

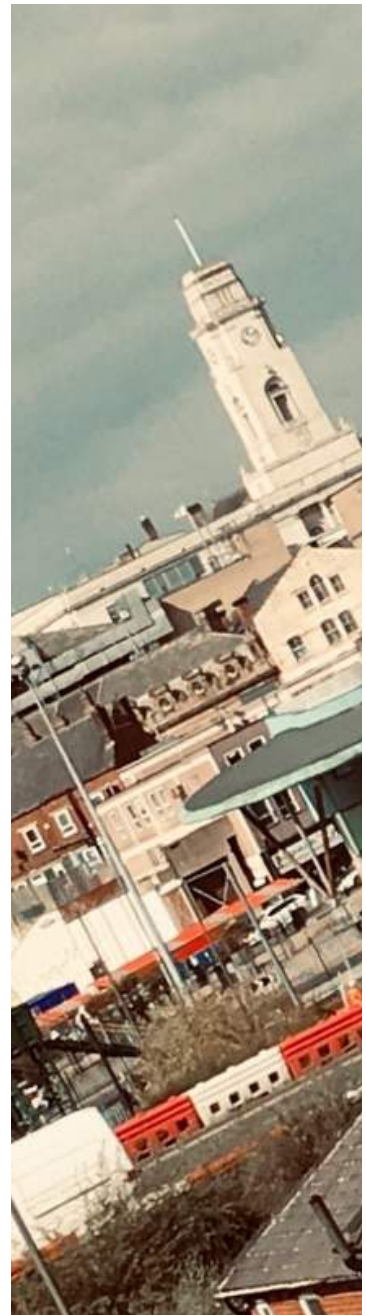


# Barnsley CVS

Annual Report

April 2022 -

March 2023



# Chair's Foreword



2022-23 was another year of significant change for Barnsley CVS. The legal processes behind the transformation of Voluntary Action Barnsley and Priory Campus into Barnsley CVS came to a conclusion, and with them the transfer of staff and operations from Priory back to 23 Queen's Road.

An organisational re-structure has put Barnsley CVS into a strong position to move forward to support the VCSE sector and deliver the three-year service level agreement secured with Barnsley MBC.

Work to strengthen and streamline the communications and support networks for the sector has continued to bear fruit, with the Start Well, Live Well and Age Well groups meeting regularly. Supported by and feeding into the VCSE Strategy Group, this structure has ensured that key VCSE information flows both into and from the Integrated Care System, informing the development of health and care across Barnsley.

Despite another year of change, Barnsley CVS has continued to support 'business as usual' functions for the sector, including support for volunteering, community accountancy, and help with organisational support and development, as well as the hosting of Healthwatch. We have also commissioned and contributed to a number of research projects to help to map the sector and form a better picture of the breadth and value of the services that the sector provides.

**Denise Pozorski**  
**Chair of the Barnsley CVS board**

# Overview

Barnsley Community and Voluntary Service (CVS) is the support organisation for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector in Barnsley. This is the Annual Report for the period between the 1st of April 2022 and the 31st of March 2023.

Barnsley CVS has been through a period of substantial change in this year. Negotiations with Barnsley MBC to surrender the lease for Priory Campus were concluded in February 2023 and Barnsley CVS moved back into their owned building at 23 Queens Road. Barnsley CVS will still hold the lease for the Redfearns Sports and Social Club building at Monk Bretton.

While there are still some VCSE organisations renting office space at Queens Road, this part of the organisation's work has reduced with the transfer of Priory Campus, and this allows the organisation to focus on its core work supporting the sector.

The organisation has been through a staff restructure and steps have been taken to ensure financial sustainability for the coming years. The Board of Barnsley CVS has reviewed the reserves policy and ensured there are adequate reserves in place as part of budget setting for 2023-2024. The organisation has a three-year agreement from April 2023 to provide infrastructure support to the Barnsley VCSE Sector.

Barnsley CVS aims to provide leadership, support, and advocacy to the VCSE sector, to encourage partnership and collaboration, to increase capacity within the sector and provide support with volunteering. We have done this through the series of services and partnerships below:

- Service Level Agreement with Barnsley MBC to support the sector. This includes the representation of the sector at key meetings, regular comprehensive communication through a variety of media, a series of structured meetings to enable VCSE organisations to work together, volunteer recruitment and support and organisational support and development.
- Provision of a community accountancy and payroll service.
- Hosting Healthwatch Barnsley
- Barnsley Refugee Advice Project partner
- Social Enterprise Exchange partner

There is more detail about the work done by these services and partnerships in the next section of this document.

# Services and Partnerships

## **Sector Representation and Communication.**

Barnsley CVS has represented the VCSE sector at a wide range of meetings throughout the year, including the Barnsley Place Partnership, the South Yorkshire Integrated Care System (ICS) and VCSE Alliance, Barnsley 2030 and The Health and Wellbeing Board.

