCC leaders



13 Alliance member meetings

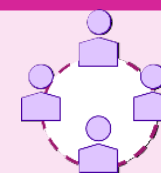


July 2022

- Members agree six key priorities to progress the Alliance Development Programme
- [Diversity Resource International](#) join the Alliance

August 2022

- [Brighton Women's Centre](#) join the Alliance



10 active Task & Finish groups



February 2023

- [Wave Active](#) join the Alliance
- Collaborative partnership bid wins funding for a social prescribing service to support young Ukrainians

April 2023

- Member workshop focusses on enhancing Alliance governance, membership and external relationships

April 2022

- Alliance Development Officer starts
 - [Maps and Dreams: Preparing for Tomorrow](#): Alliance annual conference takes place
- Alliance members collaborate in a funded [NHS/VCSE Pilot Programme](#), supporting vulnerable people at risk of hospital admission

May 2022

- Members participate in [IVAR's Connecting Health Communities Programme](#) tackling health inequalities
- [Warming up the Homeless](#) join the Alliance

November 2022

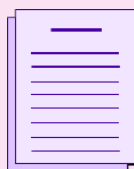
- [Second Commissioning Workshop](#)
- First edition of the [Alliance newsletter](#) published

December 2022

- [Little Gate](#) join the Alliance

January 2023

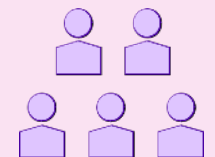
- Alliance bids farewell to existing Chair and welcomes Jennifer Twist, CEO of [Care for the Carers](#) as Chair
- Alliance partners in multi-agency Loneliness & Social Isolation Stewardship Steering Group to tackle loneliness across East Sussex



7 Position Papers Published, including 45 recommendations



18 multi-agency meetings co-chaired by the Alliance



21 Alliance Members

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

Edition 3 – May 2023



Spotlight on an Alliance Member: Welcome to Amaze

Amaze provides information, advice and support to families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and also supports young people with SEND from age 14 to 25.

Services across East Sussex include:

- **Detailed information**, fact sheets, guides and blogs about special educational needs and disability are available [here](#). Contact the free SENDIASS advice line for individual guidance - Email sendiass@amazesussex.org.uk or call 01273 772289. For non-English speakers, contact [Sussex Interpreting Service](#)
- **Regular, free workshops** for parent carers on topics such as getting the right SEN support in school, Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, disability benefits, transition to adulthood, and more. See [here](#). Some workshops are available on [YouTube](#)
- **Befriending support** and regular social groups for parent carers via [Amaze's Face 2 Face Group](#) offering parent carers a way to connect with others, share ideas and mutual support, through themed sessions, speakers or events. Amaze links parents to groups where they can join in as much or as little as they choose. These in-person groups meet at five different locations in East Sussex and online
- **Advice and sometimes practical support**, for parent carers to make a claim for **Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment** for a child or young person
- **The NDP Family Training and Navigation Service** supports families at each stage along the neurodevelopmental pathway from when a condition is first flagged, through referral to assessment, diagnosis and after. Neurodevelopmental conditions include autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder & tics/Tourette syndrome
- **Young people aged 14 to 25 with SEND can join our [Amazing Futures project](#)**, offering peer support and activity groups, one to one careers guidance and workshops about employment, education and training and coaching on emotional mental health and wellbeing. Amazing Futures young people also run a voice group and work in partnership with others to improve local SEND services
- **Amaze hosts and supports East Sussex Parent Carer Forum** to make sure the voice and views of parent carers are central in planning SEND services

For more information, please visit: <https://amazesussex.org.uk/>



VCSE
EAST SUSSEX ALLIANCE

www.escv.org.uk/vcse-alliance/vcse-alliance



Alliance activity and latest news

Loneliness & Social Isolation Stewardship Group – establishing a system approach

ESCC Adult Social Care and Public Health are funding a stewardship group, looking at how agencies can work together to reduce loneliness and help people be more connected. Alliance members are part of a working group, working alongside statutory partners to understand what success for the people of East Sussex looks like. The group has focused on what systems stewardship is, how partners can contribute individually and collectively through stronger working relationships and agreeing the roles and responsibilities of a host organisation, with the intention the VCSE sector will provide this stewardship role

