

HVA

Hastings Voluntary Action

Working with volunteers and communities
in Hastings & St Leonards

Annual Review 2018–19



What is HVA?

Our overall aim

The overall purpose of Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) is to enhance the quality of life of people in the Hastings area by promoting the principle and practice of voluntary action by both individuals and organised groups, and by supporting the development of local initiatives to meet community needs.

Our specific aims

- To provide services that help Voluntary and Community groups operate effectively and deliver quality services.
- To identify local needs and work with communities and other agencies to develop appropriate action.
- To develop effective networks and collaboration between organisations and groups working within the community.
- To enable voluntary and community sector views to be represented in an effective and accountable way.
- To ensure that the voluntary and community sector can work in strategic partnership with other sectors.



Our values

The work of HVA is guided by a set of values which help to determine work priorities and the overall style of working. HVA recognises that Hastings is a diverse town and that everyone has a contribution to make and a right to equality of opportunity. HVA believes that:

- no person should suffer oppression or lack of opportunity based on race or ethnic origin, gender, faith, sexual identity, disability, age, education or economic achievement,
- all people should have the opportunity to collectively play an active part in their community,
- all people have rights to social justice and to participate in decision-making processes and local action,
- priority should be given to working with people whose full participation in society is limited by economic and social disadvantage.



What does HVA do?

Hastings Voluntary Action helps charities, community groups and social enterprises in Hastings and St Leonards to start up, grow and thrive.

Our services include:

Providing information

Keeping groups up to date with the latest news, finding out what is on offer to voluntary groups and promoting the activities of organisations that join HVA.

Funding advice

Delivering expert advice on where to find funding and how to increase your chances of success when applying for funding.

Community accountancy

Helping groups to set up their financial processes and procedures, providing independent examinations of accounts, and a payroll service for employers.



Group support

Assisting groups to start up and create their governing documents; advising groups on good practice and helping them to overcome problems.

Training

Facilitating a range of training sessions to improve the skills and knowledge of voluntary sector staff, volunteers and trustees.

Representation

We work with groups to develop a stronger voice for the voluntary and community sector within Hastings and across East Sussex.



30 years and still going strong



On behalf of my fellow Trustees I am pleased to introduce the 2018/19 HVA Annual Review and to highlight the work which this unique organisation does in support of local organisations,

activists and volunteers.

It is difficult to grasp that it is now 30 years since HVA came into being. In that time we have sought to make a real difference in the Hastings area and to contribute to the physical, social and economic regeneration of the town. We have created new drug and alcohol services, strengthened links between primary care and advice organisations to enable those with mental health issues receive support. We have also undertaken ground breaking work with the local fishing industry, promoting programmes and initiatives to bring inward investment to the area. We have never forgotten that we work in communities that are amongst the most deprived in England and with people who are marginalised. We are rightly proud of the work we have done to ensure those who are furthest from the mainstream can receive advice. We responded to the complexities of delivering services to new arrivals who have come to the area as asylum seekers and continue to support the victims of hate crime. We take great pride in being a "user-led" organisation with most of our Board directly elected from our membership but also an organisation that engages with our users and stakeholders and responds positively to their ideas.

We have offered advice, support and help to groups at every stage of their development and have made available buildings and spaces, developing Jackson Hall and potentially other sites to offer affordable community accommodation

combining space and support. Through our work with Hastings Community Network we have run events, conferences, focus groups and consultations enabling the third sector to articulate the issues it faces, contribute ideas and represent itself in an open, transparent and accountable way.

This document describes just one year in the 30 year history of this remarkable organisation. I am delighted that HVA has reached this milestone and done so with its vision and values intact – there for local groups and responsive to their needs. Without being complacent we are proud to have been a major part of work in Hastings for so long.

I normally end my report by thanking everyone – our staff, volunteers, funders and partners for all they have done to support HVA's work over the past year, and this year is no exception; but in this special anniversary year I want to extend thanks to everyone who created HVA in those early years, contributed to its achievements over the last 30 years and to those who continue our work on behalf of the community today.

