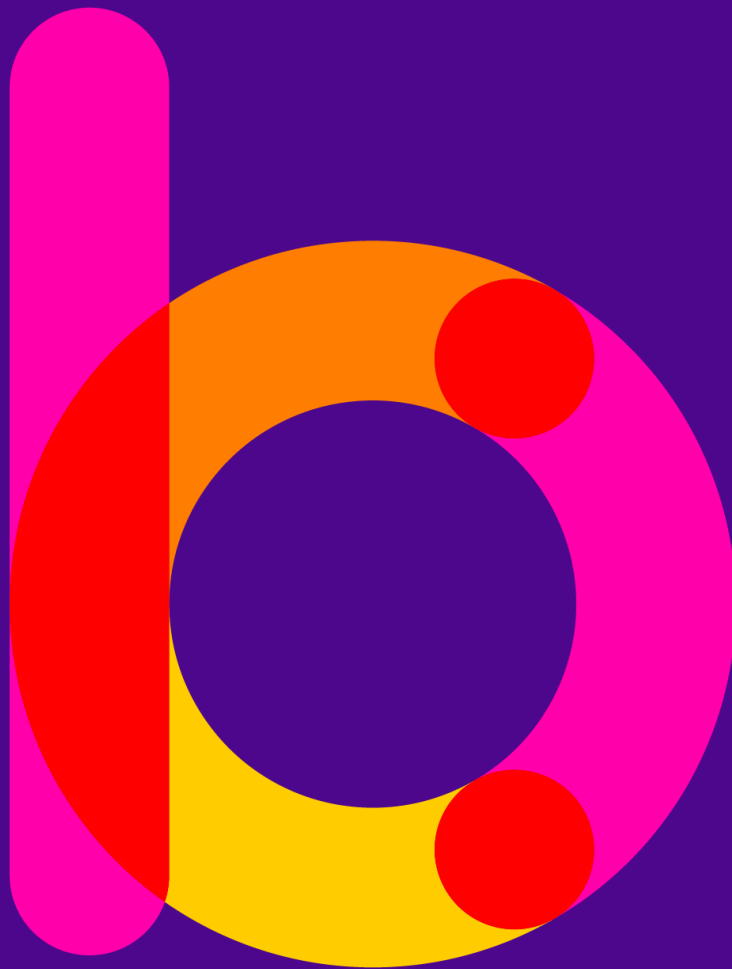


Quarter One Reporting



April – June 2025

Contents

Introduction by Sanet Mulder	1
Quarter One In Numbers	2
Engagement	3–5
Development	6–7
• Training	8
• Volunteering	9
• Membership	10
• Feedback	11
Funding and Grants	12
Income	13–14
Projects	
• Peer Navigators	15–17
• Social Enterprise	18–19
• Social Prescribing	20
• Wellbeing and Health	21–23
Additional Services	
• Partnerships	24
• Social Value	25
• The Bolton Hub	26
Success Stories	27–28
The Road Ahead	29

A few words from Sanet Mulder, Executive Assistant & Finance and Business Support Officer at Bolton CVS...

As we reflect on the start of the new financial year, I've been invited to share a brief introduction about myself. I serve as an Executive Assistant at Bolton CVS and currently support part-time as a Business Support Officer. My role involves managing diaries, coordinating meetings and events, and assisting with HR, payroll, and day-to-day financial operations.



Saying I simply 'enjoy' my job wouldn't do it justice - I've truly immersed myself in the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, finding purpose and fulfilment in the work we do. Although I wasn't born in Bolton, the town has become a meaningful part of my journey, both professionally and personally.

Bolton's VCSE sector is filled with optimism - embracing new opportunities and ventures while celebrating the growth and evolution achieved across the borough. This new quarter began on a powerful note as we celebrated National Volunteers' Week, recognising the incredible contributions of our volunteers. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them - for not only uplifting and empowering others but for making an invaluable difference in our communities.

Another highlight was our participation in the Bolton Learning and Skills Fair, where Bolton CVS connected with individuals in a truly purposeful way. It was more than outreach - it was about making connections, building trust, and creating lasting impact.

I am immensely proud to be a part of our sector and of everyone who lives and breathes the spirit of 'VCSE'. I'm filled with admiration and excitement for what lies ahead for the rest of the year.

Click here to see how
our numbers compare
to last year! →

This Quarter

675

members of Bolton CVS

126

VCSE
organisations
supported

59

groups
promoted in
eBulletins

115

volunteers
given 1-to-1
support

64

grants
distributed via
Bolton CVS

16

training
sessions
delivered



3357

Number of subscribers to our
e-newsletters (Weekly
eBulletin, Funding Bulletin,
Training Programme, TGI)

77

training
session
participants

121

volunteer
connections
made

This Quarter

£733,714

*awarded to **64** VCSE organisations*

Engagement

Our communications are integral to the way our organisation functions. At Bolton CVS, our main focus is on our e-newsletters and social media. Take a look at some of our stats for this quarter:

Website Stats ✓ **74,149** hits

The most viewed pages this quarter are:

- Bolton CVS Homepage
- Bolton's Fund
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Training & Events
- Groups and Community Activities

eBulletin Stats ✓ **3,357** subs

- **12** Weekly eBulletins
- **3** monthly Trustee, Governance & Information (TGI) eShots
- **3** monthly Training Programmes
- **59** groups promoted in our eBulletins
- **12** consultations and surveys shared with the VCSE sector

Social Media



Instagram

This quarter, we have had **68** new followers, made **39** new posts, gained **10,315** impressions, and we now have **766** followers in total.



