

Annual Impact Report

2015 - 16



Welcome

We hope that this report will give you a quick overview of our progress during the year and how we have supported the Voluntary and Community Sector in Rotherham.

We are always continually impressed and proud of the work that the Voluntary and Community Sector undertakes in Rotherham and the key role all groups and volunteers play in our town. We see the potential and importance of the sector but we also appreciate the challenges it faces and in particular the financial vulnerability many groups face. We have a large and thriving membership whose needs underpin our work and our aim is always to deliver high quality, effective and responsive services the Voluntary and Community Sector wants and deserves.



Our vision is for strong, vibrant voluntary and community action to be at the heart of a welcoming, successful and connected Rotherham and we see our role as providing the leadership, support and development to enable that to happen. Our values of independence, inclusiveness, passion, partnership and creativity are at the heart of our work.

“ *I am only just starting a social enterprise and I'm very impressed with VAR and the information I've been given. The newsletter is really useful and I look forward to working with them more closely over the coming year.* ”

Our thanks as always over the last year go to all VAR Staff, our Volunteers, Board members, Partners and Funders and most importantly everyone who is involved in some way or other in the Voluntary and Community Sector locally. This joint commitment, passion and care will enable us to keep doing what we are doing well and go forward continually improving and serving the people and communities within our town.

Contents



This report provides a very brief snap shot of the range of services and support that we provide and how we have delivered our work over the year. Please contact us, speak to VAR staff, join us as members, read our Bulletins and website to find out about the full range of work we do.



Margaret Oldfield OBE
VAR Chair



Janet Wheatley
VAR Chief Executive

A huge thank you to our Staff and Volunteers. The work we do and the support you get wouldn't be possible without them!



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Information and Influence



“ A great way to communicate across the sector and keep informed. ”

Our Email Bulletin continues to deliver all the latest information, news, events and funding opportunities straight to your inbox every week.

We continue to support our members to have a presence at the Rotherham Show by offering them free stalls in the VAR marquee.

“ Thank you! Being in the VAR tent really helped us raise the profile of the project. ”



We have continued to provide high quality communications, promoting the VCS and ensuring it has opportunities to shape policy, network and work in collaboration.



We continue to promote the VCS through our 'An Audience with...' sessions bringing together public sector leads and the VCS.

“ I found the whole session really insightful and have benefitted from it already. ”

Our Community Volunteer Ambassadors continue to raise awareness of volunteering, in their second year they have:

- Signposted over 300 individuals to volunteering
- Attended 23 events
- Published 18 articles locally



ROTHERHAM TOGETHER PARTNERSHIP



Influencing Change

What better way is there to support the sector than to give it a coordinated voice on one of the main decision making Boards in Rotherham!

The Rotherham Together Partnership brings together all key sectors to oversee the development and delivery of Rotherham's Community Strategy.

In 2015 we recruited 5 representatives from organisations working in Rotherham to sit on the Partnership and represent the sector.

Between them they represent the voluntary, community, BME and faith sectors and regularly meet with other consortia members to ensure they can represent the wider views of the sector.

The year in brief



51 VAR Email Bulletins sent to Over **700** organisations

11 An Audience with... sessions coordinated with **200** people attending from **130** different organisations



Social media followers increased by over **30%**

14 Groups supported to have a FREE stall at the Rotherham Show



5 Representatives recruited to give a Voluntary and Community Sector perspective at Rotherham Together Partnership meetings

726 Groups' details now included in the Rotherham Gismo Directory



Strengthen and Support



We continue to liaise with external funders and in September we held 2 sessions with the **Big Lottery**, attended by 45 people, to increase the potential of Rotherham applications.

“Really useful session with good advice!”

We have continued to provide quality services ensuring the VCS has access to the information, advice and support it needs, when it needs it.



Over the lifetime of the project **DREAM** engaged with 695 individuals with learning difficulties in Rotherham.

- 209 saw an improvement with independent living skills
- 22 were placed into volunteering
- 31 volunteers supported the project for 1001 hours

Your generosity to our Christmas Appeal saw over half a tonne of food and £2,500 donated. With this the **Food for People in Crisis** Partners were able to support 750 people over the festive period, half of whom were children. Thank you!



Our HR Service continues to provide the VCS with the support it needs to ensure it has the right people with the right skills and the policies and procedures it needs to remain legally compliant.

“Thank you, It’s made things so much easier having your support.”



