

# HVA services

## Starting and running a group

Helping you develop your group's constitution; consider your policies and financial management.

## Training

HVA runs regular training sessions on subjects to meet the needs of voluntary groups. These include First Aid and Child Protection training.

## Volunteering

Linking volunteers and non-profit organisations that need help.

## Funding advice service

Hastings Voluntary Action can help groups to improve the effectiveness of their fundraising.

## Community Accounting

Supporting voluntary organisations to look after their money correctly, with advice, independent examinations and payroll calculations.

## Representation

Working with groups to develop a stronger voice for the voluntary sector within Hastings and across East Sussex.

## Room hire

Our offices, located in Hastings town centre, have a range of spaces specifically designed to accommodate meetings, training and interviews.

## Community projects

Filling gaps and bringing people together, using our knowledge and expertise.



# HVA

## Hastings Voluntary Action

# Annual Review 2024-25



## Hastings Voluntary Action

# [hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk](https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk)

## Tel: 01424 444010

Registered Charity 802632

Registered Company 2409902



# Hastings Voluntary Action is a charity that **enables positive change** in Hastings



"If it wasn't for HVA, we wouldn't know half of the organisations out there who can assist our clients."

**Ted Williams**  
SSAFA  
The Armed Forces Charity



"We are very happy with the support and services that HVA provide. They are always quick to respond to queries and always happy to try and help if we request something. We were pleased when they allowed us use of a mail box and Laura is always quick and efficient to help with our accounts."

**Dr Andrew Barton**  
Hastings & Rother  
Rainbow Alliance

"HVA has its community at its heart and goes above and beyond to support social enterprises like ours."

**Phil Golding**  
Supplytrain CIC



**We  
nurture  
groups**



# Review of the Year



**In our role as the Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) for the “not for profit” sector in Hastings and St Leonards, Hastings Voluntary Action continued to fulfil its Charitable Purpose and strategic aims by providing a range of support services and interventions to support organisations, individuals and communities.**

Hastings Voluntary Action was selected by East Sussex County Council to deliver the **Community and VCSE Development Programme** in Hastings for the next 3–5 years. Through this we build on our previous experience to: support local charities, community

groups and social enterprises; promote volunteering; provide opportunities to connect and collaborate such as Hastings Community Network; co-ordinate a programme of training to increase skills; build capacity building to develop a stronger VCSE sector in Hastings.

In conjunction with the **National Academy for Social Prescribing** our work relating to Older People continued to support Hastings becoming an Age Friendly Community under the World Health Organisation framework. HVA also worked in partnership with Age UK East Sussex and Care for the Carers to manage and develop the Isabel

Blackman Centre which has delivered services and activities to over 2,000 people within the reporting period.

We established a new partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support to increase uptake of cancer support services. We are using an **asset-based approach** to co-design activities, peer support, understand what barriers exist, demystify screening processes, and work with cancer champions to signpost to services available locally.

At a **placed based level** HVA was a delivery partner to the county wide Making it Happen programme supporting local activists and delivering a programme of small grants to support grassroots activity. In the Broomgrove area we coordinated a programme of capital work to refurbish the Broomgrove Community Centre, deliver a Social Supermarket Project and employ a Community Development Worker for the area to support residents and contribute to the effective delivery of services.

During the year HVA developed a new Holistic Health project which provides **safe and engaging spaces** for

young people aged 18 to 24 years to access complementary therapies and activities that they are interested in and meet qualified practitioners.

We were successful in obtaining over £200,000 additional public health funding to support organisations working to **secure, protect and enhance green spaces** in the Borough. During 2025 and 2026 this Community Nature Connections project will link people with green spaces to improve health and wellbeing, increase access to green spaces, and strengthen nature and environmental groups.

HVA are proud of the work we have completed but also believe that a **programme of continuous improvement and development** is central to our work to grow as an organisation and challenge ourselves to deliver quality services to our members. We have embarked on a 360-degree review of our 2025–2029 Strategic Plan to prepare for our future work. We also continue to strive to be a responsive, supportive employer and during the year received recognition as a **Carer Friendly Employer**.



HVA provided specific  
**one-to-one support to**  
**309**  
**different organisations**

HVA's **funding advice service** levered in  
**over £1 million**  
for voluntary organisations in Hastings

**110** people were given  
extra support to start volunteering

HVA continued to provide low-cost  
community accountancy services,  
with Independent Examinations for  
**45** local voluntary  
organisations

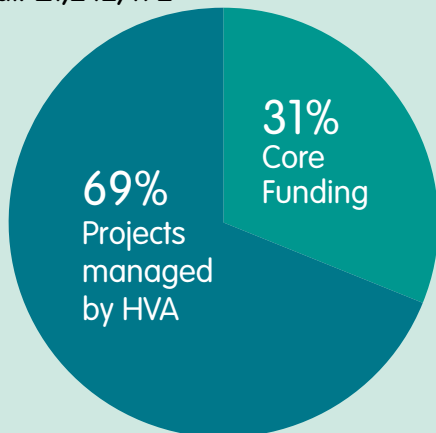
HVA organised  
**33** training  
sessions  
to increase skills  
and knowledge

HVA managed  
**meeting spaces in**  
**Hastings town centre**  
for over  
**650** sessions

To keep the sector  
informed HVA published  
**fortnightly ebulletins to**  
**1900+** readers  
& daily posts to **2500+**  
Facebook followers

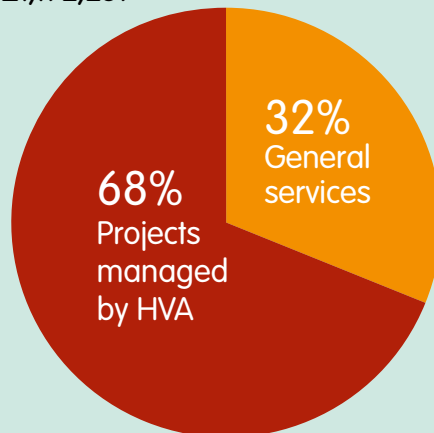
### Where our funding comes from: 2024-25

Total: £1,242,492



### How we used the funding: 2024-25

Total: £1,192,239



### HVA manages several projects which aim to improve life for communities and residents in Hastings & St Leonards:



**The Links Project** is multi-agency partnership that provides access to support and advice for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants living across East Sussex. We run our own weekly drop-in in Hastings on Wednesdays and we are part of Sanctuary Café in Eastbourne on Friday morning.



**The Hastings & Rother Food Network** priorities are food and health, food and connections, food and education and local food businesses and our work contributes to the Public Health Healthy Weight Partnership Strategy. We are a national partner of Feeding Britain and also part of the Good Food East Sussex collective.



The **Holistic Health Project** is a pilot funded by a legacy left to HVA. This initial phase provides young people with opportunities to access wellbeing activities, tools and resources which encourage them to look after themselves.



The **Community Cancer Champions** is a borough-wide programme, initially being piloted in Broomgrove in partnership with MacMillan. It aims to recruit health champions to encourage the uptake of cancer support to those with a diagnosis and to those with greatest risk of a diagnosis.



**Community Nature Connections** is a new project delivered in partnership with Public Health, designed to improve access to nature for health and wellbeing, and to develop the capacity of local organisations or individuals to create or manage our greenspaces.



**Men's Health and Wellbeing Project - East Sussex** is a project that builds on existing strengths, skills and resources. The project aims to strengthen community relationships and enable men to join the conversation on what matters for them and support lasting improvements for men's health and wellbeing.