East Sussex VCSE Alliance
December 2025

For further information please get in touch
Email: esvcsealliance@escv.org.uk Visit: www.esvcsealliance.org.uk

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Alliance updates

As we approach the end of a busy year, we'd like to thank our members, statutory partners and wider sector colleagues for working alongside us in 2025. One particular highlight was working with our partners to commission research on the state of the VCSE sector in East Sussex.

We look forward to working alongside statutory sector colleagues to develop a programme of work and deliver some of the recommendations identified in the report.

Transformation requires a sustainable partnership model to develop longer-term funding and simpler commissioning models. We also want to build on and enhance existing collaboration, with deeper integration for the VCSE sector into strategic decision making.

Together, these will help strengthen resilience and stabilise VCSE organisations, develop our relationships and partnership working and benefit our communities and residents.

Spotlight on an Alliance member

Welcome to our newest member **Demelza**!

Demelza provides extraordinary care to children and young people with serious or life-limiting conditions, providing expert clinical care and helping to create extraordinary moments along the way.

Demelza East Sussex offers a community hospice at home service, providing therapies, short breaks and end of life care in the comfort of a child's own home.

Specialist nurses provide care and support in community settings, allowing a child or young person to continue life as normal with as little disruption as possible.

The community team give families a break without having to travel and enables children and young people with serious or life-limiting conditions to have specialist care in familiar surroundings. As a result, families are given more flexibility and helped to retain a sense of control and independence.

Our community hub in St Leonards has accessible facilities including a sensory room, activity room and garden for children and families to enjoy.

If you would like to know more about their work, please visit their website

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Sussex VCSE Leaders Alliance (SVLA) Update

Shaping Sussex's future on health inequalities

Over 100 people from the NHS, Public Health, VCSE organisations and people with lived experience came together in December to help shape Sussex's future on health inequalities.

Delegates were asked an overarching question ***"What can we change now, and in the future so that everyone in Sussex has a fair chance of living well and healthily, and how do we make that happen?"*** and asked to identify themes for group discussions around health inequalities.

Discussions focussed on maternity services, housing, children and young people's wellbeing and how to meaningfully involve communities and people with lived experience.

These will help partners understand what health inequality means for the people of Sussex, the most important areas to improve and what we can do differently together.

Wider sector and partner news

Bexhill College is holding a **volunteer and charity event** for students on **Tuesday 21st April 2026** from **9am -12.30pm**

The event will be run like a fair with various stall holders linked to various sectors - specifically promoting volunteering or work experience opportunities within their organisation or charity for Bexhill college students, aged between 16 and19.

We want our students to feel a part of their community and inspired about their future and what choices lay ahead of them. **Your opportunities must be relevant for people aged 16+ who are local to Bexhill and Hastings.**

If this is something you think you would like to be involved in, please contact Ellie Sturgess

Children with Cancer Fund (Polegate) are a small, local charity supporting children who have or have had cancer across East Sussex.

They do this by granting wishes, offering respite breaks and running social events for families as well as providing emotional and practical support where needed.

They are currently looking for new supporters, volunteers and business partnerships to help them continue their vital work. If you would like to get involved by volunteering or organising your own fundraising events, they would love to hear from you.

Please visit their website to fund out more: www.childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk