East Sussex VCSE Alliance October 2024

Alliance: updates and activity

Sara Hinchliffe, ES VCSE Alliance Project Support Officer, enjoyed meeting **3VA** members and stakeholders at their annual **Celebrating Communities** event which attracted 200 people.

Guests included the Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex, Josh Babarinde OBE MP, Cllr Lesley Boniface Chair of Lewes District Council, Cllr Candy Vaughan Mayor of Eastbourne, Vice Chair of Wealden District Council, Cllr Stephen Holt Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council plus many more!.

'It was a really joyful event and so wonderful to see the awards given to recognise the work of the voluntary and community sector locally. We met lots of new people and signed up over 30 new readers to our monthly newsletter.'

Alliance member spotlight: Little Gate 'Lunch and Learn'

Little Gate College hosted a collaborative **Lunch & Learn** event with Hastings Voluntary Action. Colleagues from Little Gate College welcomed guests from local third-sector organisations to a great opportunity to learn about the new Little Gate College programmes. Little Gate College is an extension of Little Gate Supported Employment. It opened its door this September, with its unique educational programmes designed for young people aged 16-24 with autism, learning disabilities or both.

Catering to young people aged 16-24 with an Education Health and Care Plan who aspire to secure paid employment, Little Gate College, based at The Pelham in Bexhill, introduces two specialised study programmes: Future Ready and Supported Internships. It was also a chance to discuss partnering with Little Gate to provide college students with work experience or supported internship placements. If you are a local business that would like to find out more about opportunities to partner with Little Gate please contact tracey-annecook@littlegate.org.uk.

Little Gate
Supported Employment

Wider VCSE sector and networks: news and updates

East Sussex County Council

mind in Brighton and Hove

Free **Building Resilience and Coping with Stress Training** offered online by Mind on 25th October.

For further information please get in touch.

Email: esvcsealliance@escv.org.uk Visit: www.esvcsealliance.org.uk

Alliance members: news and updates

Age UK East Sussex 'Befriending Volunteer' finds comfort through helping others

Norah, who has been a **volunteer befriender** for the last 3 years, explains what she finds most rewarding about volunteering. '*I love doing this because I really have a heart for people who are lonely and sometimes with no one to talk to. This could impact on people's mental well-being, therefore if that one phone call I make could change their lives and their mental well-being then that gives me satisfaction. A year ago, I lost my beautiful daughter to "sudden death ". This affected me so much mentally and I found myself feeling lonely and vulnerable. However, through befriending and interacting with others, I've been helped so much, and I will say it's a win-win for me and those I speak to.*'

Hosted by SCDA – Intro to 'ABCD' workshops (Asset-Based Community Development) October & November 2024, organised by Making It Happen

Get in touch to join us for workshops coming up over the next few months. Part one will provide a broad overview, while part two offers an opportunity to apply the learning to your own work and experience. These two sessions are designed to follow each other and are hugely complementary, but you are welcome to book on to one or other, or both. To register email Jerome.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Sussex Community Development Association

citizens advice Wealden

Hastings Advice & Representation Centre

On 25 September 2024, Jacky Everard and colleagues from Hastings Advice & Representation Centre (HARC) completed the Annual Hastings Legal Sponsored Walk. There were two routes, 10k and 5k. They raised more than £600 - you can still support them here.

Hastings and Rother have some of the poorest districts in the South of England. There are many people on low incomes facing severe problems with homelessness, threatened homelessness, debt, community care and all the issues that surround poverty. Families and vulnerable individuals are particularly at risk in all these areas.

By providing free, confidential welfare benefits advice, information & representation to people of East Sussex, HARC aims to address inequalities, relieve poverty and improve the quality of life for vulnerable, disadvantaged individuals and families.

For further information please get in touch.

Email: esvcsealliance@escv.org.uk Visit: www.esvcsealliance.org.uk