Facebook

This quarter, we have had **80** new followers and **50** page likes. The Bolton CVS Facebook page now has a total of **3,177** followers.



LinkedIn

This quarter, we have had **8,526** impressions, **271** reactions, gained **23** comments, and we now have **467** followers in total.

Volunteers' Week

Volunteers' Week is a national celebration which happens from 1st -7th June. We use the opportunity to celebrate and recognise Bolton's fantastic volunteers! Here's what we did this year:



Celebration Event

Held at The Bolton Hub, this year's celebration event was focused on volunteers from micro organisations in Bolton's VCSE sector.

There was food, music, and some fun games to help the volunteers get into the celebratory spirit. We also found out that those in attendance had collectively contributed the equivalent of over **300** years of volunteering in Bolton and beyond!

Out and About

As well as celebrating all the brilliant work Bolton's volunteers have done over the past year, we wanted to raise awareness of the benefits of volunteering and the opportunities available in Bolton.

To do this, we hosted several pop-up volunteer stalls in the community so people could find out more about volunteering in Bolton.



Events



Bolton Learning and Skills Fair

On 19th June, members of the team ran a stall at the Bolton Learning and Skills Fair in Victoria Square. They had conversations around what Bolton CVS could offer, from volunteering opportunities to training. The team spoke to over **80** people, of which over **30** completed a volunteering enquiry form to be matched with a suitable volunteer opportunity in Bolton.



Careers Fair at Bolton University

The Careers Fair was arranged by Bolton University for Health and Social Care students. The team engaged with **29** students around volunteering and referred them to the Bolton CVS website to see the latest volunteering opportunities in Bolton.



VCSE Forum

This quarter, our Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise Forum had **31** participants. This space is used for connecting the sector, sharing news, introducing new members of Bolton CVS, and giving people the opportunity to have their say!

[Find out more >>](#)



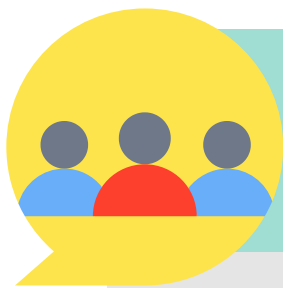
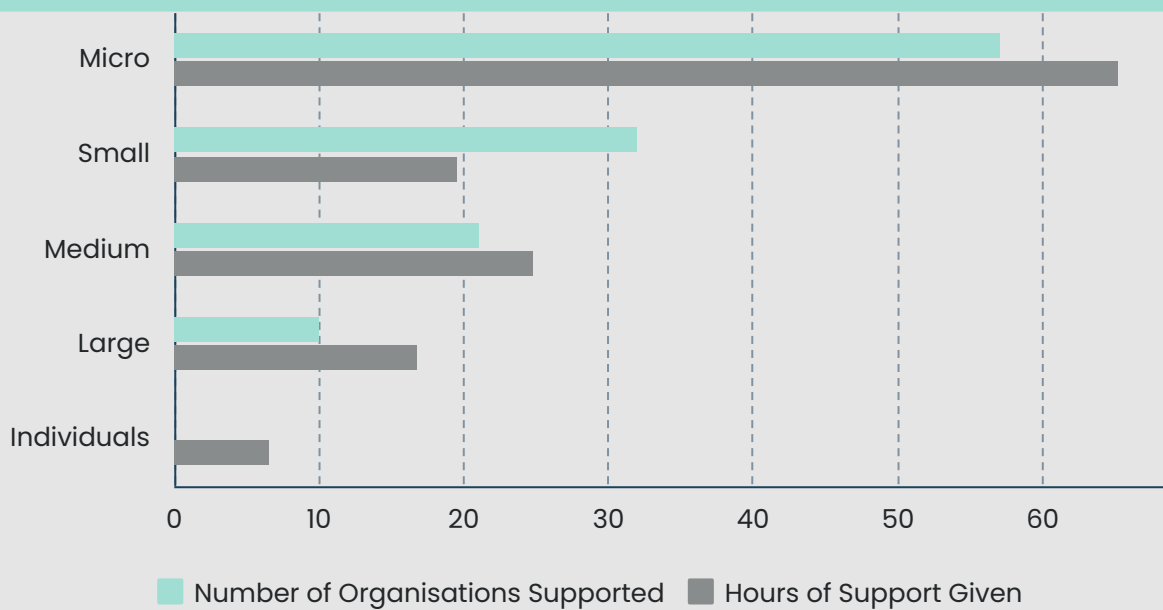
Volunteer Development Network

This quarter, our Volunteer Development Network had **7** participants. A new format for the Network was trialled, with the group discussing headaches, highlights and horizons around different themes. This quarter the theme was Volunteer Recruitment!

Development

Our Development Team are responsible for supporting Bolton's VCSE sector – providing them with information and resources around governance, board support, safeguarding, GDPR, and more!

VCSE Organisation Support



Support provided for 120 VCSE groups



Types of group supported

- Constituted Groups (37.74%)
- Registered Charity (36.79%)
- Community Interest Co (25.47%)



Information given to 10 individuals

on setting up a group, DBS checks, and GDPR.

Bolton Mark

6 groups are working towards acquiring the Bolton Mark and **2** groups are awaiting assessment.