Commissioning Excellence Programme 2023 – 2025

A two-year Commissioning Excellence Programme will run from April 2023, delivered via workshops based on practical, peer-led learning. This multi-partnership programme, hosted by the Alliance and ESCC, aims to develop East Sussex as a centre of excellence for VCSE commissioning; by improving communication, dialogue, trust and understanding between statutory commissioners and VCSE organisations, to enable the culture shift necessary to achieve sustained change

East Sussex VCSE Alliance Position Paper ‘VCSE Perspectives on Social Prescribing’

The paper was reviewed by the East Sussex Social Prescribing Information Sharing Group, who supported the Alliance’s position and recommended the paper be shared with the pan-Sussex Social Prescribing Strategic Steering Group; the Alliance now has a representative in this group

Welfare Benefit & Debt Advice Steering Group

Alliance members have been crucial partners in this multi-agency group, contributing to the independent review of current debt and welfare services, the difficulties faced by the public to navigate the benefit system and recommendations on how to improve services. This information has fed into the multi-agency Financial Inclusion Steering Group action plan, co-chaired by an Alliance member

Draft Adult Social Care Strategy for East Sussex

Alliance members have taken part in community engagement, focus groups, workshops and reviews of the draft strategy to support ESCC partners develop their new strategy

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





Meet our newest member: Wave Active Ltd

Wave Active is a charity and social enterprise with a Purpose of '*Inspiring Active Lifestyles*' and Vision '*To be at the heart of the improvement of health and wellbeing within the Community*'.

Formed in 2006, Wave Active is an award-winning Trust, managing 14 leisure facilities and Newhaven Fort, through its contract and agreement with two local district councils.

Wave provide a vast range of membership options for their activities, holiday programmes and outreach initiatives, available at numerous indoor and outdoor facilities; all of which contribute to the health and wellbeing of the local population.

Wave Active Health

Wave has developed services which support people to make positive health improvements through physical activity. These fall under the 'Wave Active Health' brand and have been created for those with diagnosed health conditions; physical, mental or emotional, to be more active every day through support - for people to gain, regain or maintain their health and well-being.

Wave has experience of delivering programmes and partnerships linked to falls prevention, musculoskeletal conditions and delivery of cardiac, stroke and pulmonary rehabilitation activities.

Wave has developed '*Make a Move*' - a progressive pathway of four group activity sessions to enable participants to move from being less mobile to more mobile, by improving balance, strength and confidence in movement:



1. **Seated Fitness** - supporting participants to progress from seated to standing
2. **Move and Mobilise** - to reduce falls, aid in the ability to get up independently if fallen, increase confidence and further enhance mobility and strength
3. **Move More 1** - supporting more active participants to work on targeted health outcomes
4. **Move More 2** - progression from Move More 1, to further increase mobility, strength, and conditioning

Sessions are not limited by age - participants are triaged by **Health Improvement Practitioners**, who ensure participation is appropriate and safe, as well as linked to appropriate goal setting.

People can access sessions through self referral or via referrals from a health professional to a dedicated Health Improvement Practitioner - enabling supportive access in groups or one to one. For more information click [here](#).





Member's news

East Sussex Community Voice (ESCV)

Awarded £47,820 to launch Youth Social Action Fund Project

The Youth Social Action Fund is a £3m funding partnership between BBC Children in Need, the #iwill Fund and The Hunter Foundation, supporting UK organisations to embed youth social action.

ESCV's Youth Social Action Project will work with young people facing substantial inequalities, that reduce their opportunities to thrive, lead healthy lives and play positive roles in their communities.

