



# Annual Impact Report 2017 - 2018

# 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

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# Welcome

Like many charitable organisations the last year has been rewarding but challenging and we have worked hard to guarantee that resources are maximised and targeted effectively to ensure that we deliver what our members need as efficiently as possible.

We remain committed to delivering a wide range of high quality support services to local voluntary and community groups and organisations, 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  
Chief Executive



# Capacity Building

# £1,221,942

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



How many groups  
accessed support...

**Volunteering** 198

**Safer Recruitment** 134

**Funding** 92

**Payroll** 56

**Accountancy** 41

# £516,768

paid out  
in grants  
by VAR



Total number of  
groups supported:

# 344

# Meeting Need

After an activity centre for adults with learning disabilities closed redundant staff members, Julie and Pete, wanted to find a way to continue to support the service users, some of which had been attending 20 years. Not knowing where to start they approached VAR for support.

With support from VAR Jupiter61 Ltd was born! After signposting to Social Enterprise Exchange for specialist Social Enterprise support VAR provided Julie and Pete with all the additional support they needed to get the service up and running, including helping to apply for funding, training, risk assessments and services to enable them to employ and pay staff.

The ultimate goal was to return to the much loved activities, such as craft sessions, dances and trips to its original base at the Meeting Place in Wingfield. With VAR's help to navigate the local authority's asset transfer process Jupiter61 Ltd reacquired the premises in March much to the delight of staff and service users.

Thanks to the hard work of Julie and Pete and continued support from VAR, partners, donors and funders the Meeting Place is now fully open and delivering much needed activities for adults with learning disabilities in Rotherham.

***“Everyone at VAR is helpful and supportive, without their support it would have been much more difficult to achieve everything we have”***

THE MEETING PLACE



*We really enjoyed the event and are now pursuing a number of opportunities through networking with other partners.*

*VAR is an absolute rock and the passion you display as staff and an organisation is incredible.*



# Training & Events



37

sessions  
were  
delivered

152



local groups were  
represented



435

people attended our  
training & events this  
year

# Social Action

**198**

local  
groups



received support  
to develop their  
volunteer  
programmes



**719**

volunteers  
brokered



**362**

volunteer roles  
advertised on our  
website



# Active Citizens

Voluntary Action Rotherham teamed up with Rotherham United Community Sports Trust to deliver a fun and interactive programme for active citizens from around the world.

Part of the Active Citizens Programme Rotherham hosted five active citizens from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Brazil, Lithuania and India, accompanied by a British Council member of staff from Indonesia and a UK British Council journalist.

The three day, packed, international study visit in February saw participants trying their hand at community radio, visiting a magical apothecary and exploring some of Rotherham's most prominent buildings.

Participants were blown away by the commitment and enthusiasm of all the groups and volunteers in Rotherham and couldn't wait to get back home and share their experiences.

In return we heard some amazing stories, met some dedicated and determined individuals and were left inspired by their plans for the future.

***“Rotherham is a small town but the people have a lot of compassion and courage”***



*I just want to say  
thank you for  
your post in the  
last newsletter!  
Response has  
been really good  
so thank you  
very much.*

*The VAR email  
bulletins are  
really useful - one  
of the few email  
bulletins I go  
through fully  
each week!*





**101,215** people  
accessed our websites this year

**417**

jobs advertised via  
our website



**51**

email  
bulletins  
sent

**170,000**

people  
reached by  
our Social  
media  
activity



**858**

local groups on  
our mailing list

# Projects

## Social Prescribing Service...



**1,673**  
Patient referrals received

**£426,678**  
distributed in grants to local services



Highly  
Commended  
at the HSJ  
Awards 2017

## Rotherham Gismo...



**15,728**  
People visited the online directory of groups in Rotherham

**40,000**  
website pages viewed



**700**  
Groups' details published online

# Super Awards

12

Young superstars were celebrated at an awards night with a difference.

Over 100 people came together at this Hollywood meets Bollywood themed event to recognise and celebrate Rotherham's young people.

Young people were recognised for the positive impact they have made and the difference they make, not only in their local communities but to their families and friends and everyone they meet.

The wide range of awards included best team player, the person most likely to make people smile, the most inspiring person and two "superstar" awards.

Organised by the Children, Young People and Families Consortium, with support from partners and the Different But Equal Board, the Different But Equal Awards were a night to remember.

*"I was really surprised to receive an award and I felt honoured. It means a lot to know that people recognise what you do."*



*We have never had such personal and professional support as we have received from yourselves.*

*I found it really useful and great to be able to discuss my group with someone who really understood the issues.*



# Delivering Quality

14



**830**  
Members

**£2,942,014**

worth of  
accounts  
independently  
examined



**3,416**  
incidences  
of support  
provided



**719**  
DBS checks  
carried out



**Awarded**  
Duke of York  
Community  
Initiative



**Achieved**  
ISO 9001



**Achieved**  
NAVCA  
Quality  
Award



**Recognised**  
in the  
National HSJ  
Awards 2017

Advice  
Support  
Information  
Representation  
Development  
Volunteering  
Training

# VOLUNTARY ACTION ROTHERHAM

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE



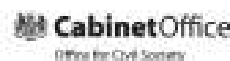
NAVCA  
Quality  
Award



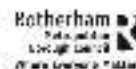
## FUNDERS



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



Rotherham Public Health



Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group