



Voluntary Action
Arun & Chichester

Promoting and supporting charities, community groups and social enterprises throughout Arun and Chichester

STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN 2019-2022



ABOUT US:

We are a membership organisation for voluntary and community organisations in Arun and Chichester. We have over 400 members and the numbers continue to grow. Our members give us regular feedback on the services we provide, which helps us tailor the support they need to develop their community work.

Our skilled board of trustees set the strategic direction and delegate operational responsibilities to an enthusiastic, experienced and hard-working staff and volunteer team.

VISION: why we exist

To see a strong, vibrant voluntary and community sector that supports, inspires and empowers individuals and communities throughout Arun and Chichester

MISSION: what we do

To provide support and development services to the voluntary and community sector, to bring about sustained and positive change to the lives of individuals and communities throughout Arun and Chichester

VALUES: principles we work within

- Inclusive: we welcome all kinds of voluntary and community groups and social enterprises into membership
- Innovative: we respond to the changing needs of the VCS
- Quality: we deliver high quality information, advice, training and support
- Partnership: we recognise that we are stronger and make a greater impact in partnership
- Representative: we promote and champion the views of the sector

STAKEHOLDERS: those we connect with

- Voluntary and community organisations
- Volunteers
- West Sussex Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Alliance
- Public Sector
- Businesses
- Communities and individuals

Strategic Aim 1:

A strong and sustainable voluntary and community sector

Outcome:

Increased number of voluntary and community organisations, which are more effective and financially stable as a result of VAAC's support.

Activities:

- Collect relevant information and advice for local voluntary and community sector groups and disseminate via the VAAC website, social media, Funding Focus and weekly ebulletins
- Provide high quality training and networking events delivered throughout Arun and Chichester
- Provide 1-1 support and advice to members groups
- Access and circulate funding and income generation opportunities
- Undertake regular surveys/feedback to better understand the needs of our member organisations and review our activities accordingly
- Develop new services alongside partners to meet the needs of local people
- Offer affordable room hire at Bersted Green Learning Centre

Enablers:

Comms strategy, operational delivery plan, development team plan, training and events programme, stakeholder feedback

Strategic Aim 2:

The community is engaged and involved in voluntary action

Outcome:

A wider and expansive pool of volunteers from which local voluntary and community organisations are able to draw

Activities:

- Promote the value and benefits of volunteering to a range of audiences
- Advance the use of Volunteer Plus to both organisations and volunteers
- Promote volunteering opportunities through social media and local newspapers
- Monitor the success of placements
- Support and advise organisations on best practice when recruiting and managing volunteers

Enablers:

Comms strategy, operational delivery plan, development team plan, training and events programme, stakeholder feedback, digital strategy

Strategic Aim 3:

The voluntary and community sector is able to influence decision makers

Outcome:

The voluntary and community sector is recognised, valued, and included in strategic planning and delivery

Activities:

- Ensure that our strategic partners, particularly in the public sector, understand the needs and unique contribution of the local voluntary and community sector and take them into account in their decision making, through participation in relevant partnerships, networks and forums
- Advise voluntary and community groups on procurement opportunities available to them
- Bring together local voluntary and community groups in partnerships to support the needs of their communities through network meetings and 1-1 collaborative work
- Champion the work of the voluntary and community sector through social media and newspapers articles
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Enablers:

Comms strategy, operational delivery plan, development team plan, stakeholder feedback, digital strategy, WSVCSi Alliance Plan

Strategic Aim 4:

An effective, efficient and sustainable organisation

Outcome:

VAAC is expertly governed, financially secure, accountable to its members and funders and delivers high quality, appropriate services that make a difference to the local community.

Activities:

- Ensure VAAC is effectively governed, responsive and accountable to its members through appropriately skilled trustees staff
- Achieve financial sustainability through robust financial planning, budgeting and reviewing
- Fulfil the requirements of existing and potential funders and be accountable for the use of public, private and other grants and donations
- Demonstrate our effectiveness, value for money and commitment to continuous improvement through achieving a quality standard that is relevant to infrastructure organisations
- Develop the work already started with the West Sussex Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Alliance

Enablers:

Comms strategy, operational delivery plan, financial strategy, stakeholder feedback, digital strategy, quality improvement, risk assessment plan

The Strategic Aims included within the VAAC Strategic Business Plan 2019-2022 were developed as a result of consultation with a range of stakeholders including trustees, staff, members of VAAC, West Sussex Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Alliance and public sectors organisations over a period of several months using surveys, SWOT and PEST analysis and focused conversations.

Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester
Bognor Town Hall
Clarence Road
Bognor Regis
PO21 1LD

T: 01243 840305

E: admin@vaac.org.uk

W: <http://vaac.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/VAArunChi>

https://twitter.com/vaac_community



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