Voluntary Action Coventry





HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025 - 2026

Supporting voluntary and community activity in Coventry

About VAC

Achieving public benefit through the following:

Voluntary Action Coventry

Voluntary Action Coventry exists to promote and support social action and community resilience in Coventry

- **Volunteer Centre Coventry** – promotion and brokerage of volunteering opportunities
- **Supported volunteering** – tailored support to help people with barriers play an active part in their communities through volunteering
- **VCSE Alliance** – providing information and advice to voluntary, community and social enterprises
- **Involvement** in local networks, partnerships and collaborations that address disadvantage/inequalities

GET INVOLVED
COVENTRY

IMPROVING LIVES
VOLUNTEERING COURSE



chat central

INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTEERING

Coventry VCSE
Alliance Networking

GET INVOLVED
COVENTRY

Our dedicated volunteering and community engagement site





Making it easier for Coventry residents to engage in community action

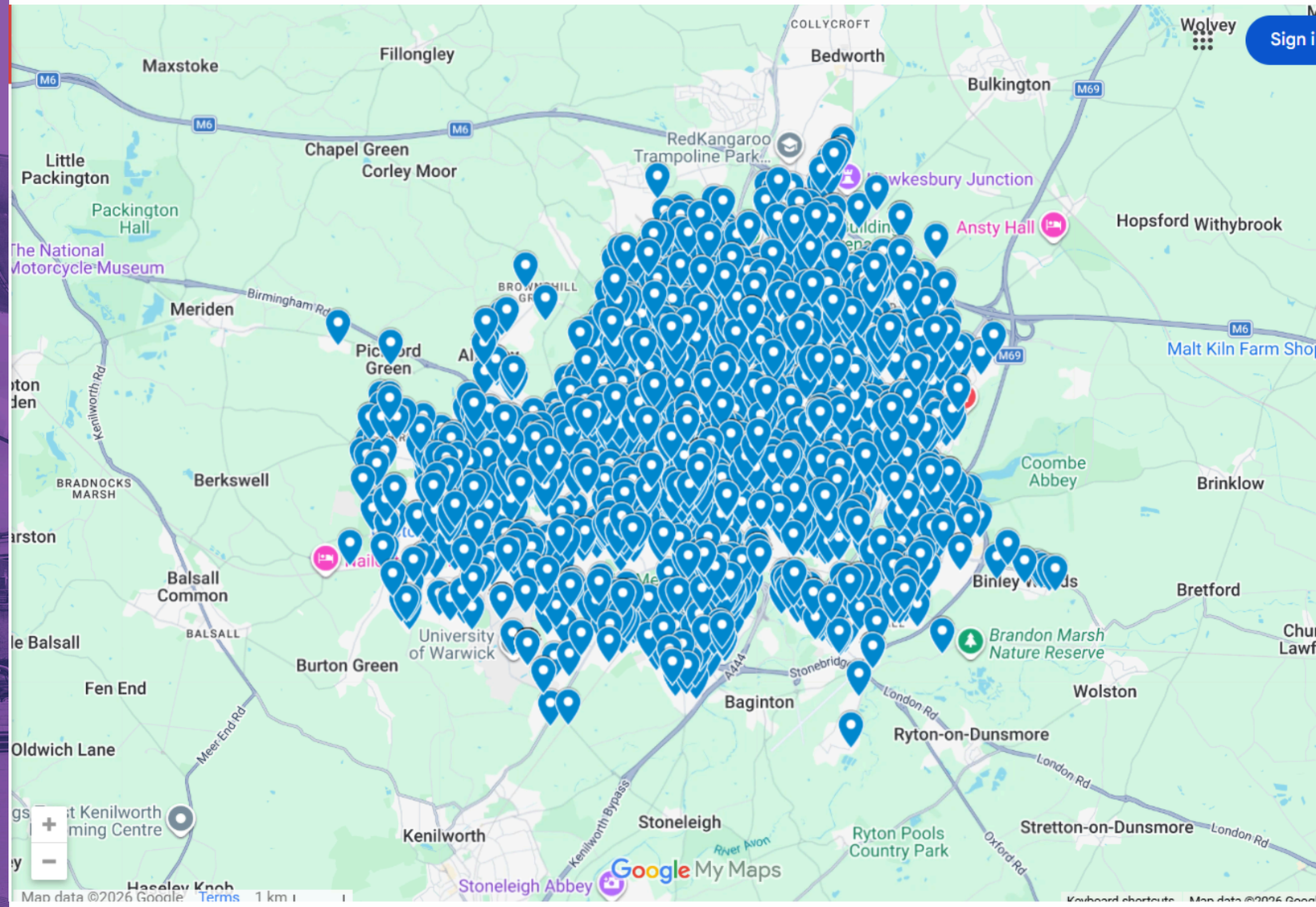
2,661 New registered users

2,339 Applications made to VCSE Alliance member voluntary roles, workshops and community activities

