



Alliance updates and activity

The Alliance got off to a great start this year, meeting mid-January to review early results from an Alliance survey, asking members how recent changes to employer National Insurance and National Minimum Wage will impact their organisations and service users. Analysis of eight Alliance organisations show these changes will increase staffing costs by £1,159,440 per year – that’s over one million pounds extra staffing costs per year! Further development is underway and will be shared with stakeholders later in 2025.

Alliance member spotlight



3VA are delighted to announce they’ve achieved **NAVCA’s Local**

Infrastructure Quality Accreditation (LIQA).

This reflects the quality of their offer and impact across Wealden, Eastbourne and Lewes.

Accreditation follows independent assessment of a portfolio of evidence against the Four Functions of Infrastructure:

<p>LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY</p>  <p>Mobilising and encouraging community action, strengthening our sector’s voice and influence on key decision-makers and funders.</p>	<p>PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS</p>  <p>Creating opportunities and driving effective joint working by building networks of local organisations and strategic partners.</p>	<p>CAPACITY BUILDING</p>  <p>Providing practical support and opportunities for people to develop skills in their local community, so that they can achieve their goals and aspirations.</p>	<p>VOLUNTEERING</p>  <p>Building an environment in which volunteers and their communities thrive, by encouraging and nurturing volunteering opportunities.</p>
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In achieving the LIQA, 3VA have demonstrated they deliver these functions to a high standard, that they are responsive to, and embedded in the local VCSE community, and are committed to partnership working.



As a NAVCA member, they continue to benefit from a peer support network of continuous learning and development.

Wider sector: news and updates



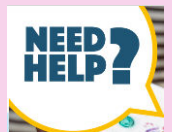
Energise Sussex Coast is a community benefit co-operative,

whose mission is to act co-operatively to tackle the climate crisis and energy injustice. They offer free, friendly and impartial advice to individuals and groups:

- Problem energy & water bills & debt
- Energy saving in the home
- Damp remedies
- Insulation & grants
- Green energy including heat pumps & solar & grants for these

If you would like further information, please contact helen@energisesussexcoast.co.uk

East Sussex County Council: Cost of Living information



Partners came together to develop an information and support leaflet to help improve the financial wellbeing of residents.

The leaflet complements ESCC’s cost-of-living webpages that hold wider information relating to the cost of living.

For more information, please see [website](#).





Alliance members: news and updates

Warming up the Homeless is pleased to announce they now have a dedicated **Domestic Abuse Officer** based at the Hastings Homeless Support Centre, covering all of East Sussex.

Sharon has a clinical nursing background and has spent the past 10 years in the homeless sector. She comes from a national non-profit company dealing with homelessness and accommodation. Sharon will work collaboratively with other domestic abuse agencies.

She is very much welcomed to Warming up the Homeless' team of specialists, who give the best service to those who are homeless and dealing with domestic abuse.

Sharon is now taking referrals and can be reached on sharon@wuth.org



Citizens Advice, Eastbourne have published an update to reports from 2018 and 2019.

The '**Nothing has Changed**' benefits report provides an update on areas of their work including benefits for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions such as Personal Independence payment, Employment & Support Allowance and Universal Credit.

The overall picture is summed up in the title – '**Nothing has changed**'. The report includes statistics on their work, case studies from clients they have helped and their recommendations on what needs to be improved.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from their [website](#)



Hastings Voluntary Action have started to set out their training programme for 2025.

Courses are free for anyone that works or volunteers in a charity organisation. [Book here.](#)

- Directors Briefing, 24th February 2025, 2pm-3pm
- Health & Safety & Risk Assessment – 28th February 2025, 10am-12.30pm
- Professional Boundaries – 19th March 2025, 10am-12.30pm
- Trauma Based Practice Training – 26th March 2025, 10am – 12.30pm

Hastings Community Network Open Mic & Networking Event, 3rd April 9.30am –1.30pm

An opportunity to share information about your work in an Open Mic slot, learn about services delivered in Hastings, browse the Marketplace and network with people from the voluntary, statutory and independent sectors.

To attend, book a 5-minute speaking slot and/or a table in the Marketplace, visit [here](#).

For further information please get in touch

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