There is a great deal of change happening and there have been many opportunities to promote the great work being done in our sector. It is becoming increasingly important that sectors work together to deliver the best outcomes for the people of Barnsley. During this period, we have been developing the VCSE Strategy Group. The number of organisations represented at this group has risen substantially and we developed this by forming Start Well, Live Well and Age Well subgroups. VCSE organisations have been able to attend the most appropriate group for their work. There is a newsletter with the information from every meeting for those organisations that cannot attend. The VCSE Strategy Group has become a representative group feeding information between the groups. We are already seeing a benefit in having a shared voice for the sector through a young people's alliance that has developed.

Barnsley CVS continued to provide training opportunities for the sector via the online training platform, a series of face to face lunchtime training sessions available to volunteers and through partnership with Community Matters Yorkshire.

Barnsley CVS' Communications Officer has ensured that opportunities and information is sent out in a timely manner throughout the sector. Our main database has over 250 member organisations and is growing and we are in contact with many more through service specific communication.

Through our work with other VCSE infrastructure organisations across South Yorkshire in the ICS and VCSE Alliance, we commissioned the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) to research and map the VCSE sector organisations. We have already identified 800 registered VCSE organisations in Barnsley and know that there are more unregistered groups. We will use this information to increase our engagement and communication in Barnsley. As members of the ICS and VCSE Alliance, we have held regular events to enable our sector to learn more about the Integrated Care Board in South Yorkshire and to contribute to developments.



# Services and Partnerships

## Volunteer Centre

Barnsley CVS provides support to VCSE sector organisations to advertise volunteer opportunities, support individuals to find appropriate volunteer roles, promote good practice in volunteering across Barnsley and to support the development of new initiatives

The below figures represent the brokerage output from April 2022 to March 2023: Volunteers registered with Barnsley CVS in the year totalled 1,640, with 241 being new users. The volunteer centre provided 305 unregistered volunteers with advice. A further 1,308 attended drop ins and events to speak about volunteering. The volunteering newsletter has been sent to 16,556 people.

6 Volunteer Coordinators Meetings were held in this period with representatives from across the VCSE Sector, on diverse topics including employment, digital inclusion and quality awards. The Volunteering Quality Award was awarded to 4 organisations in the year and 2 member organisations achieved the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, Barnsley Main Heritage Group and Wombwell Dam Angling Club

The covid vaccination volunteers were stood down, we had managed 230 volunteers to provide over 15,000 hours of support to three vaccination clinics in Barnsley, as well as a call centre. 61 of these volunteers moved over to the community rota.

The volunteering team attended the South Yorkshire Volunteering Task Group to discuss volunteer passporting. They also attended the game changer project, active through football meetings to share best practice and ideas on areas to develop going forward.

Through the government kickstart programme, the volunteer centre took on a 12 month placement for administration and event support, this was to help someone gain experience and to be able to increase their skills and enhance their CV. A student from Dearne Valley College also volunteered for a small amount of time each week to help with the volunteer centre communications work.

Through employer supported volunteering (ESV), we engaged 22 companies to take part, resulting in 79 successful volunteering events. There were a total of 439 staff members participating, supporting 43 different charities. The end result of this was a total of 3,912 ESV hours, giving a social return on investment equivalent of £53,049

# Services and Partnerships

## Organisational Support and Development

Barnsley CVS provided support to VCSE sector organisations on 205 occasions.

161 were governance or human resources support or interventions

44 newly formed organisations were provided with help and guidance including providing access to social enterprise exchange funding and support.

Of the 205 support cases 54 were new to our service or new groups not previously engaged with.

5 new CICs were supported to register.

3 organisations were supported with charity registration.

1 conversion to a charitable company.

1 CIC and one Registered Charity were supported to close.

This service collaborates closely with partners such as the Area Councils and South Yorkshire Funding Bureau. The service supports with a substantial range of issues affecting organisations, charities & small or start-up businesses from general to legal advice.

## BCVS - Community Accountancy and Payroll Service

Our Community Accounts and Payroll Service supports the VCSE Sector in Barnsley. It is a charged for service for established VCSE organisations to manage their finances and report appropriately. The Barnsley CVS team and management work hard to ensure costs are kept to a minimum. The service is provided free of charge to support start-up organisations and shares information and policy updates across the VCSE sector.

During the year, the community accountancy and payroll team supported a total of 106 VCS organisations.

