



### Welcome to the June edition of our newsletter

We hope you've been able to enjoy some summer sun as and when it's appeared ☺

Alliance life is busy as ever, with partnership working and collaboration at the fore.

This month we have met with colleagues from ESCC and NHS, with the VCSE sector playing its part as a strategic partner in developing programmes, strategies and commissioning exercises.

### Alliance updates and activity

#### Commissioning Excellence Programme



The fourth session of the jointly hosted Commissioning Excellence Programme was held in June. It aims to develop East Sussex as a centre of excellence for VCSE commissioning, through VCSE-led cross-sector collaboration.

Leaders from the NHS, ESCC and VCSE sector agreed their vision for this exciting programme:

***'Prioritising collaboration and trust to drive innovation and improve outcomes'***

#### Financial inclusion

Colleagues involved in the Financial Inclusion working group will join a steering group to inform the future delivery of money advice services in East Sussex

#### Equality, diversity and inclusion

Members have completed an audit to identify what support their organisations might need with this key area of work. This will form the basis of an action plan to further embed EDI governance processes within Alliance organisations – watch this space!



### Alliance Member Spotlight



#### SCDA hosts the Tackling Loneliness Programme

SCDA works across Sussex, running community-based projects aimed at addressing the needs of those most vulnerable in the community. SCDA hosts the 'Tackling Loneliness Programme'.

ESCC's Public Health team recognise that loneliness significantly impacts people's health and well-being. Their commitment to tackling loneliness is set out in their report 'Connecting People and Places' – Bringing Communities Together in East Sussex'.

The Tackling Loneliness Programme aims to make changes to policies and practices to help East Sussex 'feel better connected' and reduce feelings of loneliness. It recognises the wealth of local community and support groups and services which help people feel more connected and have a greater sense of belonging to their local communities. A core ambition is to develop a campaign to "make loneliness everyone's business". The first multi-partner stewardship meeting helped develop a range of opportunities to involve people in the programme. To get involved, please contact Gill Reynolds – [gill.reynolds@sussexcommunity.org.uk](mailto:gill.reynolds@sussexcommunity.org.uk)

**For further information about the Alliance please get in touch**

Email: [esvcsealliance@escv.org.uk](mailto:esvcsealliance@escv.org.uk) Visit: [www.esvcsealliance.org.uk](http://www.esvcsealliance.org.uk)

## Alliance members: news and updates



### Bonita Apperley's Artist's Open House was a smashing success for Age UK East Sussex

Thanks to all who came out, enjoyed the amazing art, delicious treats, and beautiful greenery and all while supporting [Age UK East Sussex](#).

Steve Hare, Vice Chair of the Alliance and CEO of Age UK East Sussex says a huge thank you to the incredible staff and volunteers who baked, donated plants, and made the event run smoothly.

Together, we raised a whopping £800 to continue supporting older people in East Sussex.

### RVA/Rother Food Partnership

Rother Food Partnership (RFP) / [RVA](#) invites local organisations, business owners and community stakeholders to come together in shaping a healthier and more sustainable future through food initiatives. With its recent launch on 23rd April, RFP heralds a new era of collaboration and collective action, igniting enthusiasm for positive change across the Rother district.



### [Healthwatch 2024 Annual Event, 18<sup>th</sup> July](#)

Join us in:

- Discussing key health and care themes
  - Celebrating our activity from the last year
  - Setting out our plans for 2024-25
  - Hear about our work; share your experiences.
- With local people's feedback, Healthwatch will continue to champion patient voice and help improve health and social care services for everyone. Healthwatch East Sussex is hosted by

[ESCV](#)



### Lost Woods Project

[Action in Rural Sussex](#) is working with others on a major project to reconnect and strengthen the ancient woodlands across the Sussex Low Weald and Downs. The Lost Woods project aims to regenerate lost areas of woodland and create nature corridors between them. Find out more [About the Lost Woods project](#) | [Lost Woods project](#)



For further information please get in touch.

Email: [escvsealliance@escv.org.uk](mailto:escvsealliance@escv.org.uk) Visit: [www.escvsealliance.org.uk](http://www.escvsealliance.org.uk)