266 Organisations registered

Registered users - by post code





GET INVOLVED COVENTRY

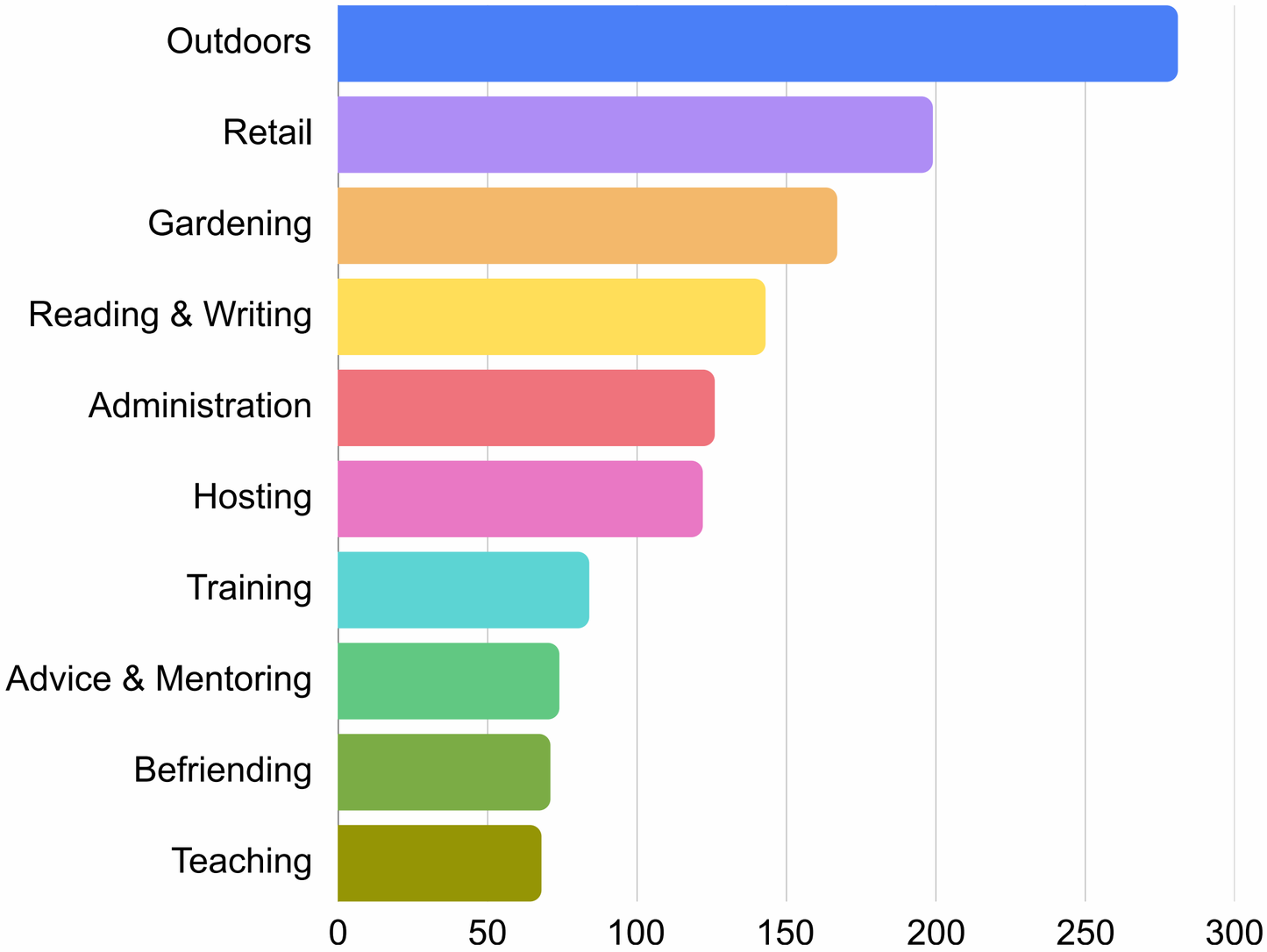
2,314

applications made by users to volunteer

333

different voluntary roles

Top 10 volunteering activities volunteers applied for



GET INVOLVED
COVENTRY



859