Mike Cornish,
Chair, Hastings Voluntary Action



Hastings Voluntary Action

Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings TN34 1QN

Tel: 01424 444010

Email: admin@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk

www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk

Charity N° 802632

Company N° 2409902

Our key achievements 2018–2019

Development

During 2018/19 HVA has:

- Represented the **Voluntary and Community Sector** on key economic and regeneration bodies to offer continuing input to the strategic regeneration of the Borough.
- Developed innovative programmes of activity through our health and wellbeing programmes to promote positive mental health, healthy eating and increased physical activity.
- Delivered a **local service to enable advice and support** to be to victims of “hate crime” and other incidents involving discrimination and make available training to local agencies.
- Supported the development of **East Sussex Recovery Alliance**, enabling them to grow in size, recruit new members of staff and deliver services to those with issues around substance use.
- Supported the continuing development of **Educating Futures Trust** – an education charity which delivers a range of services for children and their families and enables partnership activity between schools and Academies.
- Provided project management support to the **Links Project** providing a weekly “one stop shop” offering support and advice for asylum seekers, refugees and new migrant communities.
- Undertaken work to profile the **position of medium sized charities** and opened discussions with commissioners and strategic leaders through the new Partnership Plus process.
- Acted on behalf of the Charities Commission to **support and protect the assets of a local older people’s charity**.
- Advised on **Community Asset transfers** to enable voluntary organisations to have access to premises or land or register a building as a community asset.



Our key achievements

2018–2019 continued

2 Support

During 2018/19 HVA has:

- Provided individual one-to-one support to 358 charities, community groups and social enterprises on a range of issues including funding, community accountancy, governance and committee skills, human resources, building management, and policies.
- **Helped to lever in over £4,388,000** for the Hastings area, and created or sustained at least 39 jobs.
- **Helped groups to access relevant and up to date statistical information** to support quality funding proposals.
- **Facilitated 29 training sessions** on a range of issues including funding, safeguarding, GDPR, communication, and representation.
- **Operated Jackson Hall as a Community Hub** for the sector, housing HVA's own services and offering affordable high quality accommodation to 7 other voluntary organisations, and a mailbox service to over 20 more.
- **Provided space to local groups for over 500 meetings** (either free or low cost), as well as equipment loans, hot desking and 'virtual office' facilities.
- **Chaired the Fisheries Local Action Group** and supported the successful implementation of the FLAG2 programme enabling our local fishing industry to receive funding for crucial infrastructure projects.
- **Supported the Foreshore Trust grant-making process which has distributed over £50,000 of grant to local groups**, and provided capacity-building support to groups applying for Hastings Opportunity Area enrichment grants, SELEP community grants, and Foreshore Trust grants.
- Continued to **provide the voluntary and community sector with fast, accurate and up to date information** through our newsletter, ebulletins, website, Facebook and Twitter.
- **Maintained a comprehensive database of local organisations** and published a "real time" version available on HVA's website. We have regularly used this information to profile the social and economic impact of the sector.
- As part of Volunteer Centre East Sussex, **HVA helped Hastings organisations to recruit and retain volunteers**, supported them to create and transform their volunteering opportunities, and organised a Volunteer Co-ordinators' Networking Forum and Volunteers' Week events.
- Provided essential services to local groups in the form of payroll, independent examinations and emergency book keeping services.

3 Collaboration

During 2018/19 HVA has:

- **Continued to facilitate the Hastings Community Network**, and, in collaboration with our Locality Link Worker from East Sussex County Council organised open Locality Networking events focussed on key topics chosen by the community.
- **Facilitated the Hastings Community Network Executive** to discuss current issues affecting the voluntary sector and ensure that representation happens in an accountable and transparent way.
- **Maintained a programme of consultation opportunities** and highlighted those which are of most relevance to the voluntary and community sector.
- **Offered facilities to enable new networks and forums** to develop including new support groups.
- **Been an active member of the countywide SpeakUp forum**, voluntary sector regional bodies, and our national association NAVCA.
- **Held focus groups** to gather the in-depth experiences of patients and service users.
- **Provided mediation support** to enable organisations to function effectively and support the effective delivery arrangements in partnerships and consortia.
- **Acted as an “honest broker”** by bringing groups together to support partnership or consortia bidding to bring additional investment to the local area.
- **Collaborated with Hastings Borough Council and other partners** on the multi-million pound programme enabling Hastings and Bexhill to become a Community Led Local Development Area.
- Been part of the **development of the VCS Alliance** to make collaboration at a County level more effective.



