



### Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter and new team member!

We welcome Sara Hinchliffe to the Alliance support team in her role as Administrative and Project Support Officer. Sara will be invaluable in providing additional support to members delivering on our three key priorities: Financial Inclusion, Social Prescribing and Sector Resilience and two governance workstreams: Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Climate Change & Sustainability.



Sara has a varied background including in higher education, the NHS and is a current volunteer for Age UK East Sussex.

### What's New

#### Our website is up and running

The East Sussex VCSE Alliance now has its own website – so please [take a look](#). It will have a members' only portal launching soon. This will help our governance processes, make it easier to share information and collaborate more effectively.



### Alliance Member Spotlight

**East Sussex Community Voice** hosts **Healthwatch East Sussex** - your local health and social care champion, making sure NHS leaders and other decision makers hear your voice and use your feedback to improve standards of care.

Last year Healthwatch helped 467 people in East Sussex with their health and care enquiries. If you need help to access, understand, or navigate health and care in East Sussex, or if you have concerns about a service you have used, their [Information and Signposting Service](#) can help.

Join the conversation by [sharing your experience](#) or see how you can [get involved](#).

**Email:** [enquiries@healthwatcheastSussex.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatcheastSussex.co.uk) **Phone:** 0333 101 4007 Mon to Fri (10am-2pm)



### Training Opportunity

#### East Sussex County Council: **East Sussex Money Guiders training**

VCSE organisations can access this training for free – it's open to all working who provide any type of non-regulated money guidance to an individual or groups. The programme will offer you access to:

- e-learning courses
- an assessment framework and access to Money and Pensions Service (MaPS)
- resources and community networks.

For further information, please contact: [clara@sussexcommunity.org.uk](mailto:clara@sussexcommunity.org.uk)

**For further information please get in touch.**

**Email:** [esvcsealliance@escv.org.uk](mailto:esvcsealliance@escv.org.uk) **Visit:** [www.esvcsealliance.org.uk](http://www.esvcsealliance.org.uk)

## East Sussex VCSE Alliance: updates

### Sussex VCSE Leaders Alliance: Alliance part of interview process for new Chair

Some of our Alliance members represent East Sussex in the *Sussex VCSE Leaders Alliance*, working at a strategic level, ensuring East Sussex's population and VCSE sector as a 'place' is represented effectively.

Our East Sussex Rep recently participated in a review of the current Sussex Health and Care Assembly membership; proposed changes included the appointment of a new independent Chair of the Sussex VCSE Leaders Alliance.

East Sussex VCSE Alliance members supported the co-design of the process, interviewed and agreed the appointment of the new Chair, Dr Subo Shanmuganathan. We welcome Subo and look forward to working strategically with her and Sussex VCSE Leaders Alliance to improve health & care in East Sussex.

### Sussex Health & Care: Alliance supports development of Integrated Community Teams



Sussex Health & Care outlined their ambition to join up health, social care and health-related services across local communities through the development of *Integrated Community Teams* (ICTs). These will work to best meet the needs of the local populations, improve quality and reduce inequalities.

Development has started to bring together key teams and professionals who will work together as a 'team of teams' across primary care, community, mental health, local authorities, VCSE organisations and local partners.

The **East Sussex VCSE Alliance** is currently working with ESCC officers to co-design VCSE representation and in particular, create a distinct voice for the Alliance, the local Voluntary Actions and other local VCSE networks as appropriate. The Alliance will soon be undertaking a selection process in relation to its nominated VCSE representatives for each of the five ICT footprints working across East Sussex: Lewes, Eastbourne, Wealden, Rother and Hastings, to help design and shape the ICTs.

**Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA)** represented the Alliance in Hastings, working with County Council and Health colleagues in the development of the frontrunner ICT, that will test the concept.

It aims to engage with local people to build on what works best already and to create a multi-disciplinary workforce, tailored to the health and care needs of the community. HVA are also supporting the development of a Community Panel made up of individuals and community groups who can advise on this process over the next 12 months. Find out more [here](#).

### Integrated Care Board review, Mental Health Contracts: Alliance Representation

The CEO of Southdown is our *East Sussex VCSE Alliance Rep and Chair of the Sussex Mental Health Group*. He will take part in planning the Integrated Care Board review of Mental Health contracts for 2024/25, attending an initial meeting in April.

**For further information please get in touch.**

Email: [esvcsealliance@escv.org.uk](mailto:esvcsealliance@escv.org.uk) Visit: [www.esvcsealliance.org.uk](http://www.esvcsealliance.org.uk)

## Alliance members: news and updates

### East Sussex Community Voice (ESCV): awarded *Investing in Volunteers* accreditation

ESCV is pleased to announce they have been awarded *Investing in Volunteers*. ESCV is proud to be an organisation that values its volunteers, who are an integral part of what they do: they are the voices of our communities and ensure public voices are heard and listened to.



### Rother Voluntary Action: receives *High Sheriff of Sussex Award*

RVA was recently recognised by East Sussex High Sheriff, Richard Bickersteth, for its outstanding contribution to the communities in which it works.



### Lotus: Home-start East Sussex have officially changed their name to Lotus.

Lotus is offering webinars to support women and young people to manage their finances securely:



- Three-hour online interactive webinars, empowering women to manage finances and money safely within relationships. Suitable for all women, regardless of whether they have been a victim of financial abuse.
- “Relationship Goals”- engaging one-hour online interactive webinars designed for young people aged 13 to 16, focusing on fostering healthy relationships.

For more information, please contact [hello@lotus-families.org.uk](mailto:hello@lotus-families.org.uk)

### Care for the Carers: *mental health project*

This project supports unpaid adult carers who look after an adult with a severe mental illness. It provides free online and face-to-face activities and information to improve the wellbeing and health of carers and increase carers’ understanding of mental health conditions and services.

If you would like to refer an unpaid carer, please fill in this [Professional Referral Form](#). Please include your job title, department and organisation in the ‘Reason for Referral and Referrer Details’ field.

To refer, the unpaid carer or cared-for person must live in East Sussex (excluding Brighton & Hove). Carers can also make contact themselves at: <https://www.cftc.org.uk/contact/>

### Diversity Resource International (DRI): launches a recipe book with its English students

Students from DRI, ESOL English classes in Uckfield and Peacehaven, a project in partnership with Making It Happen, launched their very own recipe book in March 2024.

DRI tailored the English learning sessions, activities, trips and guest speakers to support the specific aims of each group. The success of the project is evident in the participants’ achievements, such as planning trips independently, creating the recipe book and gaining confidence in using English for practical purposes.

The group will be offering their food at the Hillcrest Community Centre in Newhaven every Friday from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, where you can also buy the recipe book.



**For further information please get in touch.**

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