The year in brief

STATE OF THE SECTOR

relationships
communication
request change training
independent support issues
need
services
new funding
development
locality press people transition approach
diverse model long operation sector ageing
responsible family welfare within time drug
links the new experience and value
use focus alcohol impact group business
voluntary support
facilitate delivery mental effective lack
GSC have experience
investment issue
every service
the late train OUTCOMES
assessment localities service
plans advanced planning national funding
advice committees practice resources
local effectively daily
staff housing
volunteers

In 2015 we commissioned research into the state of the voluntary and community sector in Rotherham.

Key facts:

- There are an estimated **1,382** voluntary and community organisations in Rotherham
- There are **49,000** volunteers in the sector in Rotherham
- Volunteers give **85,300** hours of their time each week
- The sector employs **3,600** people
- The income of the voluntary and community sector in Rotherham is **£61 million**
- The sectors overall contribution to the local economy is **£187 million** per year



Given over **3,000** incidences of support to almost **400** organisations

Received almost **2,000** volunteer enquiries and processed over **1,500** volunteer applications



Carried out **1,021** DBS checks for **206** organisations

Through advice, searches and bid writing we've supported the sector to secure almost **£1 million**



Delivered **21** training courses to **202** individuals

We have distributed over **£820,000** in grant support to 78 organisations



Efficiency and Effectiveness



We continue to say thank you to our members for their involvement, feedback and support.

“ Oh wow that's amazing!! Thank you so much :) ”

We continue to work closely with partner organisations and our contribution was recognised at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust PROUD Awards when Alison Thorp, Volunteering Network and Development Officer at VAR, won the Partnership Working Award.



We have continued to be responsive and accountable to our members, representing the VCS, supporting and encouraging partnership working.



Our Health Volunteer Ambassadors have been out and about raising awareness of the Rotherham CCG 'Right Care, First Time' message.

In their first year they attended 23 public events and engaged over 400 people!!



We continue to diversify our income, ensuring financial resiliency, by providing professional and affordable services.

“ I'm very pleased with the work done on our annual accounts and the charity updates we receive. Thank You! ”



The year in brief



Working together to create Safe Spaces

VAR, on behalf of the Children, Young People and Families Consortium in Rotherham, were successful in securing £262,338 funding in April 2015 from the Home Office for the Base Project.

The Base Project involved a consortium of voluntary agencies and provided victims, survivors and family members affected by child sexual exploitation with a safe space where they could access help and support.

The one-year project supported 175 victims/survivors and family members and enabled the provision of both additional and complimentary services as well as providing a comprehensive package of support to witnesses (and families) involved in the Operation Clover Court case.



Voluntary Action Rotherham now has **737** members

12 monthly membership newsletters produced and distributed



Commissioned **3** pieces of major research:

- Rotherham Social Prescribing Service Evaluation
- Rotherham State of the Sector 2015
- Commissioning approaches and models

Volunteer Centre Rotherham maintains its NCVO Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation Status



Partnership working recognised by The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust's PROUD Awards and by the Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire

Successfully audited and maintained our BS EN ISO9001:2008 Quality Award status



New Members 2015—2016



- AbilityNet ITCanHelp
- Anston Bowling Club
- Barnardos Doncaster & Rotherham Young Carers
- Brampton Bowling Club
- Brampton-en-le-Morthern Village Association
- Breast Cancer Care
- British Red Cross (Sheffield)
- British Red Cross (Yorkshire)
- Citizenship First
- Creative Wellbeing
- Cruse Bereavement Care Doncaster and Rotherham
- Diocese of Sheffield
- Dodgers

- Domestic Abuse Refuge Support Group
- Focus Disabled
- Frack Free South Yorkshire
- Friends of Rotherham Portage Service
- Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets
- Harthill Memories and History Society
- Harthill Workbench
- IBK Initiatives
- Laughton en le Morthern Parish Council

- Liberty Church Manor Training & Resource Centre
- Mayfield Therapy
- Nacro
- PACE
- Pact Futures
- Patient Participation Group - Stag Medical Centre
- RNIB
- Rotherham Dementia Action Alliance
- Rotherham Organisation for Downs Syndrome
- Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care



Triage Support results in A Working Chance



- South Yorkshire Crown Green Bowling
- St Margaret's Church Swinton
- Sustrans Leeds
- The Art Works Gallery CIC
- The Newlife Foundation for Disabled Children
- The Partially Sighted Society
- Westfield Big Local
- Wickersley Partnership Trust
- Working Chance
- YAWR Services (You Asked We Responded)
- Yorkshire Cancer Research
- Yorkshire Lowland Search and Rescue Team

Working Chance is a small social enterprise which undertakes woodworking or joinery projects, delivered by people on placement or volunteering, to enable them to build up their skills in a real working environment.

Neil Jones and Richard Green approached VAR with the initial idea for the project, but had no idea of how to go about it. With support from the Triage Team they were able to organise a constitution, set up a bank account, develop a management committee and “A Working Chance” was born.