Fully co-designed, the project is led by a Youth Advisory Board and will:

- Build a lifelong habit of social action
- Provide support in young people influencing their local spaces, services and environment
- Deliver fun, inclusive activities that result in a sense of belonging in their communities

For more information, visit [here](#)

Warming up the Homeless

The Hastings Homeless Support Centre, 23 Priory Street, Hastings, TN34 1EA

A new drop-in day centre has opened for those who classify as homeless and of facing homelessness. This is a venue for both statutory and Third Sector services who find the homeless community hard to reach or engage with, as an opportunity to speak directly in a relaxed setting provided by a charity they trust. Meeting rooms and office suites are available as a one off, for daily use or permanently.

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am - 4pm, soon to open seven days, six nights/week
Saturday Kitchen and *Sunday Supper Club* are also hosted here, from 4pm - 8pm both days
Please email Trudy Hampton for further details or for your service to use the venue
trudy@wuth.org

Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA)

Awarded £25,000 to launch new social prescribing project

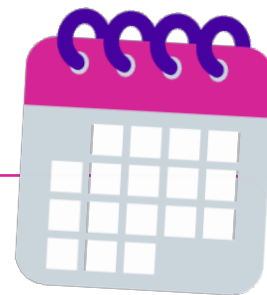
This project which will support older people in Hastings through social prescribing - connecting people to non-medical support to address their needs. HVA will use social prescribing to reach older people by holding social drop-in sessions and health & wellbeing activities over the coming months

BWC (Brighton Women's Centre)

BWC's International Women's Day Celebrations at The Dome and Brighton Museum

BWC hosted the city's largest annual International Women's Day Celebration on Saturday 11 March in partnership with Brighton Dome and Brighton Museum. Almost 900 visitors enjoyed the day, taking part in free workshops and thought-provoking discussions. The day was truly inspiring, with so many powerful women in one place, each pioneering change in their own ways





Upcoming Alliance Member events

- Alliance members meet for their monthly meeting: **30th May 2023**
- VCSE Commissioning Excellence Programme - in-person workshop for Alliance members and statutory partners: **6th July 2023**

Upcoming member events, open to the public

Hastings Voluntary Action

Volunteers Week 1st - 7th June. Volunteer Recruitment, 2nd June, 10am - 2pm

HVA will be hosting a gazebo in Hastings town centre promoting the benefits of volunteering. They will be joined by organisations looking to recruit volunteers and chat to people interested in volunteering. If you would like to join, please email:

kim@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk. Visit HVA's Volunteers' Week [here](#).

Care for the Carers

2023 Annual Carers' Voices Event - Thursday 8th June, 9:30am - 3pm

Care for the Carers and Carers Voices Network are excited to invite you and any unpaid carers you are working with or supporting to the 2023 Annual Carers' Voices Event - Celebrating Carers Week. It will be held at the beautiful Lansdowne Hotel at the Eastbourne seafront. The event including lunch is FREE to local carers, volunteers and staff, but booking is essential. [Please follow this link to book.](#)

Little Gate

Summer Fair - Saturday 1st July

There's no better way to spend a summer's day than at Little Gate Farm, in Beckley, perusing an array of beautiful artisan stalls, Pimm's in hand, soundtracked by live music, with plenty of children's activities to keep the whole family happy.

Diversity Resource International

Annual Celebrating Diversity event - Saturday 1st July

DRI's annual Celebrating Diversity event is free of charge and open to the public! It will be held in Eastbourne town centre, to highlight ethnically diverse artistry in East Sussex with art, music and cuisine. If you would like to showcase your artwork or perform, please contact DRI [here](#). Watch DRI's socials [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates or contact Community@driorg.com

East Sussex Community Voice (ESCV)

Healthwatch Annual Event - Thursday 13th July

Healthwatch East Sussex will be holding their annual event at The View Hotel, Eastbourne. More details will be available on the Healthwatch website soon.