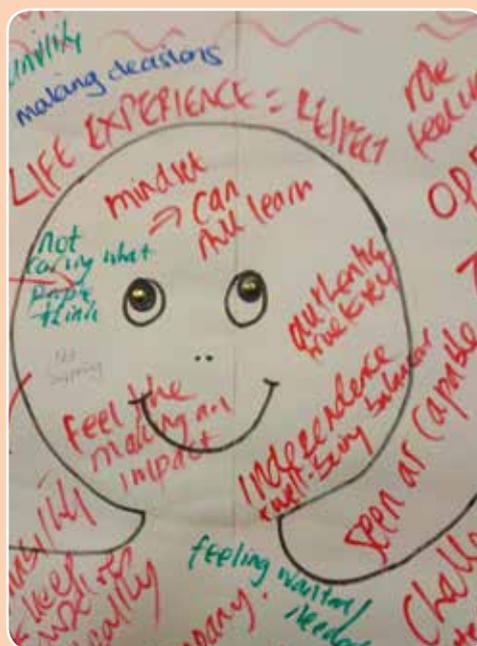
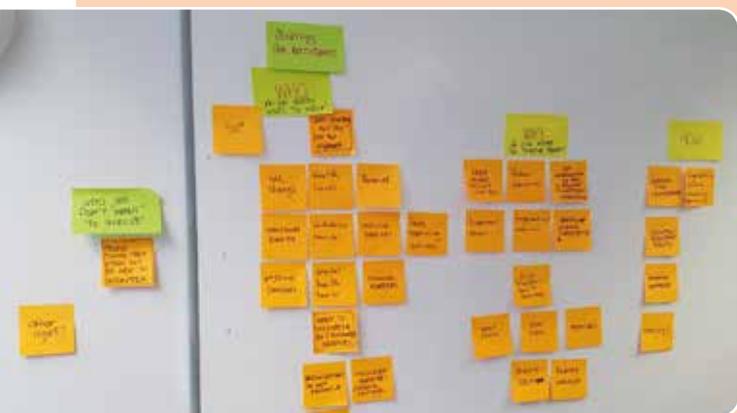
Our key achievements

2018–2019 continued

4 Influence

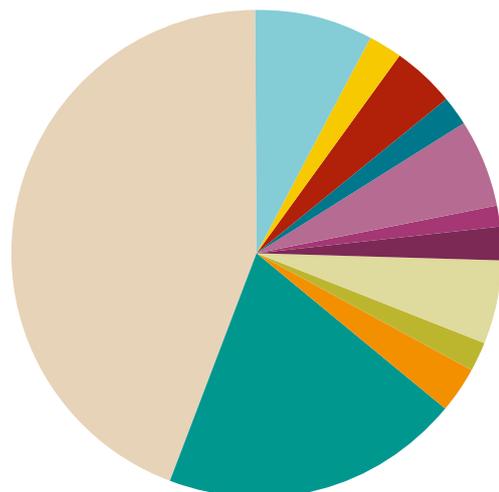
During 2018/19 HVA has:

- **Chaired the East Sussex Strategic Partnership** bringing together the Public Private and Voluntary Sectors to progress key strategic issues at a County-wide level.
- **Supported voluntary sector representatives on 12 partnerships**, including health, education and learning, regeneration and economic development, and community safety partnerships, and (via SpeakUp) on relevant countywide bodies.
- **Helped public sector bodies to recruit new community members** onto their partnerships and engagement structures.
- **Acted as a member of the Hastings Executive Delivery Group** bringing together the leaders of the public, private and voluntary sector for the Hastings Area.
- **Produced regular briefings and “position” statements** so that representation and networking takes place in as transparent way as possible.
- **Gathered views and fed into key consultation exercises** at a local, county wide regional and national level.
- **Provided regular briefing and training opportunities** to public sector bodies, government ministers and civil servants to ensure that policy makers develop an understanding of the local sector and its issues.



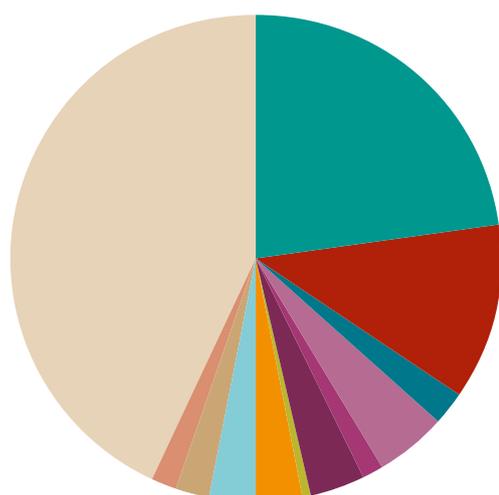
Income and expenditure

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Generic Infrastructure	78,000
Hastings Borough Council Community Partnership Fund	20,000
Big Local	41,066
Hastings Borough Council Safer Hastings Partnership – Crime Reduction Activities	20,000
ESCC Chances 4 Change	55,143
ESCC Community Resilience	14,200
ESCC Community Assets into Activities (Team Well Fit)	22,534
Centre for Ageing Better	54,189
Connect Fund (Barrow Cadbury Trust)	17,000
Links	30,147
Office rental and earned income	193,388
Other HVA projects and restricted income	427,484
Total income:	£973,151

HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT



Group Support, Funding, Information & Strategic Development	221,932
Big Local	115,062
Hastings Borough Council Safer Hastings Partnership – Crime Reduction Activities	19,580
ESCC Chances 4 Change	46,929
ESCC Community Resilience	14,200
ESCC Community Assets into Activities (Team Well Fit)	33,320
Connect Fund (Barrow Cadbury Trust)	6,725
Links	29,797
Running costs of Jackson Hall	29,013
Office running costs	21,269
Governance and management	15,535
Other HVA projects and restricted income administered for other groups	417,786
Total expenditure	£971,148

For further information about the work of HVA, contact:

Hastings Voluntary Action

Jackson Hall, Portland Place
Hastings TN34 1QN

Tel: 01424 444010

Charity N° 802632

Company N° 2409902

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019

	31.03.18	31.03.19
Unrestricted funds	94,534	105,404
Designated funds	10,000	10,000
Restricted funds	272,957	264,090
Net assets	£377,491	£379,494

HVA's Management Committee confirms that this income and expenditure account represents a summary extracted from the annual accounts for the financial year April 2018 to March 2019. The full accounts were approved by the Management Committee and will be submitted to the Charities Commission and the Register of Companies. This financial summary is for information only and may not contain sufficient details to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of HVA.

Independent Examiner's Statement:

I have examined the financial summary contained in this report. In my opinion it is consistent with the financial statements of HVA for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Ashdown Hurrey, 20 Havelock Road, Hastings TN34 1BP

Full accounts including the Independent Examiner's report and Director's report can be obtained from HVA, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings TN34 1QN.

HVA current projects

Our current projects include:

- **Making It Happen**
(grassroots community projects)
- **Hate Crime service** (supporting those affected by hate crime)
- **Fisheries Local Action Group**
(supporting the fishing community)
- **Big Local North East Hastings**
(a resident-led 10 year project in North East Hastings)
- **Volunteer Centre East Sussex**
(promoting volunteering)
- **Age-friendly & Inclusive Volunteering Project** (promoting volunteering in later life).
- **Support for Social Enterprises**
(in partnership with Rebellion)
- the **LINKS project** (supporting asylum seekers, refugees and new migrant communities)
- **Older People's Hub** (developing an accessible venue for older people's services)

Membership

Hastings Voluntary Action is proud to be a user led organisation, with membership open to charities, community groups, social enterprises and other not-for-profit organisations that operate in Hastings.

Our Trustee Board is directly elected from our members. A strong membership is important to us and reflects the diversity of the sector including groups working in the fields of health and social welfare, environment, arts and leisure, sport, education, community action and self-help.

We have worked hard to keep membership free and have negotiated additional benefits or discount for our members.

For further information about membership of HVA, call 01424 444010

or visit www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk



Who are we?

STAFF & VOLUNTEER TEAM 2018–19

Steve Manwaring – Director

Debby Anderson – Age-friendly Volunteering Project Worker (from May 2019)

Marie Ashton – Events Administrator (June–November 2018)

Su Barnicoat-Hill – Community Development Worker

Lisa Bartholomew – Big Local Administrator

John Humphries – Information Officer

Carolyn Jackson – HVA volunteer

Laura Jeffcote – Age-friendly Volunteering Project Worker (from May 2019)

Kim Kelly – Events Administrator (from March 2019)

Keith Miller – Finance & Payroll Officer

Jan Papworth – Big Local Community Development Worker

Tracy Perry – HVA volunteer

Matt Pitts – Group Support Worker (from May 2019)

Sarita Sharma – Office Administrator & Links Drop-In Supervisor

Louise South – Team Well Fit Co-ordinator (until Oct 2018)

Peter Thorpe – Deputy Director

Jocelyn Tilbrook – Community Development Worker (until August 2018)

Marc Turczanski – Hate Crime Officer & Links Project Co-ordinator

Tanya Vice – Project Officer (until March 2019)

Pat Weaver – Community Accountancy & Group Support Worker



TRUSTEES 2018–19

Helen Barraclough, Education Training Consortium (appointed Apr 2019)

Mike Cornish, Winterbourne Close Residents Association

Graham Goode, Skills and Learning in the Community (SLIC)

Ken Hales, Hastings & St Leonards Seniors' Forum

James Johnson, Friends of Africa and the Caribbean in England (FACE)

Vic Kempner (appointed Apr 2019)

Ann Kramer, Women's Voice, (resigned Nov 2018)

Graham Morrow, Optivo (resigned Nov 2018)

Oliver Prandstaetter, Level Access CIC (resigned Sept 2018)

Roger Sweetman, East Sussex Community Voice

Mauricio Vincenzi, OcaBazOka (resigned Nov 2018)

Julia Wells, HOPE G (appointed Sept 2018)

MAIN FUNDERS 2018–19

East Sussex County Council

Hastings Borough Council

NHS Hastings & Rother Clinical Commissioning Group

Centre for Ageing Better /DCMS

Barrow Cadbury Trust



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