Development

Types Of Support Given

This quarter, **14** different types of support have been given to groups:

- Bolton Mark
- Funding Advice
- Getting Ready for Funding
- Becoming Members
- DBS Checks
- Digital Inclusion
- Board Support – Trustee development, training, governance
- Access to Training
- Safeguarding
- Trustee Recruitment
- GDPR
- Setting up a new organisation – CIO, CIC or community group
- Policies
- Setting up Bank Accounts

Family Hubs Engagement

Our involvement within the Family Hubs network has changed! Nicola Taylor, our Family Hubs Worker, has a new role focusing on promoting the support provided by Family Hubs and engaging with families in communities who are not currently accessing that support.

Nicola has made a great start, concentrating on the Rumworth and Brightmet areas of Bolton, and has visited **17** groups to tell them about what is on offer. She's been able to identify some potential barriers to access for some families and shared this information with the Family Hubs Practitioners.

Nicola is also meeting existing VCSE organisations who work with communities who are not accessing the Family Hubs network, sharing accessible information to better promote what is available.

In the next quarter, we have a new Senior Development Officer joining the team. This role will focus on ensuring that groups are supported to be safe, well run and sustainable.

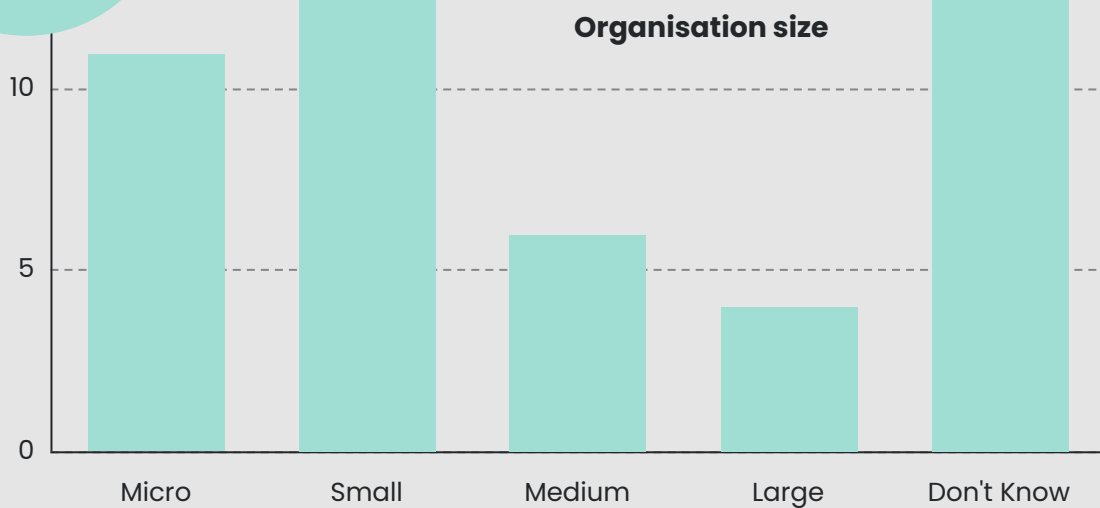
Training

We offer a range of specialist training courses designed to develop the skills and knowledge of the diverse voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in Bolton.



16 training sessions held

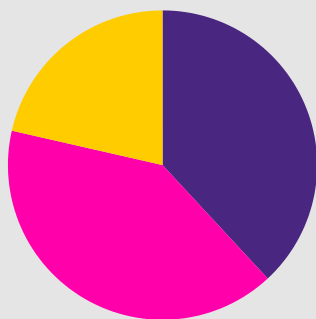
[See the full list >>](#)



77 participants

50 VCSE organisations

How individuals found out about our training:



■ Bolton CVS Website (38.1%)
■ Email (40.48%)
■ Word of Mouth (21.43%)

Bespoke sessions

On 21st June, our Development Manager, Elaine, spent the morning with the staff and Trustees of Bolton Asian Elders Resource Centre facilitating a session to help them create an action plan for the coming months.

Volunteering

Our Volunteering Team work with individuals and VCSE organisations to support them with every aspect of a volunteer's journey - and we also have some volunteers of our own! Here's a breakdown of their work this quarter:

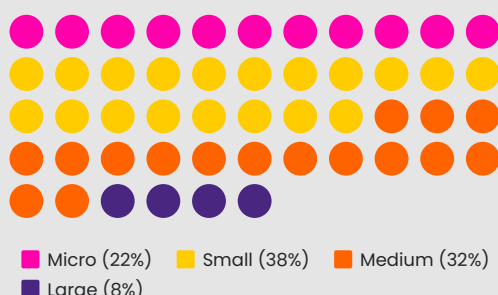
Volunteer Hours

- Bolton CVS has **2** volunteers as part of our Volunteering Team, who gave **61.5** hours of their time this quarter.
- **21** people volunteered as Bolton CVS Grant Assessors during this quarter.
- **12** members of the Board of Trustees volunteered **32** hours during this quarter.

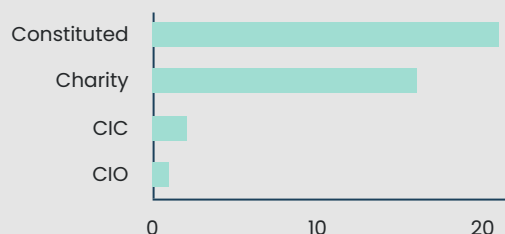
[Video Feedback >>](#)

Groups Supported

Of the **50** groups supported this quarter, this is the breakdown of their size:



and this is a breakdown of their structure:



Workshops



This quarter, the Volunteering Team held **2** Benefits of Volunteering Workshops, with a total of **22** attendees.