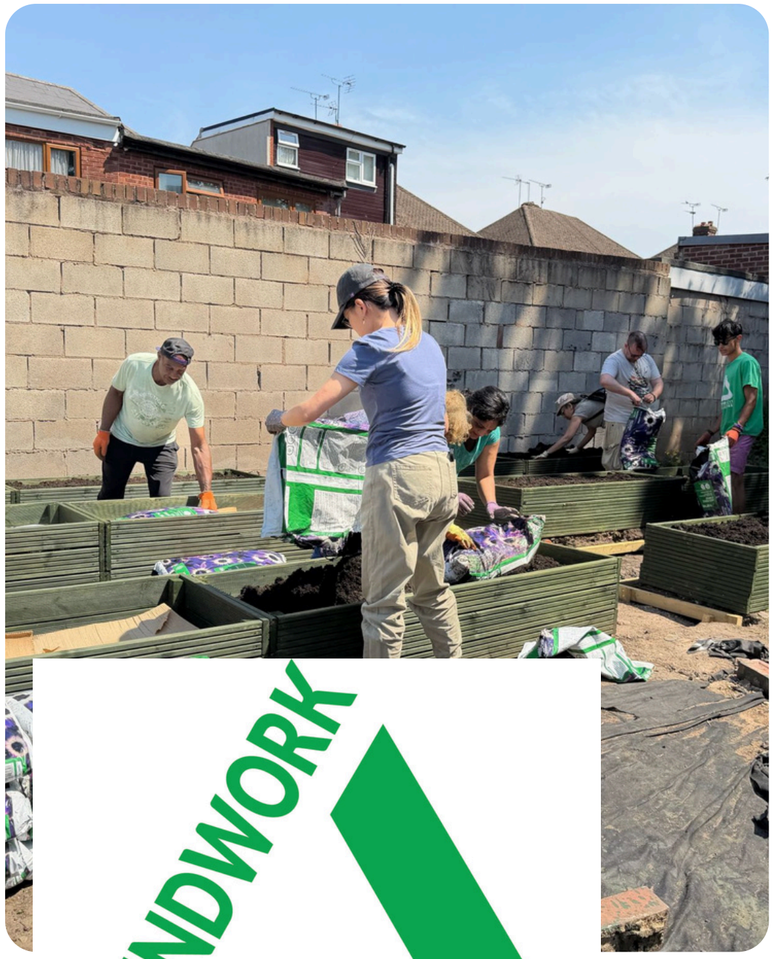
voluntary roles matched and accepted



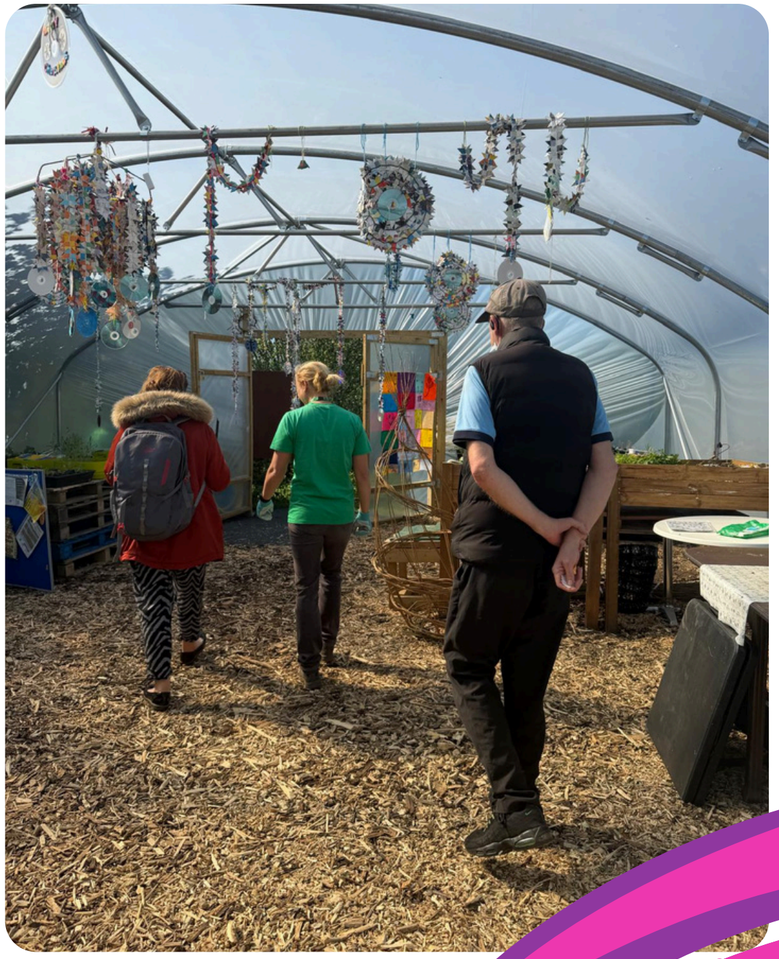
I have started my volunteering role at Coventry Boys and Girls Club. I am still new, but I am really enjoying the experience so far.

It has been a great opportunity for me to learn new skills and gain confidence. Thank you again for your support through the Get Involved Coventry website

Volunteer at Coventry Boys and Girls Club







GROUNDWORK

CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES

Jyan Dutton

Community and Environment Project Officer

(The People's Patch, Coventry)







