



Annual Impact Report 2018/19



Celebrating 40 years of supporting the Voluntary
and Community Sector in Rotherham

Welcome

As we enter our 4th decade of supporting the voluntary and community sector in Rotherham we have taken the opportunity to look back over the last 40 years and have included a snapshot of our history in this annual report.

Our aim 40 years ago, *to strengthen the voluntary sector in Rotherham*, is still at the heart of everything we do and we remain committed to delivering a wide range of high quality support services, adapting our approach to meet the changing needs of our members and the communities they serve.

This report provides a very brief summary of the range of services and support we have provided over the last year. Please contact us to find out about the full range of support we offer.

Sarah Whittle
Chair

Janet Wheatley MBE DL
Chief Executive



The Rotherham CVS working party first met in December 1978, group members included Lady Scarborough and Cllr Eric Manns and the first funding application was submitted to Urban Aid early 1979 for £16,000.

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“We could not have set up without the help, support and guidance of VAR.

Absolutely nothing is too much trouble, they are very professional and trustworthy.

Explained things to us in a way that was easy to understand, nothing but the highest praise.”

“Our organisa. on could not funcon w ithout the support of Voluntary Ac on Rotherham, they provide a vital service to the sector. “

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Be Cancer SAFE



Voluntary Action Rotherham, known then as Rotherham District CVS, first registered with the Charity Commission on 6th November 1979 making VAR 40 years old this year.



Our year in numbers



915

organisations
received the
weekly email
bulletin



1,753

Social
Prescribing
Service referrals
received



£497,225

paid out in
grants by
VAR



633

volunteers
brokered



1979

Rotherham CVS Inaugural meeting
takes place in October



1979

Rotherham CVS registers with the
Charity Commission in November



1980

Opened its first offices on Drummond Street



1980

Rotherham's first ever Toy Appeal was launched by Rotherham CVS



Group support

£82,095

of new income was raised for groups with VAR's help



176

groups supported to adverse through Rotherham Gismo



133

groups received support with fundraising and funding bids

295

local community events publicised via our website



"Our bid was successful from Awards for All and we've got a great programme lined up for the next 12 months so we're all really chuffed.

I can't thank you enough for all the support you've given me. You really helped me understand what funders look for and how to promote ourselves.

The workshops I came to at VAR also helped in understanding good practice in running a community group.

VAR is an awesome resource so thank you again!"



1981

Rotherham Volunteer Bureau opens its doors



1984

Moved to Durlston House on Moorgate Road



Fitzwilliam Associaon is a community group for older people in Greasbrough and they needed help to expand their acvies and engage more socially isolated residents.

Voluntary Ac on Rotherham helped the group write a Naonal Lo ery Awards for All funding bid and secured £5724.

With support from Voluntary Aco n Rotherham the group were able to:

- Buy iPads and access free digital training
- Purchase exercise equipment and a provider for armchair exercises
- Gain healthy eang advice from a diec ian
- Purchase insurance



1988

Became a Company Limited by Guarantee



1991

Published Rotherham's first Directory of Voluntary Organisations



Our support

Starting out

Support in setting up and running a new organisation



- Recruitment website
- Volunteer policies
- Training
- Role development

Raising money

Support to search and apply for funding



- Constitutions
- Bank accounts
- Governing board
- Legal structures

Volunteering

Support to recruit, retain and motivate volunteers

- Funding searches
- Bid writing
- Training
- Critical friend
- Business planning

1993

Voluntary Car Service launched providing volunteer drivers for medical appointments



1996

Held its first Volunteers' Week celebration in Rotherham Town Centre



- Events
- An Audience with
- Collaborative working
- Consultations



Networking

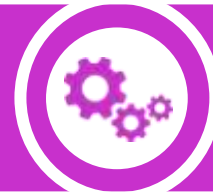
Support to meet like minded people and influence change

Information
Support to keep up to date with local, regional and national developments



- Weekly bulletin
- Information sessions
- Newsletter
- Strategic representation

- Book keeping
- Accounts
- Payroll
- Employing staff
- Policies



Essential services

Support to meet financial and recruitment commitments

1997

Provided its first marquee at Rotherham Tao for self help and support groups



1999

Rotherham CVS merged with Voluntary Sector Forum and became Voluntary Action Rotherham



Rotherham Pay it Forward, which launched in 2018, is a brokerage service where local groups share resources and peer support through acts of giving.

