



BURY
VOLUNTARY,
COMMUNITY
& FAITH
ALLIANCE

The Voluntary,
Community, Social
Enterprise Sector in Bury

1249 VCSE
groups

71% are micro or
small*

Over 26,000 volunteers
giving
131,145 hours p/w
equivalent of
£65m per annum**

Health and Wellbeing Board

20/10/22

Community cohesion and inclusion

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**That's 10k and under*

***Based on Real Living Wage 2021*

Supporting a vibrant Voluntary, Community & Faith sector in Bury

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) : multi-agency group working in partnership to respond to community safety issues

Community cohesion thematic group

Hate Crime Awareness	Investment in VCSE sector	Inclusion events	Support for refugees and asylum seekers
<p>Hate Crime Awareness training for VCSE sector, Hate Crime Ambassadors and reporting centres.</p> <p>Connectivity with Faith Forum across issues including hate crime, cost of living crisis and interfaith activities.</p> <p>Prevent training delivered for front line staff and VCSE sector to supplement e-learning offer.</p>	<p>Standing Together grants programme: £90k investment in VCSE sector to deliver community safety and cohesion projects.</p> <p>Hate Crime Awareness grants: £10k investment in VCSE sector to deliver projects in GM Hate Crime Awareness Week (Feb 2023)</p>	<p>Annual inclusion calendar developed with Bury Inclusion Working Group and Team Bury partners to co-ordinate partnership activity.</p> <p>Key events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black History Month • Hate Crime Awareness Weeks • Bury PRIDE • International Day of Disabled People 	<p>Homes for Ukraine drop-in's at Ukrainian Club supported by DWP, Healthwatch, Schools Admissions, Community Hubs and Bury VCFA Social Prescribing Service.</p> <p>ESOL open days in partnership with Bury College, Bury Adult Learning, Bury VCFA and Eagles Wing to connect people into learning and volunteering opportunities.</p>

Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Community-led approaches

Co-designed and co-produced	Investment in VCSE sector	Creating better outcomes and more social value
<p>Co-design with young people and stakeholders in East Bury to identify what's going on, what's not happening and develop ideas for projects. Investment to deliver solutions that communities define and decide.</p> <p>Focus - young people 10- 25 yrs and their families.</p> <p>Co-design considers questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What assets are in the community already? • What's good? • What's not working? • What's needed and ideas for change 	<p>Expressions of interest invited from VCSE organisations with strong connections in the community. They work as a community alliance to develop the key areas identified by the co-design process.</p> <p>Members of the alliance sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding, outlining how each organisation will deliver its activity to achieve the collective goal.</p> <p>Four VCSE organisations received investment totalling £100k:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury Defence Academy • One Message • Early Break • Friends of Hazelwood School 	<p>Mentoring programme for young people and families at risk of serious youth violence and criminal exploitation.</p> <p>Youth work offer developed for diverse communities.</p> <p>School-based activity for young people at risk of exclusion.</p> <p>Community sport-based activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved aspirations • Improved access to activities and opportunities • Improved mental and physical wellbeing • Improved relationships between young people and their parents/carers • Improved sense of pride, respect and belonging in community

Connecting and collaborating

Social prescribing

Supports people to access a choice of non-medical services and activities in their local area. Connects anyone registered with GP and aged over 18 to range of groups and organisations providing activities*

Link Workers take self/referrals from GP's and connect to activities that match individuals needs and interests.

2226 referrals since the service was launched in 2019
Wellbeing score - average **12.5%** increase before/after social prescribing (ONS4)

Emerging trends

- Referrals aged 18 - 39 increasing
- Mental health, dual diagnosis and social isolation - key issues
- Financial hardship, housing, unemployment and cost of living – key determinants
- Increased demand for crisis support

*Many VCSE groups tell us they are now struggling with capacity and complexity as people wait for statutory services.

Networks

- **Bury VCSE Leadership Group** – mechanism for VCSE sector to engage in wider system leadership – provide collective voice, influence strategy, collaborate to maximise impact and social value - representation at GM VCSE Leadership Group
- **Older People's Network** – engagement on issues affecting older people – representation at GM Older People's Partnership
- **Health and Social Care Network** – provides a platform for groups contributing to people's health and wellbeing in Bury. A forum to share information and good practice.
- **VCSE Children's Partnership** – a space to network, influence strategy, develop services, offer organisational peer support and support statutory partners in achieving the best outcomes for Bury families.
- **Faith Forum** – Reg Charity set up to raise awareness of religious beliefs and promote good relations between different faiths. Connectivity with Community Cohesion group
- **LGBTQI Forum** – provides a voice and peer support for the LGBT community in Bury. Connectivity with Community Cohesion group – specifically hate crime awareness and inclusion.

Social prescribing

'I didn't feel as anxious connecting to the nature group, this is due to you identifying the right group for me and knowing what to expect on the day knowing that there would be other people there going through a similar journey as myself thank you'. – SJ

'You have been a good help, I have suffered with my mental health for years, this has led me to feeling unwell, developing a plan and giving me, a focus has given me hope. I am looking forward to the next walking group'. – K

'I know it has taken time for me to join the group, but I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding and for encouraging me to attend, as well as taking the time to meet me at the group, I thoroughly enjoyed myself and met some lovely people'. - CS

Examples of recent investment in VCSE sector

Standing Together - GMCA

Social Prescribing grants – Transformation (non-recurrent)

Community choir, for people with dementia, including music therapy in collaboration with 'Happy Signs'

Menopause support group 'Marvellously Managing menopause'. Life coaching, art therapy, yoga, Tai Chi and more.

Life-skills, confidence and additional support to manage the cost of living crisis and provide budgeting and money saving tips

Support for young parents with SEN needs, older persons gardening group and sensory club for adults with learning disabilities.

Computer game group for young people with autism on a monthly basis. Encouraging group participation and reducing isolation.

Activities for asylum seekers and refugees, encouraging lasting and beneficial friendships, supportive relationships and individual assistance and help where needed.

Peer support programme providing early intervention and confidential support for victims of crime.