



Alliance: updates and activity

Update from the All-Alliance meeting held on 29 October 2024

Alliance members discussed a number of key issues, noting that the current funding period would end in March 2025. A bid for further funding was being prepared which would include the following priority areas:

- Financial inclusion and the cost of living
- Sector resilience
- Alliance representation, relationships and influencing, including new oversight groups (for social prescribing and potentially for climate change)

The Alliance also noted the outcomes of its recent survey of EDI (equality, diversity and inclusion) practice across Alliance members, and was pleased to note the action plan and proposed charter which would support good practice among Alliance members and the voluntary and community sector more broadly.

Consultation on the Compact 2020

The Alliance team has been out and about supporting the ESCC consultation on the Compact 2020, which aims to ensure that grassroots organisations are involved in decision-making. We met groups from [3VA](#) in September. Veronica Kirwan, Jennifer Twist and Anna McCollin Moore workshopped some of the issues with [RVA](#) in October and look forward to meeting with the [HCN](#) executive in December.



Sussex Voluntary Leaders Alliance (SVLA): introducing Riona Doidge

I am the new East Sussex lead for the Sussex Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Leaders Alliance ([SVLA](#))

The SVLA brings VCSE Sector organisations together with health and care partners to help shape how services are designed, funded and delivered in order to tackle health inequalities in the area. In East Sussex the SVLA will work with established VCSE networks to add value to the already amazing networks the VCSE has with health and care partners.

I am undertaking the role as a secondment from ESCV which understands the importance of public, patient and partners' voice in the design and delivery of services in our county. Over the coming months I will be working with the VCSE Alliance and the wider VCSE network in the county to explore how the VCSE can be involved at all levels in NHS Sussex. We will be using a quality development framework to help shape these conversations.



If you would like to be involved or to find out more, please get in touch – riona.doidge@escv.org.uk

For further information please get in touch.

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

Alliance members: news and updates

HCN Event - Health & Wellbeing Support for Staff

Hastings Centre, 21 November 2024, 9.30am-1.30pm

Organisations that have a focus on staff wellbeing improve their employees' overall health and increase workplace performance. Come to our event to hear about the experiences of organisations that have already signed up to Wellbeing at Work Schemes and their work towards an accredited Wellbeing at Work Award.

You will learn how you can become a Wellbeing at Work Champion for your organisation.

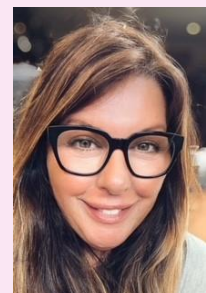
We are keen to hear your suggestions for information to put in a Staff Wellness Handbook and a Wellness at Work Plan for staff. Book [here](#).



Alliance member spotlight – Possability People's new CEO Lucy Vallis

Possability People have welcomed a new CEO, Lucy Vallis, who joined three months ago from Save the Children.

Lucy is already working to expand the charity's mission with new partnerships and initiatives. Lucy writes: 'One of the highlights this year is our selection as a beneficiary of the Brighton & Hove Santa Bus and we will be out with the bus on 9 December. The Santa Bus gets people in the holiday spirit and raises awareness of their work with disabled people across the city.'



'We're also collaborating with the National Centre for Accessible Transport (NCAT) to ensure that local disabled voices help shape the future of accessible travel. Recently, we attended a reception at the House of Lords hosted by Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, where we connected with other advocates who share our vision for spontaneous, barrier-free journeys. We're also committed to sparking more conversations about safety for disabled women in both private places and public spaces, as well as bringing disabled perspectives into environmental issues, which too often overlook the impact on our community.'

Our monthly Get Involved Group (GiG) at Montague House is thriving, providing a welcoming space for people to connect, share experiences, and get involved in shaping local services. We encourage everyone to come along and join the conversation.



'While there are exciting developments, like many of us in the sector, we're also facing challenges. The Council recently cut funding for Shopmobility, a crucial service supporting disabled people's mobility across the city. We're actively seeking new funding sources to keep this vital resource running.'

Wider VCSE sector - events

Offer of energy bills advice talks to communities

[Energise Sussex Coast](#) is offering advice talks and workshops to community groups to help them reduce their bills and stay warm and well this winter. They are looking for audiences of 10 to 100+ people who would like anything from a half hour interactive workshop on reducing your bills and financial support, through to more in depth presentations on energy saving measures and where to get grants for retrofit measures like insulation or heat pumps.

If you would like to arrange something for your service users or staff or volunteer team, please email helen@energisesussexcoast.co.uk. More information about their advice service is on their [website](#).



Free winter readiness training

[Citizens Advice 1066](#) is offering free winter readiness training to those working with households vulnerable to winter. Book [here](#).

For further information please get in touch.

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