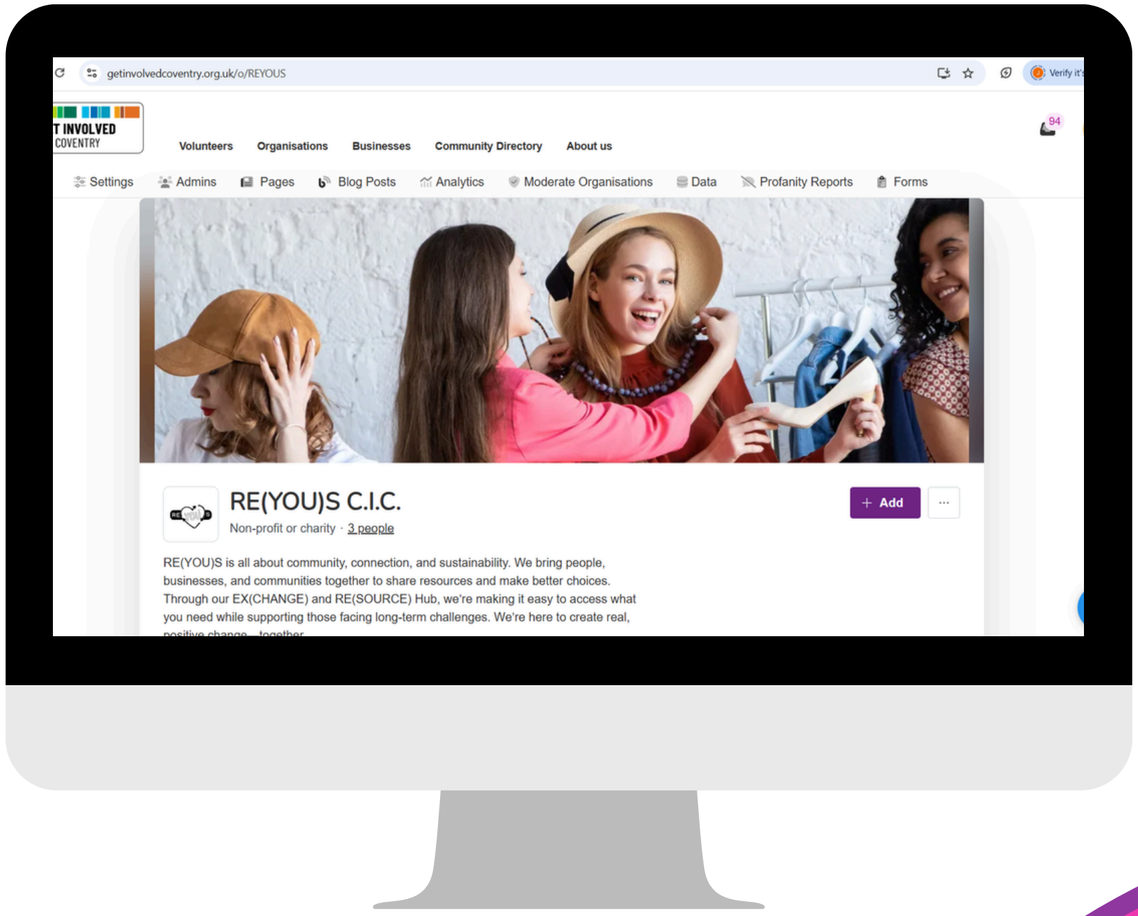
GROUNDWORK

CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES

Jyan Dutton

Community and Environment Project Officer

(The People's Patch, Coventry)



Natasha De Jonghe

Founder & Managing Director

Volunteering



We ensure that the benefits of volunteering and access to community engagement reach a wide network

160

160 accessed face-to-face volunteer support

I just want to say thank you for taking the time to meet with me yesterday. I appreciate you taking the time to help me explore my options."

"Following your advice, I've applied for two volunteering roles near Walsgrave, and I'm happy to share that both organisations replied and invited me to attend an interview.



Our average satisfaction rating for Drop-in was 4.65 out of 5.



Connecting people to their community

- Reduces loneliness and isolation by connecting people with activities and local opportunities.
- Delivers diverse social, wellbeing, cultural, sports, and volunteering activities.
- Provides support to access community groups and build confidence

chat central

177 Registered participants

95 Facilitated sessions





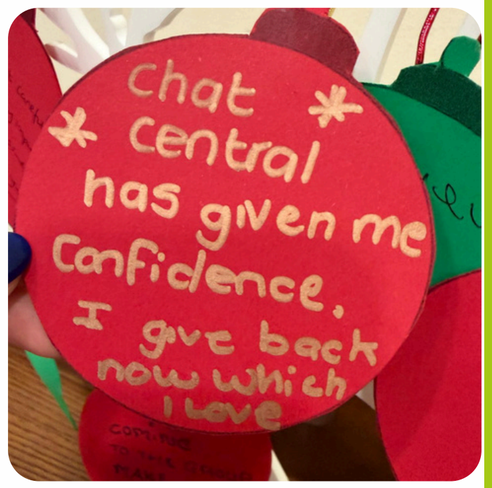














chat central

Our activities include:

Historic walks and talks
Tai Chi
Song writing
Drama
Crafts
Photography
Tennis
Wellbeing

chat cc central



Connecting people, reducing isolation and building confidence.