163

volunteer enquiries



62

instances of 1-to-1 support



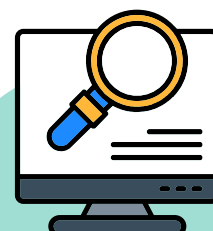
35

volunteers at Bolton CVS



50

organisations supported



105

opportunities promoted

Membership

Bolton CVS membership has been designed to give new and exclusive opportunities to Bolton's VCSE sector, allowing them to connect, grow and thrive together.

Overall Members

✓ **675**

As of this quarter, Bolton CVS has **675** members in total.

583 of these members are Full Members and **92** are Associate Members.

New Members

✓ **22**

Last quarter, **22** organisations were successful in their application to become members of Bolton CVS.

[Click here to see a full list of new members >>](#)

Membership Feedback



“Thank you so much for the opportunity and invitation to the VCSE Forum. It was a pleasure to meet you and the team yesterday. We are very proud to be part of Bolton CVS and the community, and are looking forward to working together.

– Tom Mulenge, Director, Tom Mulenge Music CIC

We have developed a new Membership Agreement and Membership Welcome Pack which we have started to share with new members.

This will enhance the member experience and help to clarify what members can expect from us and what we expect of them.



[Click here to find out more about Bolton CVS Membership! >>](#)

Feedback

Our Development Team request feedback from all the organisations and individuals they work with. Of the **21** people who provided feedback this quarter, **4** said the support they received was very good and **17** considered the support to be excellent. Here's some of what they had to say:



Excellent, timely guidance and support. We have a clear focus and goals set for future development of our community constitution. We envisage transforming into a CIC with expertise provided through the execution of correct policies and procedures.

- Shabnum at Aspiring Mind, recipient of Development Support



You are brilliant at steering the conversations and getting best ideas from group. We all found the session very useful it was interactive, interesting and managed to have an action plan for 2025/2026, supporting our Board of Trustees and staff to make our organisation stronger and sustainable. A huge thank you to Bolton CVS for always supporting and helping us.

- Shabeen Rehman, Centre Manager, Asian Elders Resource Centre, recipient of Bespoke Session



We are applying to receive the Bolton Mark Accreditation and the information and support received from Karen Arkwright, was accessible, succinct, logical and extremely helpful. Being awarded the Bolton Mark will help to further establish as a professional organisation.

- Vicky Kenyon, Bolton Adult Autism Support, recipient of Development Support



Today, I had the opportunity to attend the Benefits of Volunteering workshop delivered by Samim Vali, and I would like to express my appreciation for the informative and engaging session. The training helped me better understand the value of volunteering and introduced various roles that I found interesting.

- Jerin Raju, potential volunteer, attendee of the 'Benefits of Volunteering Workshop'

Funding

Our Funding and Grants Team work hard to deliver grants managed by Bolton CVS to Bolton's VCSE sector and support them during the application process. Here's some headlines from this quarter:

7 funding programmes open

64 grants approved

£733,714 distributed

25 organisations supported

Funding Distribution

In Quarter 1 Bolton's Fund made up the majority of the funding awarded through grants administered by Bolton CVS (a total of £730,764.28 was awarded through Bolton's Fund grant programmes).

Bolton CVS also administered the following grants in Quarter 1:

- Bolton Community Homes Grants

Funding Programmes

The following grants were administered this quarter:

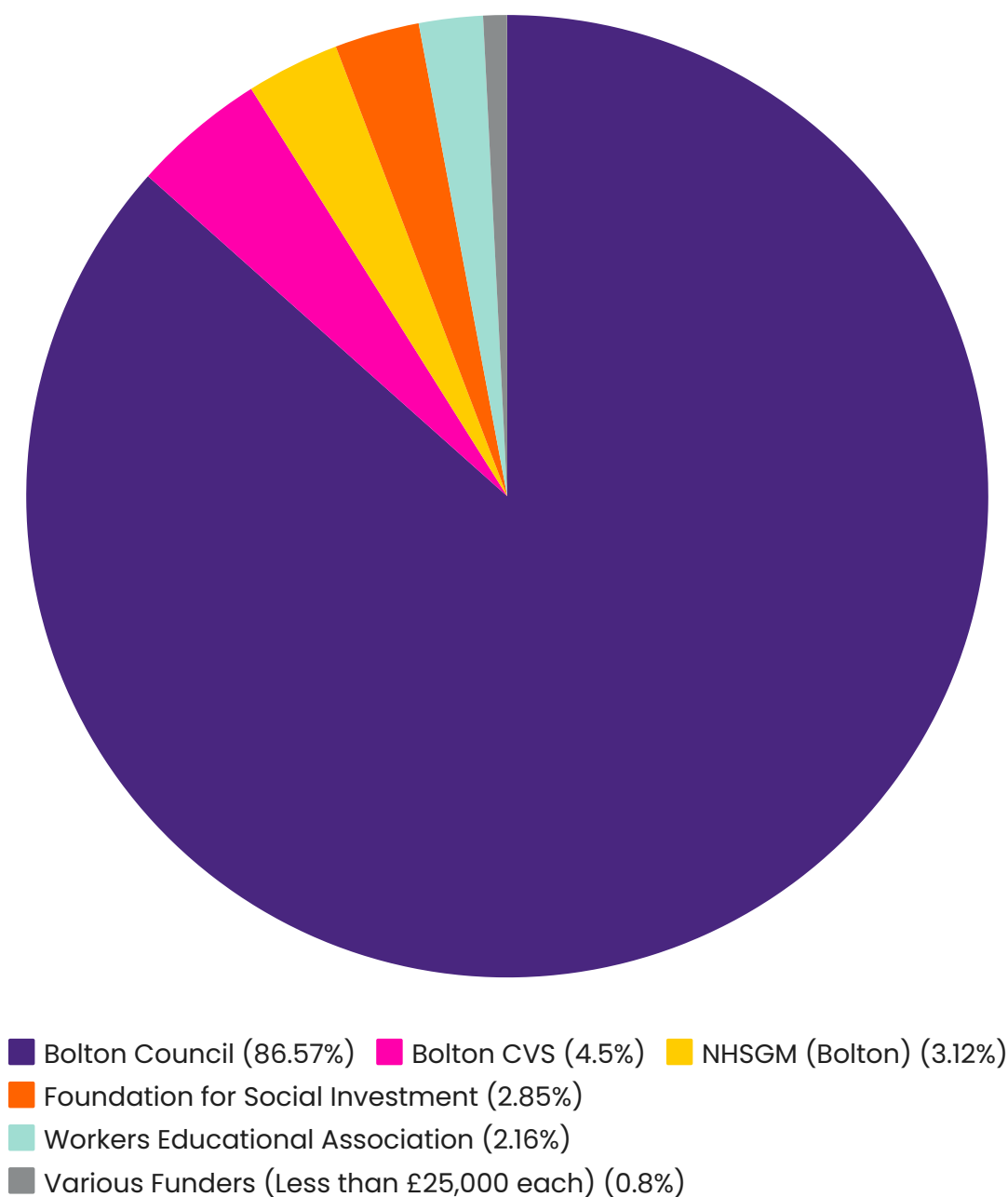
- Bolton's Fund: Micro Grants
- Bolton's Fund: Small Grants
- Bolton's Fund: Medium Grants
- Bolton's Fund: Partnership Grants
- Bolton's Fund: Household Support Fund 7
- Bolton's Fund: Holiday Activities and Food Fund Summer 2025

[The summary reports for Bolton's Fund awards can be found here >>](#)

Income

In order to do the work we do supporting Bolton's Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise sector, we have several streams of income which are listed below:

£1,324,334.64 Total Income



Income

Income Streams

Our Income stream during the 1st quarter of this year was generated via the following funders & programmes:

10GM

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund E26 Social Economy

Access – the Foundation for Social Investment

- GM Proper Good Programme

Bolton Council

- VCSE Infrastructure contract
- Bolton's Fund / HSF – Investments for distribution to the VCSE sector
- Community Cohesion & Resilience grant funding

Bolton CVS Generated

- Income from The Bolton Hub Tenants & Room Hire; training & development work

NHSGM (Bolton)

- Urgent Care Engagement

NHSGM & GMCA (Live Well)

- Live Well Cardio Vascular Disease & Diabetes Prevention programme

Sir James & Lady Scott Trust

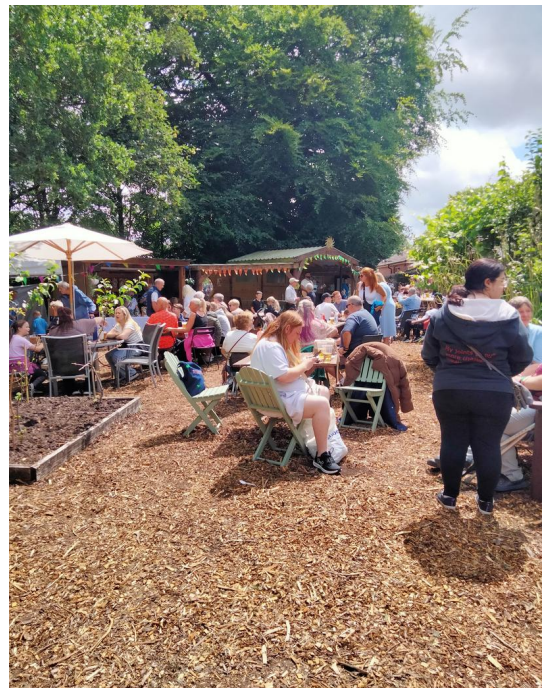
- Contribution to Bolton's Fund Investments

Workers Educations Association

- Positive Pathways programme – Phase 2

Peer Navigators

Peer Navigators are local, trusted community members who have experience of living in the area and can enable other local residents to access the support that is local to them.



Farnworth and Little Lever

Our Farnworth Peer Navigator, Stuart Fletcher, has been busy setting up action groups and connecting local police with the community. He's also been out and about with OPUS broadband, making sure tenants know about the free broadband available through Bolton at Home.

In Little Lever, Jayne Harrison has been working closely with residents and community groups. In June, she ran the badge-making table at the Willow Hey Festival, helping kids create their own designs. Locals loved the free event, calling it a fun and affordable day out.

Our Farnworth Maintenance Peer Navigator, Neil Prescott, carried out a range of repairs and surveys across Bolton at Home properties and community spaces.

Peer Navigators

Halliwell

In Halliwell, Peer Navigator Emily Barrow has been busy with local projects.

Her Garden Project was officially recognised as a Community Growing Space, complete with a new sign!

Emily also hosted a BBQ to thank garden volunteers, and her Forest Garden Project is coming along nicely too.