This consisted of:

- preparing 75 sets of Annual Final Accounts
- conducting 62 Charity Independent Examination of Accounts
- supporting 2 larger charities through a statutory audit
- monthly payroll for 31 VCSE employers
- 403 returns to HMRC on behalf of our payroll clients
- monthly bookkeeping services/management accounts for 7 VCS organisations
- supporting 31 VCS employers with pension auto-enrolment duties and maintained pension
- portal administration for 11 employers, uploading a total of 132 separate pension files during the yearend payroll and submitted year end returns to HMRC for 31 employers

# Services and Partnerships

## BCVS - Community Accountancy and Payroll Service continued

- provided Quick Books on-line support for 16 organisations
- submitted 18 tax returns
- supported 4 organisations through planned closure
- helped 1 organisation through an insolvency process and provided financial information to the insolvency practitioner.
- provided free of charge support, advice and training for 9 new groups (39 hours of support)
- provided 362 hours of free of charge additional support and advice to existing groups which included: help with Charity Commission, Companies House & HMRC Returns, bookkeeping support, advice and training, advice on finance systems and controls, advice on becoming an employer and payroll issues, support to resolve HMRC queries and disputes, Support/costings for funding applications, grant returns and information for funders, help with budgets, cash flow & management accounts, gift aid reclaim, VAT review/advice, support and advice for winding up a charity, support and advice for winding up a CIC
- kept our clients up to date with changes in legislation and regulation.
- issued our annual payroll newsletter and kept our payroll clients up to date with payroll changes throughout the year

## Healthwatch Barnsley

Healthwatch Barnsley is hosted and managed through Barnsley CVS but is a public facing service, it has its own advisory board and its own website.

Healthwatch Barnsley is the local health and social care champion. From Penistone to Goldthorpe and everywhere in-between, they make sure NHS leaders and other decision makers hear your voice and use your feedback to improve care.

During 2022/23, 2317 residents shared their stories with us regarding their experience of health and social care services within the town. From the issues raised we were able to feedback both locally and nationally.

A survey on access to GP Services in Barnsley and published in May 2022. Recommendations from the report included putting together an action plan to improve services. At a meeting with Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group and Barnsley Health Federation we looked at the opportunities for improvement.

# Services and Partnerships

## Healthwatch Barnsley continued

Another priority for this year was Hygiene Poverty and its effect on mental health. Healthwatch attended 24 events and spoke to over 500 people.

The top three priorities for Healthwatch Barnsley in 2023-24

1. To set up a robust Enter and View program.
2. Family Health including diet and hygiene.
3. Emotional and mental wellbeing for people with protected characteristics.

To read more about the work Healthwatch Barnsley is doing please access our website at <https://www.healthwatchbarnsley.org.uk/>

## Barnsley Refugee Advice Project (BRAP)

Barnsley CVS works in partnership with the Refugee Council in the National Lottery Community Fund supported Barnsley Refugee Advice Project or BRAP. BRAP retains a core of frontline service delivery in Barnsley whilst increasing activities emphasising community development and local level systems change, capacity building and coordination of local stakeholders with the aim of making the whole town a welcoming and supportive place to live. In 2022 to 2023, we reached 363 people with individual sessions, English Language classes and Men's and Women's Groups. In addition, we support Refugees Projects in the area and take a community development approach to make Barnsley a welcoming and supportive place to live for its refugee communities.

Barnsley CVS employ the Volunteer Coordinator within the BRAP team. 26 volunteers supported the activities provided by the service. Volunteer training has included the accredited Mental Health First Aid training, knowledge on No Recourse to Public Funds, interpreter training, finding your voice, refugee awareness, and a refresher session with the Hate Crime Coordinator. This last session reminded volunteers how to support clients to raise issues and report hate crimes.

The number of volunteers fluctuates depending on personal circumstances, particularly for asylum seeking volunteers. Some refugee volunteers are applying for jobs and, though we are always sad to lose them, we are delighted if we can support them to move on.

If you'd like to know more about this initiative, please look at the website: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/get-support/services/refugee-advice-service-barnsley/>



# Services and Partnerships

## The Social Enterprise Exchange programme(SEE)

Barnsley CVS is a partner in a consortium of specialist social enterprise support partners who have come together to offer a broad range of support and to assure coverage throughout the Sheffield City Region.

The core delivery partners are Barnsley CVS, Community Media Solutions, South Yorkshire Community Foundation, Cultural Industries Quarter Agency, Sheffield Live! Television and Sheffield Social Enterprise Network. The partnership is supported by a network of specialist advisors and community partners.

Co-financed by European Regional Development Fund, The National Lottery Community Fund + partners and beneficiaries own funds. The Social Enterprise Exchange began in 2019 and continued until 2023 with over 452 referrals having being made.

Social Enterprises that join the SEE programme are supported via:

Social enterprise promotion, networking and awareness raising

Workshops and follow-up support for start-ups

Bespoke strand of specialist business advice for growth

Masterclasses, peer support and place-based development

SEE Grants Scheme for social enterprise start-ups and growth.