We were able to give 1-2-1 support to work up an action plan and identify suitable funding streams and then, through an Awards for All grant, they were successful in attracting £10,000 to fund the project for a year.



“We can’t thank VAR enough for the support with getting A Working Chance going. Really friendly and helpful people who always want to help. ”

Community Achievement Awards

AND THE
WINNER IS...

Organised by Voluntary Action Rotherham, on behalf of the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Community Achievement Awards continue to recognise the inspirational people and projects that make a real difference to the communities of Rotherham.



Meet Julia Bodorova who scooped the award for Young Volunteer. Julia volunteers for RMAARI and has been instrumental in the development of the girls' football team as well as volunteering for youth club sessions. A truly inspirational young woman.



Phil Bowers, the winner of the Volunteer Award, has many reasons for volunteering with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue but his adopted son Joe is his true motivation. Phil works tirelessly to ensure the people of Rotherham are safe from house fires, carrying out home safety checks.



Last, but by no means least, we have Edna Bateman. Edna, at 99 years young, volunteers for Rotherham Hospice Charity Shop, standing for hours steaming items of clothing, brightening everyone's day. A deserved recipient of a Special Recognition Award.



Tassibee, the winner of the Project category, has over 900 women in contact with them, many of whom have been isolated or socially excluded. They offer Asian women a safe place to develop, grow and learn.



Volunteer Month

June in Rotherham is now known to many as just 'Volunteers Month'. With activities taking place across the borough to celebrate and recognise the magnificent contribution that volunteers make to the lives and communities we work and live in.



“Congratulations on organising such a successful volunteer walk, the atmosphere was great!”

Over 100 people took part in the biggest volunteer walk the town has seen! Starting at the Rotherham Minster and working our way up to Clifton Park was no mean feat but

Volunteers Month was a great success, we thanked, celebrated and raised awareness of all the magnificent volunteers in Rotherham.

We saw a massive 150% increase in enquiries about volunteering the following month.

somehow the Rotherham Volunteer Centre managed it and managed it well. A fantastic way to celebrate volunteering!



Rotherham Chief Executive Officers Volunteer!



9 'VIPs' took the opportunity to get out into the community and experience first hand the amazing work that's done by the sector.



Social Prescribing Service

Rotherham Social Prescribing Service

Health in your hands



The Rotherham Social Prescribing Service helps people with long term health conditions to access a wide variety of services and activities provided by voluntary organisations and community groups in Rotherham.

The Rotherham Social Prescribing Service continues to be seen as a national model of good practice.

Initially only supporting patients with long term health conditions, the service has grown and now also supports those with mental health issues to access a wide variety of services and activities provided by the VCS in Rotherham.

Since its inception the service has:

- Received over 3,600 patient referrals
- Made over 7,300 referrals out to services



As well as improving patients' well-being and reducing isolation and loneliness, the service has been shown to reduce A&E attendances, emergency admissions to hospital and outpatient appointments by 20%.



SPS encouraging older people to get out and about! Here's Janet Wheatley and Sarah Whittle at the Houses of Commons for the National Social Prescribing Network launch.

Helping People back into work

Having been unemployed for 18 months Joan* was suffering from depression and a lack of confidence.

After a visit from a Mental Health VCS Advisor, Joan was referred to The Learning Community, a service funding by the Social Prescribing Service for support.

Joan received support with her CV, interview techniques and presentations skills and supported to search for jobs and apply online.

Since this intervention Joan has not only been successful in securing employment, but has also developed as a person, growing in confidence and approach.

“What you have done for me is change my life for the better; I have found the old me again. I feel like a kid at Christmas again.”

*name has been changed to protect the privacy of the individual

Key Events

2015

MAY

Rotherham Gismo Services recredited

Adult Services Consortium Members Survey launched



JUNE

Rotherham Volunteers Month

SPS Mental Wellbeing Grants launched



JULY

Safer Recruitment Service launched

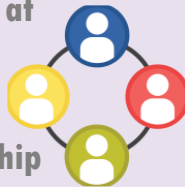
State of the Sector Survey launched



SEPTEMBER

VAR supports VCS at Rotherham Show

New Rotherham Together Partnership reps recruited



OCTOBER

FREE training offered thanks to Awards for All funding

FIC Christmas Appeal launched



NOVEMBER

Rotherham Community Achievement Awards

VAR Annual General Meeting



JANUARY

SPS Small Community Grants launched

State of the Sector findings published



FEBRUARY

Volunteer Centre achieves accreditation status

SPS Evaluation Report published



MARCH

GRANTfinder information station launched

Janet Wheatley appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant



2016



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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