Peer Navigators

Environmental Peer Navigators

Our two Environmental Peer Navigators, Milly and Jon, left their posts in early June having completed their 18-month fixed term contracts. They have left a genuine legacy at the community sites they have worked on and the many lives they have enhanced with their activities. They remained active in the community this quarter, doing new things and preparing partners for their departures.

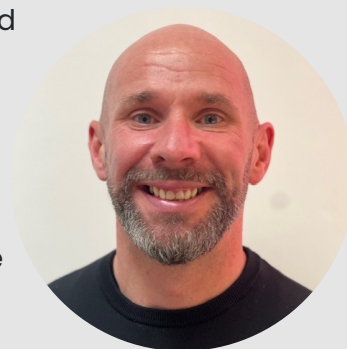


Milly completed Level 2 Forest School Award training and ran lots of Forest School Sessions in April, May and June at the Roosters Site. **10-15** children attended each session, developing their forest school skills and taking part in mindful outdoor play.

She also engaged with around **20** residents and **5** children in activities for children using natural foliage to create decorations in Hall'i'th'Wood.

Jonathan completed a Site Supervision Course and continued to work across the numerous sites he has helped to transform in his time as a Peer Navigator.

On May Day at Daisy Dell, he ran a seed bomb presentation which taught local families about the importance of wildflowers and how they help our environment.

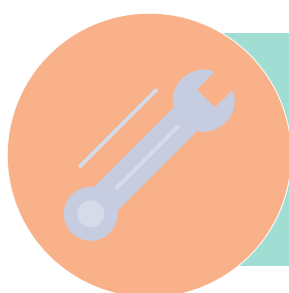


There was lots of engagement from the community and lots of seeds for people to take away to improve their gardens at home.

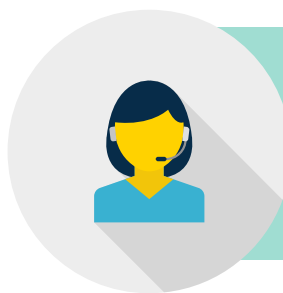
Social Enterprise

Bolton CVS is proud to be hosting two programmes dedicated to supporting the social enterprise sector; Proper Good and Our Business. Both programmes aim to help social enterprises develop, diversify and thrive. Our networking, training and events are led by entrepreneurs who know how to run proper businesses that do good in their communities. All with the sole aim of supporting the social economy in Bolton to flourish.

Proper Good is funded by Local Access – The Foundation for Social Investment and Better Society Capital. Funding for the Our Business programme is from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is delivered in partnership with 10GM.



8
workshops
delivered to
31 participants



7
individuals
supported on a 1-
to-1 basis

Social Investment Update

Following the closure of GMCVO late last year, the Greater Manchester Proper Good partnership has been working hard to secure a new social investment partner and accountable body for the programme. Local Access is working closely with the Key Fund to fulfil both these roles. In the meantime, the Key Fund has a range of suitable investment options to consider if your organisation can't wait for the new-look Proper Good loan products.

If you would like to have a conversation about social investment for your organisation, you can speak to our Project Coordinator by emailing propergood@boltoncvs.org.uk.



Social Enterprise

Social Enterprise in Action

This quarter, we launched Wave 2 of the Our Business programme, alongside our Proper Good funded workshops and support for local entrepreneurs. We've continued offering expert-led workshops on topics that matter most to participants and increased access to 1-to-1 advice; something many tell us really helps move their business forward.

We've also focused on building stronger local partnerships and held the first meeting of the Bolton Social Enterprise Place working group. Supported by Bolton CVS, this group aims to have Bolton officially recognised as a Social Enterprise Place, joining a growing national network that highlights the impact of social enterprise in our communities and economy.

The Proper Good podcast is gaining momentum! Our latest episode features three amazing organisations who've taken part in our mentoring programme. Watch it on the [Bolton CVS YouTube](#) channel and stay updated by following us on Facebook (@ProperGoodBolton) or LinkedIn.

The Proper Good Steering Group, made up of local social enterprise leaders, business advisors and partners continues to guide the programme. The group met once this quarter.

We're also working closely with colleagues across Greater Manchester to share learning, best practice and opportunities for the enterprises we support.

Organisations accessing 1-to-1 support from industry experts

As part of the evolution of our support, we are now able to offer entrepreneurs some time with industry experts to work through any sticky issues/questions.

This quarter, entrepreneurs have used their time to explore vision, mission and values work, social impact mapping, legal structures and governance questions and financial queries.

Social Prescribing

Social Prescribing is all about connecting people in the community with any support they might need that is available to them. Here's what our Social Prescriber got up to this quarter:



**6 partners
worked
with**

- Bolton Deaf Society
- Bolton Community Furniture Store
- Bolton NHS Foundation Trust Integrated Neighbourhood Team
- Bolton NHS Foundation Trust Community Neuro Rehabilitation Team
- Mental Health Practitioners
- District Nurses



**3 VCSE
groups
visited**



**47
referrals
made**

Feedback



“Thanks so much for the email Tracey. Those words mean so much! I've really enjoyed working with you – you are brilliant! I hope that we will cross paths again sometime.

– Marvin Constantine, Neighbourhood Leader (Central North) at Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

“It's great to have you back and thank you for the information you have sent. Lots of colleagues have said how much they valued you coming to our meeting again last week so thank you again.

– Rebecca Dunn, Occupational Therapist at Bolton NHS Foundation Trust



Wellbeing & Health

Our Wellbeing and Health Team work with partners across Bolton to advocate for Bolton's VCSE sector and deliver a variety of projects that benefit the health of the community.

Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes Heart Health Training

VCSE organisations working in the Central South neighbourhood of Bolton are being invited to apply to be part of a project aimed at reducing levels of cardiovascular disease and diabetes amongst local communities.

The programme, which is a collaboration with the NHS, the GP Federation and Bolton Council, will involve training sessions to provide the skills, knowledge, confidence and resources for VCSE groups to have informed conversations around heart health.

There'll be a particular focus on reaching underserved populations – including individuals with learning difficulties, carers, asylum seekers and ethnic minorities.

Smoking Cessation

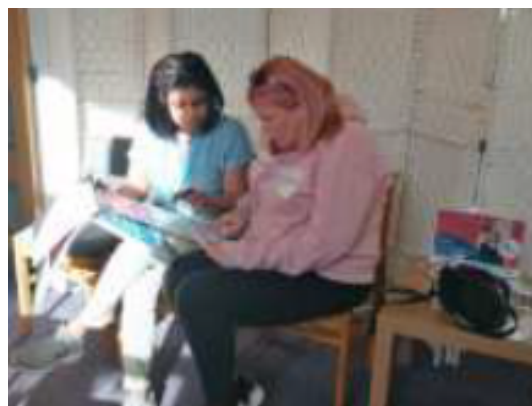
Around **20** VCSE organisations have now received training to help tackle one of Bolton's biggest public health priorities – reducing the number of people who smoke. Smoking is estimated to contribute to an average of 1 death every day of the year in Bolton.

The training supports staff to talk with smokers and encourage them to join a stop smoking programme. Over **100** people have been referred so far – more than half have set a quit date, and 60% have stayed smoke-free for 4 weeks.

Quitting helps people's health and finances, reduces pressure on the NHS, and brings funding into the VCSE sector.

To get involved and be paid to support this work, contact Stephen Walker at ABL Health: [**SWalker@ablhealth.co.uk**](mailto:SWalker@ablhealth.co.uk).

Wellbeing & Health



Increasing Cancer Awareness

Following on from the Let's Talk Cancer workshops Bolton CVS coordinated in the last quarter, VCSE organisations have been putting their increased knowledge to good use in the community. Here are some examples:

- **Bolton Hindu Age Inspiration** set up a Healthy Lifestyle programme especially to raise awareness of cancer and its prevention. The group ran 4 health workshops which included cancer awareness.
- **Bolton Carers Support** delivered outreach work at Royal Bolton Hospital and across the borough, and supported discussions with unpaid carers around cancer awareness.
- **Bolton Solidarity Community Association** hosted two informal discussion events with new and emerging communities in Bolton, utilising the techniques and resources from the training. By making the discussions accessible and relatable, they encouraged greater openness and understanding about people's health needs.
- **Sisterhood Champions** used the literature and interactive activities that were supplied by Bolton Council's Public Health team as part of the training to lead discussions in the community.

Wellbeing & Health

Urgent Care Phase 2 Consultation

Following a public consultation late last year to better understand how and where people access health care, the second phase of this partnership project with Healthwatch Bolton has been delivered in this quarter.

The overall aim is to reduce the number of people attending Royal Bolton Hospital's Emergency Department for non-urgent issues – and to help signpost people to more appropriate healthcare options.

To that end, and with the support of more than a dozen VCSE organisations based in the Farnworth, Kearsley, Brightmet and Little Lever areas of the borough, focus groups have been held with over 200 people. These sessions have provided knowledge and resources for people to make more informed choices.

The messages have also been shared widely through social media channels – with an estimated reach of around 100 thousand people.

Unlocking Wellbeing in Bolton

Unlocking Wellbeing is a 3-year Lottery funded project that looks at the challenges carers face, especially those from minority or low-income backgrounds, and aims to make lasting changes to improve support. With six months left, Bolton CVS and delivery partners are focusing on key issues highlighted in the recent review:

- Creation of a clear guide showing how meetings work and how information should be shared.
- A new survey is now being used by all partners to better understand carers' needs.
- A shared communications pack has been created for everyone involved.
- Refining what carers should expect from the services they use.

Bolton CVS is also working with learning partners to plan next steps and make sure the impact continues after the funding ends.

Partnerships

We are collaborators, and our partnership work is all about creating strategic connections across Bolton that benefit the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector.

Strategic Partnerships

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government has recently published a prospectus for its Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. This updates and rebadges the previous government's Long Term Plan for Towns programme, which was paused by the government during the general election last year.

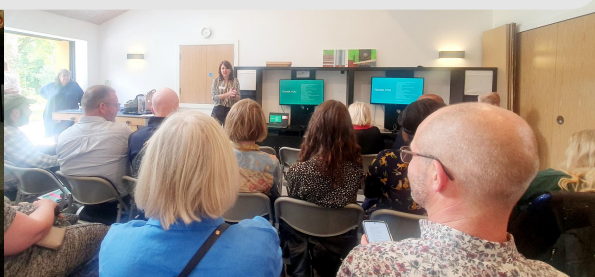


There is now updated guidance and criteria. Bolton CVS' Strategic Partnerships Manager, Helen, is a member of the Plan for Neighbourhoods Board (named Focus on Farnworth) whose role is to advise Bolton Council on the focus for the first four years.

Helen, alongside cross-sector colleagues, has formed a Social Value Key Contacts group to tell the Bolton social value story and link social value through borough plans and strategies.