Its first success in June 2018 saw Pioneer Social Enterprise and Sheeld Pipe Band pledge mutual support.

In return for Pioneer Social Enterprise delivering a safeguarding workshop the Sheeld Pipe Band took to the streets in a fantastic open air performance.

This traditional Scosh piping band raised £156 which was used by Pioneer Social Enterprise to support their foodbank and volunteer projects.



1999

Voluntary Action Rotherham's first newsletter, Rotherham Information Bulletin, is launched



2001

Secured Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and distributed £98,673 in its first round

Volunteering

“We are very grateful for the City of Shefeld Pipe Band helping us to fund raise £156 for our food bank.

The music played was very beautiful and supporters came from as far away as Lincoln to help out.

Michelle Scholey from Pay it Forward in VAR came in person to see this event, which would never have happened without their support and encouragement for us.

Thank you very much for your help Pay it Forward”

18 groups achieved Kitemark quality mark

54 outreach events a ended

36 groups supported to develop new roles

96 new volunteer roles developed



2004

Community Accountancy Service launched

2005

Developed the Children, Young People and Families Consortium



Engagement

336,873

pages viewed
on our
websites

78

engagement
activities
delivered

1,057

people
attended our
training &
events

1,327

email
addresses
received the
bulletin every
week

34 groups
provided with
stalls at the
Rotherham
Show and AGM

2007

Brought organisations together to support those affected by the floods

2008

The first VAR email bulletin was sent, since then 517 weekly bulletins have been distributed

“Voluntary Action Rotherham are a credit to the Rotherham Borough, they create networking events to bring communities together, give great advice and support. They share information and guidance and have really helped us over the last 6 months. Without their assistance and support we would not be where we are now.”



2008

Moved to The Spectrum on Coke Hill, officially opened in 2009 by HRH Prince Edward



2010

Held our first 'An Audience with...' Session



Be Cancer Safe is a social movement that looks at ways of getting people talking about cancer and raising awareness of the screenings people are entitled to.

Delivered on behalf of the Cancer Alliance, Rotherham CCG and Barnsley CCG the project encourages people to be aware of the signs and symptoms of different types of cancer.

Encouraging diagnosis at an earlier stage and improving the chance of survival.



2011

Rotherham Gismo, Rotherham's online directory of voluntary and community groups is launched



2012

Rotherham Social Prescribing Service pilot launched

Be Cancer SAFE

"I am a typical male, putting things to one side, I was given a testing kit for bowel cancer because of my age, I'm now 60, but it was sat on the windowsill for a couple of weeks before these people came to see me.

I had a meeting with them on the Tuesday and sent the test on Wednesday.

They do a fantastic job in raising awareness."

5,074
Cancer
Champions
recruited



616 events
attended

2,540 social
media posts



2013

Food in Crisis launched its first
Christmas food appeal

2017

Supported the sector to secure over
£1 million

Vision

Strong, vibrant community action is at the heart of a welcoming, successful, connected and active Rotherham and beyond.

Mission

To provide leadership, support and development to the voluntary and community sector to bring about sustained and improved change in the lives of individuals and communities.

Values

- Independence
- Inclusiveness
- Leadership
- Partnership
- Creativity

VOLUNTARY

ACTION ROTHERHAM

The Spectrum

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IN PEOPLE**



**NAVCA
Quality
Award**



FUNDERS

Voluntary Action Rotherham would like to thank the following funders and those that have donated to the various projects.



Rotherham Public Health



NHS
Rotherham
Clinical Commissioning Group