- A person-centred approach
- We find out what interests, hobbies and skills participants have
- We listen to what people want and match them to a wide variety of activities
- We involve people in their community







Fidelis Ayekha

Chat Central participant

chat cc central



72 participants moved into sustained community-based activities

67% Took up a voluntary role

72% Expressed an increase in confidence

IMPROVING LIVES

VOLUNTEERING COURSE



Improving Lives helps participants discover the benefits of volunteering, develop new skills, and gain experience to support future employment opportunities.

Improving Lives

- Our Improving Lives volunteering is a six-week, 12-session course which helps participants recognise the benefits of volunteering and how they can use their knowledge and skills to support causes they care about as well as developing experience that could enhance their CV or employment prospects.
-



“I feel purpose in my life and made new friends. The course has also allowed me to discover new ideas and pathways.”

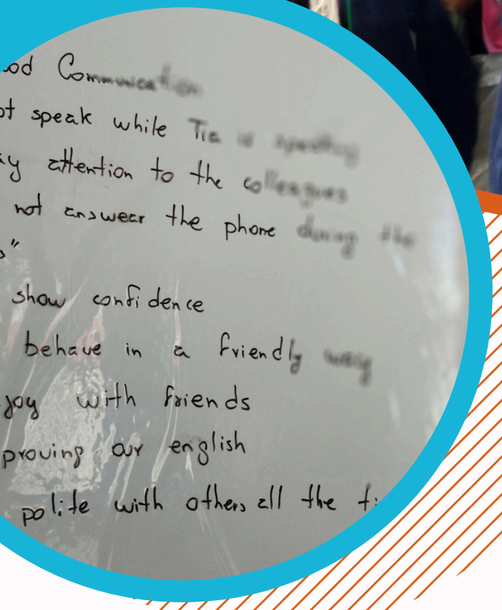
The Improving Lives voluntary action is a fabulous place that helps people go forward in a chosen path to improve their quality of life

IMPROVING LIVES

VOLUNTEERING COURSE









1. Benefits of volunteering
2. Skills and Strengths
3. Team Building Activity
4. CV’s and Application forms
5. Interview skills & STAR method
6. Goal Setting
7. External visits

IMPROVING LIVES

VOLUNTEERING COURSE









82 82 completed the course

39 **39** participants moved into volunteering

92 92% reported developing new or existing transferable skills

12 progressed into employment **12**

25 25 progressed into training







Malcolm Winnet

Improving Lives participant

Voluntary Action Coventry

UKSPF Programme



48

economically inactive people engaged with services

92% of target (48 of 52)

30

people accessed basic skills support

exceeded target of 9 by 233%

20

volunteering opportunities supported

exceeded target of 14 by 43%

37

people increased their employability

slightly surpassed target of 36

16

people secured employment or self-employment

met target exactly

VCSE Alliance



Our Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Alliance is a free membership service that brings together third sector organisations based in Coventry or operating services in our city. Members receive information and access to events, training and resources.

- **Membership grew**: 57 new members joined
- 101 applications to join **Volunteer Coordinator Support Network** (VCSN) meetings
- **Monthly VCSN** meetings provide an informal peer-to-peer sharing and support format.
- Facilitated a **Bank of England Community Forum** on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on beneficiaries, staff, and VCSE organisations.





With Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA) we continued to build the Integrated Care Board (ICB) Voluntary Community Faith Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Collaborative membership, developing an induction pack and widening the Reference Group to better reflect the breadth of VCFSE activity and support provided to people experiencing health inequality.

Coventry and Warwickshire
Integrated Care System

WARWICKSHIRE & SOLIHULL
CAVA
COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION

Voluntary Action Coven

Voluntary Action Coventry







VAC 69th AGM and Coventry VCSE Alliance Networking Event