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***Supported by:***

**The Purpose of HCN is…**

**“To support voluntary organisations, community groups and Social Enterprises to influence policies, plans and practices that have an impact on their organisations and beneficiaries.”**

**This is achieved through…**

Regular events to encourage networking, identify key issues and enable local organisations to:-

- Feel connected to the network
- Identify themes and events to address relevant issues
- Participate in formal consultation exercises
- Give views and receive feedback from VCSE representatives

* Join up delivery of services provided by network members to local residents
* Join up development of services amongst network members alongside statutory and private sector organisations.

 Open communication

* Regular updates and notifications through Hastings Community News and the HCN Website pages and via social media.
* The coordination of a “consultation calendar” drawn from formal public consultation exercises at a local regional and national level

 Representation
Transparent and accountable representation of the VCSE Sector on key strategic bodies including Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership, Hastings Town Deal Board, Crime Reduction Partnership, East Sussex Skills Partnership and other relevant cross sector partnerships.

**This is organised by the elected HCN Executive who…**

 Oversee a programme of work consisting of at least 4 networking events

 Gather views and make formal representations into consultation exercises on behalf of the network

 Work in partnership with public sector organisations to hold joint consultation events where appropriate and support good practice in relation to consultation and engagement practice

 Collaborate with HVA to ensure that the network has adequate funding for its activities

 Promote and publicise the Network’s activities.
 Identify themes for networking events and support the facilitation of them

 Undertake one of pieces of work into specific areas of enquiry and produce papers reports or pieces of research

* Adhere to an agreed Code of Conduct of Hastings Community Network Executive members to ensure conduct reflects the values and expectations of the network.

**The HCN Executive is supported by Hastings Voluntary Action who will…**
 Allocate staff time to support the HCN Executive in the organisations and recording of its meetings.
 Provide opportunities through its information service to support HCN in producing and disseminating information online and via social media
 Work with the executive to organise, host and evaluate networking events
 Work with the HCN Executive to produce reports from events and other pieces of work
 Act as the accountable body to hold funding to support HCN activities
 Organise a fair open and transparent elections to the HCN Executive
 Hold and update on an annual basis member information.