



Hastings Voluntary Action – Background Information November 2019

Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) is a charitable company that was formed in 1989 and covers the Borough of Hastings and St Leonards. HVA supports charities, community groups and social enterprises to start, grow and thrive. In addition HVA encourages volunteering, community action, and strong communities, and runs various strategic projects. HVA currently has over 200 member organisations and is overseen by a group of trustees recruited from our member organisations. We are proud to be a member led organisation. HVA is funded by East Sussex County Council, Hastings Borough Council, and charitable trusts. Although many of our services are free at the point of use, we do earn income through charging for some services.

Our services include:

- funding advice, community accountancy, charity law, training
- promoting volunteering and supporting organisations that seek volunteers
- ways to publicise community activities, through our newsletter and ebulletin
- office services including photocopying, mailbox and minute-taking
- representation and campaigning, most notably through Hastings Community Network

Current projects include:

- promoting age-friendly and inclusive approaches to volunteering
- helping residents to identify local needs and take action to address them
- support for victims of hate crime or those who have experienced discrimination
- supporting good access to services for refugees and asylum seekers
- support for the fishing community in Hastings

HVA is in a strong position to support the local voluntary and community sector to be an effective partner in delivering the 'social change agenda' at a local level. HVA prides itself on being a flexible organisation with a 'can-do' attitude and one which works to create projects or partnerships which make a real difference to local people.

Our recent achievements have included:-

- Two complex Community Asset Transfer projects enabling organisations to co-locate or access affordable long term accommodation.
- Leading a County wide Community Engagement process to develop a Community Resilience Strategy for East Sussex.
- Enabling peer led support to be available for those who have lived experience of substance misuse.

Our work co-facilitating the Hastings Community Network and supporting the Countywide equivalent, has enabled the sector to fulfil into leadership positions on strategic bodies such as Chairing the Local Strategic Partnership and the East Sussex Strategic Partnership. Elements of our work have been regarded as national "best practice".

To find out more about Hastings Voluntary Action, visit our website www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk , or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.