Other examples of partnership work include:

- Working alongside the Business Growth Hub to create support for Bolton VCSEs and SMEs to be ready for procurement opportunities.
- Working alongside the Manchester Chamber of Commerce to develop a plan to highlight to businesses the value of having social enterprises in their supply chains.
- Working alongside other Local Infrastructure contacts across GM on opportunities for further funding for the Live Well work in Bolton.
- Development work with the Bolton CVS Leadership team to create an internal Bolton CVS Social Value strategy.



Social Value

Environmental Sustainability

Bolton CVS implemented new recycling processes across The Bolton Hub and recycled unwanted office furniture by donating to other VCSEs.

Accessibility and Inclusion

Offered a reduced room rate to one VCSE organisation, enabling their meeting to proceed and fostering community engagement and collaboration.

Local Economic Support

43% of spending this quarter, equating to £15,796, was directed towards local Bolton suppliers and organisations, reinforcing the local economy.

Staff Wellbeing

Bolton CVS staff participated in a social event, regular walks and book club focused on promoting wellbeing and team cohesion, encouraging a healthier and more connected workplace.

Community Support

- The Facilities Team provided advice and support to **28** people, ensuring they had access to relevant resources and VCSE services.
- **19** people received in-depth support from the reception team, being connected with appropriate VCSE organisations for ongoing assistance.

Employee Volunteering

Funding Manager, Liz McNabb, used her Employee Supported Volunteering time to help at the High Lawn PTA School Summer fair, helping to raise £1,600 to fix the outdoor play equipment for the young people.

Grant Assessors

Bolton CVS Funding Team manage a team of **80** volunteer grant assessors, **11** of whom helped to process the Household Support 7 grants funding round, resulting in **80** hours of volunteering time.

The Bolton Hub

Our building works as a central hub – not only as a place for our team to work from, but also to help connect and support the community of Bolton. Here's just some of the ways this happens:

Our Buliding

Bolton CVS and The Bolton Hub continues to be a centre for community activity and action in Bolton. We are committed to ensuring accessibility of our services both within The Bolton Hub and within the community. In this quarter, we had **1,923** visits to The Bolton Hub.

Our Tenants



Rent a Desk

The Bolton Hub is offering desk space and a great range of services available to hire on a daily basis. Printing, copying and mail box facilities are available at an additional charge. If you'd like to take advantage of this offer, please email hub@boltoncvs.org.uk.

Success Stories



Growing Connections: Four Seasons Community Garden's Digital Journey

In the heart of Halliwell, Four Seasons Community Garden has long welcomed locals to share the joy of gardening. But when the group wanted to apply for funding to expand their work and buy a new shed, they ran into a few challenges – limited internet, low digital confidence, and missing policies.

[Find out more >>](#)



Putting the magic back into cooking

Rizwana had a dream – to teach children and young people how to cook. Not knowing where to begin, Rizwana reached out to Bolton CVS. With guidance from the Development Team, she explored legal structures, governance, and attended safeguarding training.

[Find out more >>](#)



Deaf Awareness Training in the Neighbourhood Team

After arranging a training session delivered by a local VCSE organisation, the Neighbourhood Team shared some helpful feedback; they wanted more tools to support Deaf patients. The idea of Deaf Awareness training came up and I knew just where to go!

[Find out more >>](#)



From Seed to Celebration: The Wild and Fruity Garden Open Day

Bolton CVS first met the team behind The Wild and Fruity Community Garden when their project was just beginning. With a shared passion for community and nature, they reached out to Bolton CVS for support. We helped them with governance guidance and getting funding-ready – the first steps toward bringing their vision to life.

[Find out more >>](#)

Success Stories



Migrant Haven's Journey

In February 2025, Bolu reached out to Bolton CVS with a clear vision – to create *Migrant Haven*, a support group led by people with lived experience of migration.

[Find out more >>](#)



Take a Seat

Social Prescriber, Tracey, received a referral from the Therapy Team for a gentleman who had recently returned home after a stay in hospital and respite care, following a decline in his mobility. With no close family nearby, he relied on friends and neighbours for occasional support.

[Find out more >>](#)



The Proper Good Podcast

At Proper Good, we believe in the power of stories – the real, honest ones that show the impact of social enterprises in Bolton. That's why, alongside offering hands-on support and mentoring, we've launched the **Proper Good Podcast**, a space to shine a light on the people, ideas, and passion behind our town's social economy.

[Find out more >>](#)



Video Feedback



How a Volunteer Helped Khidma Women's Group Thrive

As the group grew, so did the admin work and it began to take up more time and energy. Wanting to focus more on supporting their members, the group decided to recruit a volunteer to help manage the 'behind the scenes' work. But finding someone with the right skills for this specific role proved challenging.

[Find out more >>](#)

The Road Ahead

1

Development

Next quarter, we will embed the work of the new Senior Development Officer into the team and take responsibility for supporting groups applying for funding not administered by Bolton CVS.

2

Training

Next quarter, we will start to deliver GDPR sessions and restart Introduction to Volunteer Management sessions for the sector.

3

Membership

Next quarter, we will update our membership webpages to ensure they are informative and easy to use.

4

Engagement

Next quarter, we'll start to refresh our Communications and Impact Strategy and collect success stories from the sector.

5

Social Enterprise

Next quarter, we'll support the Social Enterprise Place bid, highlighting our sector's value and opportunities.

6

Wellbeing and Health

Next quarter, we will build on the learnings identified in the Unlocking Wellbeing Interim Report and support the developing Live Well plans for Bolton.