



Welcome to our latest Alliance newsletter

Since our last newsletter in May, it's been a busy summer for the Alliance, and we're delighted to share some of the progress we've made alongside our members and partners.

We're particularly pleased to have grown our membership to **35 organisations**, strengthening our collective voice and ability to make a difference across East Sussex. Together, we've agreed four key priorities for the year ahead:

- **Neighbourhood Health and Integrated Community Teams**
- **Financial Inclusion**
- **Children and Young People**
- **Commissioning Excellence Programme – Phase 2**

We've also launched a new Representation Framework, responded to proposals for local government reorganisation, built relationships with new local leaders, and continued working with NHS and East Sussex County Council colleagues to help shape health and care services around the needs of people and communities.

Members of the Alliance had an informative visit to the RVA Community Hub currently in development. 34 Devonshire Road is a VCSE-led community hub based in central Bexhill for the benefit of all of Rother. It is a space for VCSE co working, co-located services and collaborative community action.



Keep reading to meet our newest members and visit our [website](#) to discover more.



Sussex VCSE Leaders Alliance (SVLA) news

The newly established SVLA Collaborative Strategic Group is bringing together leaders from across the voluntary sector to share insight, influence change and champion the needs of local communities. Representing expertise in Learning Disabilities, Mental Health, Unpaid Carers, Children and Young People and Older People, the group is helping to ensure the voices of the voluntary sector are heard where it matters most. The group has already met with Sussex Community Foundation Trust to contribute to the development of its new strategy and will come together again in September to review priorities and shape its future workplan.

For further information please get in touch

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



Alliance members: news and updates

We're delighted to welcome three new members to the Alliance!

Rye Foodbank

Rye Foodbank supports households in crisis to move from dependance towards independence. They are supported by donations from the local community and run entirely volunteers.

[To read more about what they do, click here](#)

Education Futures Trust

Education Futures Trust (EFT) supports children, families and vulnerable adults in Hastings and the surrounding area by helping them realise their potential and overcome the social, emotional and educational barriers to achievement

[Click here to learn more about what they do](#)

The Fellowship of St Nicholas

The Fellowship of St Nicholas (FSN) supports children, young people and families across East Sussex through early intervention, family wellbeing, emotional health, community-based support and inclusive services that enable communities to thrive.

[Read more about what they're up to here](#)



The East Sussex UOK Wellbeing Service has now fully launched!

Adults over 18 living in East Sussex can now drop into Walk-In welcome sessions at neighbourhood wellbeing and community hubs.

Friendly UOK staff will listen holistically, and signpost and help them to sign up to a growing range of other activities in their neighbourhood delivered by UOK and statutory and VCSE partners. If they can't attend in person, people can opt for a bookable Saturday phone appointment.



The new co-designed service is integrated and aligned with the 5 Neighbourhood Mental Health teams in East Sussex, helping to ensure that accessing community mental health support is as easy and seamless as possible.

[Click here for more information](#)





RVA welcomes new Co-CEO and embraces shared leadership

RVA is delighted to introduce Greta Anderson as the new Co-CEO alongside Kim Richards from 1st August 2026, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter in shared leadership. The new co-leadership model, developed in response to the growing scale and complexity of RVA's work, aims to create a more sustainable and collaborative approach to leadership while supporting the organisation's continued growth and impact across Rother. Greta Anderson, appointed following an internal recruitment process, will work alongside Kim Richards to champion the voluntary sector, strengthen community partnerships and help communities thrive



Have you heard about the Story Trail?

Amaze's Story Trail starts on 12th September. The Story Trail is a public sculpture trail, featuring over 70 BookBench (that is benches shaped like an open book) sculptures, created by professional artists and young people.

Sculptures will be placed across Brighton & Hove in both indoor and outdoor locations. At the end of the trail, the small sculptures will return to their creators (schools, nurseries, youth groups) to keep forever and the large sculptures will be auctioned to raise money for Amaze.

As well as a fundraiser for Amaze, the event gives the opportunity to discuss community, diversity, inclusion and belonging. It is also working towards our goal of diversifying our income and raising awareness of our services for families.

If you are interested in you or your team getting involved:

- Sign up to our Selfie Challenge - create a team of 6 and take as many selfies within 2 hours on Thursday 24th September <https://amazesussex.org.uk/events/story-trail-selfie-challenge/>
- Register for volunteering - we have opportunities for team and individual volunteers. To find out more, go to as an individual <https://search.volunteero.org/amaze> and for a team see attached
- Join us for the big read on Saturday 12th September at 11am at Pavilion Gardens to launch and celebrate the trail

For more information about The Story Trail you can visit:

<https://amazesussex.org.uk/thestorytrail/> or follow Amaze on social media (<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/thestorytrail/> or <https://instagram.com/brightonstorytrail>).



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RVA's Funding Connections Network



Join RVA at the Emmanuel Centre in **Battle on Thursday 24th September, 10am–1pm** for a friendly, practical morning covering funding opportunities, budgeting, useful resources and plenty of time to connect.

Free to attend, with a light lunch provided.

[Book your place](#)

RVA's Funding Connections Network



Are you making the most of the funding opportunities available to your organisation?



**Funding, budgets & practical support
- and connections too!**

FUNDING

Find the funding that's right for you with Jackie

Get more from our RVA Funding Grid designed by Ruth — find out how to use it to spot opportunities, plan ahead and make your funding search more effective.

All About the Budget with Kim

*+ Funding For All launching their free funding webinars
+ Poster & leaflet swap + jargon busting
+ Networking, icebreakers and plenty of time to chat
+ Free light lunch provided*

Children with Cancer Fund's Antique Fair

Children with Cancer Fund (Polegate) is resurrecting its Antique Fair to take place at Willingdon Community School on **Saturday 24th October**. Entry is £1. There will be stalls featuring a wide range of antiques and vintage collectables, plus an expert from Eastbourne Auctions will be on hand to offer valuations for £2.50 per item. Hot food and drinks will be available.

The charity is now looking for stallholders to join them on the day, with pitches costing £25 for a 6ft table (approx.). All types of antiques and older vintage items are welcome.

Proceeds from the event will go directly to helping children with cancer and their families living in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove.



**CHILDREN with
CANCER FUND**



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