

## Useful information and resources for Community and Voluntary Groups

### General Information and Advice

- **[Advising Communities](#)**  
Advising Communities is a legal and technical advice, information and support service for people and organisations rooted in their communities or looking after community assets..
- **[Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations](#)**  
ACEVO is the leading voice for chief executives in the third sector, supporting, developing, connecting and representing third sector leaders.
- **[Charity Commission](#)**  
The Charity Commission is the independent Government department which registers and regulates charities in England and Wales.
- **[Charities Evaluation Service](#)**  
Part of NCVO, the Charities Evaluation Service provides training, consultancy and publications to charities to help them to improve their performance and carries out independent evaluations on behalf of charities and funders.
- **[Civil Society](#)**  
Provides news and in-depth coverage of charities and not-for-profit organisations
- **[Directory of Social Change](#)**  
Directory of Social Change (DSC) is an independent charity with a vision of an independent voluntary sector at the heart of social change. DSC offers a range of services to the voluntary sector.
- **[Gov.uk](#)**  
This website brings together all Government services, news, information consultations and policies.
- **[Just Act](#)**  
Practical advice for anyone interested in community projects.
- **[Media Trust](#)**  
Media Trust supports charities and community groups with all types of media training, film production and skilled volunteer matching with media professionals.
- **[National Association for Voluntary and Community Action \(NAVCA\)](#)**  
NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) is the national voice of [local support and development organisations](#) in England.
- **[National Council for Voluntary Organisations \(NCVO\)](#)**

NCVO champions and strengthens the voluntary sector, with over 10,000 members across the country, from the largest charities to the smallest community groups. Members get help with funding and finance, trustees, governance, volunteers, HR and employment, strategy, planning and more.

### **Pilotlight**

A charity that connects other charities with business leaders to support them to develop strategic and business plans.

- **Small Charities Coalition**

The Small Charities Coalition help small charities access the skills, tools & information they need to get going and do what they do best.

- **Third Sector**

Magazine / news bulletin that delivers stories affecting charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

- **VAT for charities**

A useful resource for VAT for charities.

- **VolResource**

Information for voluntary and community organisations.

- **Voluntary Arts Network**

Voluntary Arts is the UK and Ireland representative agency for the voluntary and amateur arts and crafts. Provides over 150 informative briefings on topics as diverse as marketing, equal opportunities, fundraising, social media, child protection and insurance.

## **Children and Young People**

- **Ambition**

National youth charity providing help to organisations that work with young people and providing a voice on youth to the statutory sector.

- **Children and Young People Now**

News, resources and good practice for anyone working with young people.

- **NSPCC**

Safeguarding support and resources for the voluntary and community sector.

- **Sussex Clubs for Young People**

Support for youth clubs in Sussex.

- **West Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board**

The LSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

## Community Rights and Asset Transfer

- [Locality](#)  
A national network of over 700 community-led organisations and 200 associate partners.
- [Locality \(community assets\)](#)  
Locality is the country's leading authority on community assets. Together with its partners it delivers a range of support and grants to help communities take control of local land and buildings.
- [The Meanwhile Foundation](#)  
Facilitating the use of empty properties to charitable organisations.
- [My Community Rights](#)  
Online hub and advice service run by Locality to help communities take control over their land and buildings, local services, neighbourhood planning and local economy through the Community Rights, grants, expert advice and networking.

## Data and Statistics

- [Care Quality Commission](#)
- [Crime and Policing](#)
- [Department for Education](#)
- [Department for Work and Pensions](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [ONS – Neighbourhood Statistics](#)
- [Ofsted - schools](#)
- [Voluntary Sector](#)
- [West Sussex Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Data on West Sussex](#)

## Disclosure and Barring

- [Disclosure and Barring Service](#)

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) helps employers make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. It replaces the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

- **[Directory of Umbrella Organisations](#)**

The Directory should help you locate an umbrella body that can give you access to DBS products and services.

## **Finance**

- **[Charities Aid Foundation](#)**

Charity dedicated to helping donors and charities be effective including charity banking and fundraising services.

- **[Charity Finance Group](#)**

CFG is the charity that champions best practice in financial management in the voluntary sector.

**[Community Accounting Network](#)**

This is the place to find help and support from your local community accountancy service with managing your finances - everything from payroll to bookkeeping, from financial planning to annual accounts.

- **[Gift Aid Scheme for Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs](#)**

Guidance for charities and sports clubs on how Gift Aid works, claiming tax back on Gift Aid donations and understanding the rules.

- **[Institute of Fundraising](#)**

The Institute of Fundraising is the professional membership body for UK fundraising. Produces the [Code of Fundraising Practice](#).

## **Funding and fundraising**

- **[Burgess Hill Town Council](#)**

Burgess Hill Town Council provides grants for revenue and capital costs to local voluntary organisations and community groups to help fund activities that benefit the town's residents.

- **[Charities Aid Foundation](#)**

Charity dedicated to helping donors and charities be effective.

- **[East Grinstead Town Council](#)**

Community Revenue Grants are available once a year – the deadline for applications is 10 September each year.

- [Mid Sussex Voluntary Action](#)  
Produces regular bulletins on new funding opportunities, tailored funding searches and help on completing funding applications. Resources available on funding and fundraising.
- [Funding Central](#)  
Searchable database of funding and finance opportunities.
- [Haywards Heath Town Council](#)  
Small grants programme to support voluntary and community initiatives in Haywards Heath.
- [Horsham District Council](#)  
Small community grants are available towards projects which support and deliver against Horsham's District Plan priorities.
- [Institute of Fundraising](#)  
The Institute of Fundraising is the professional membership body for UK fundraising. Produces the [Code of Fundraising Practice](#).
- [J4b community](#)  
Providing information on over 3,000 grants dedicated to the voluntary and community sector.
- [Mid Sussex District Council](#)  
Grants and funding information for voluntary and community groups in Mid-Sussex.
- [Turn2us](#)  
A charitable service which helps people access the money available to them - through welfare [benefits](#), [grants](#) and other help.
- [West Sussex County Council grants and funding](#)  
West Sussex County Council offers a free service to businesses, voluntary organisations, charities, community groups and social enterprises to search for sources of funding for any venture or project. Grants are also provided for local projects.
- [West Sussex Open4Community](#)  
Community funding support website for the West Sussex area.

## **ICT Support**

- [Computers for Charities](#)  
Refurbishes donated IT equipment for resale and provides IT support for charities and voluntary organisations.
- [tt-exchange](#)

tt-exchange gives eligible UK registered charities access to major technology companies' donation programmes, including Microsoft, Cisco, Symantec and Adobe.

## **Legal Advice**

- [LawWorks](#)  
LawWorks is a charity which aims to provide free legal help to individuals and community groups who cannot afford to pay for it and who are unable to access legal aid.

## **Legal Structures and Business Models**

- [Charity Commission](#)  
The Charity Commission is the independent Government department which registers and regulates charities in England and Wales.
- [Community Shares](#)  
Community shares are an ideal way for communities to invest in enterprises serving a community purpose
- [Companies House](#)  
The main functions of Companies House are to:
  - incorporate and dissolve limited companies;
  - examine and store company information delivered under the Companies Act and related legislation; and
  - make this information available to the public.
- [Co-operatives uk](#)  
Co-operatives UK is the national trade body that campaigns for co-operation and works to promote, develop and unite co-operative enterprises.
- [Financial Conduct Authority](#)  
Regulates and registers co-operative societies, community benefit societies and former industrial and provident societies.
- [Get Legal](#)  
On-line resource which provides expert advice on legal structures and issues such as governance for charities, social enterprises and co-ops.
- [The Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies](#)  
The Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies decides whether an organisation is eligible to become, or continue to be, a community interest company (CIC). It is responsible for investigating complaints - taking action if necessary - and it provides guidance and assistance to help people set up CICs..
- [Social Enterprise UK](#)  
The national body for social enterprise.

- [Unltd](#)  
Foundation for social entrepreneurs, a one stop shop for advice and support to help people get their community projects off the ground.
- [West Sussex Social Enterprise Network](#)  
WSSSEN provides county-wide infrastructure support for social enterprise in West Sussex.

## Training

- [Directory of Social Change](#)  
Provides a range of training courses and events for the charity and community sector.
- [Foundation for Social Improvement](#)  
Provides a range of training courses and events for the charity and community sector.
- [Horsham and Mid Sussex Voluntary Action](#)  
Provides a range of courses within Horsham and Mid Sussex for local community and voluntary groups at discounted rates.
- [Knowhow \(part of NCVO\)](#)  
Training resources and information for the voluntary and community sector.
- [McCrudden Training](#)  
Sussex based training company specialising in courses for the voluntary and community sector.
- [West Sussex Learning and Development Gateway](#)  
Training courses and elearning resources offered by West Sussex County Council.

## Volunteering

- [Do-It](#)  
Online database of volunteering opportunities.
- [Mid Sussex Volunteer Centre](#)  
Recruits and matches volunteers to local opportunities.
- [Institute for Volunteering Research](#)  
IVR specialise in research, consultancy and evaluation projects on volunteering to help improve policy and practice.
- [National Citizen Service](#)  
National volunteering service for 16 and 17 year-olds.

- **NCVO**  
Supporting, enabling and celebrating volunteering in all its diversity. Their work links policy, research, innovation, good practice and programme management in the involvement of volunteers.
  
- **Outset Youth Action** Outset Youth Action is an independent county-wide youth organisation and registered Charity which operates across West Sussex. Outset acts as a volunteering agency for young people aged 13 to 25 years, encouraging and supporting young people to take on a wide range of volunteering opportunities within their community.
  
- **Skill Share West Sussex**  
Provides 'bite-sized' volunteering opportunities of between one and ten days to students, professionals and businesses.
  
- **vInspired**  
vInspired connects young people (18 to 25 years) with volunteering opportunities and offers an award scheme to recognise young people's commitment to volunteering.
  
- **Voluntary Services Overseas**  
VSO is an international development charity. VSO tackles poverty by using the skills, commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers from around the world.
  
- **NCVO**  
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