



**BURY
VOLUNTARY,
COMMUNITY
& FAITH
ALLIANCE**

**Strategic Plan
2023-2026**

Who we are

Bury VCFA is the Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) for the Voluntary, Community, Faith* and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector in Bury.

We provide a range of development guidance and information, support for those wanting to volunteer and advice to groups developing volunteering opportunities.

We work to support the voice of the VCSE sector and collaborate to influence strategy affecting the sector and local communities.

* Relating to the community activity of faith organisations


Our charitable purpose

To promote and strengthen the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector for the benefit of the community in the Borough of Bury. To coordinate, organise and enable partnership working to enable positive change in communities.

Our mission



Enhancing the quality of life for local residents by supporting a thriving voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Bury.



Our work

Our four main areas of work align to the key functions of Local Infrastructure as identified by NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) for which we received accreditation in April 2023.



Leadership and advocacy



Our role is to champion the voice of the sector and create positive change through coordinating and facilitating collaboration with partners from the VCSE, public and private sectors in Bury.

This includes a range of thematic networks and involvement in strategic partnerships to strengthen the voice of the VCSE sector.

Partnerships and collaboration



We work in partnership with a range of organisations to deliver projects including the Violence Reduction Community-Led Alliance, the Beacon Social Prescribing and Housing Welfare Programmes, LGBT Project and Food Aid to Food Trade programme.

We deliver a range of grants programmes on behalf of Bury Council including Standing Together, Hate Crime Awareness, Cost of Living Grants and Local Pilot Community Investments.

Capacity building



Our capacity building offer covers a range of topics including new start-up for groups, governance, funding, financial management, safeguarding, publicity and social media.

We provide 1 -1 support as well as a range of training and learning opportunities to build skills around organisational and volunteer management and trusteeship.

Volunteering

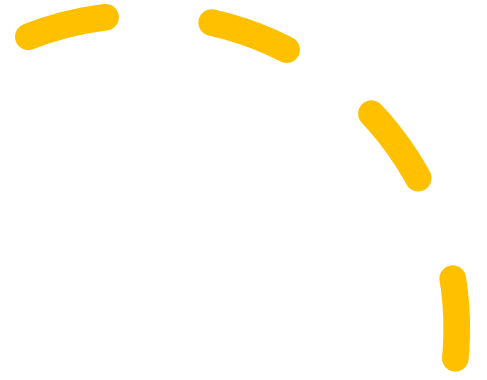


We help individuals looking for volunteer opportunities and provide good practice support to groups and organisations who involve volunteers.

We champion the commitments of Burys' Volunteering Strategy – *'A place where people are inspired, supported and empowered to volunteer'*.



Our strategy to 2026 - priorities



1

To ensure Bury VCFA is a well-run and sustainable organisation delivering high quality services.

2

To provide active leadership, amplify the voice of the sector and strengthen leadership in neighbourhoods.

3

To support VCSE groups to set up, develop and thrive ensuring high quality standards are at the heart of our offer.

4

To enable encourage and champion volunteering, supporting people to be active citizens in their community.

5

To create opportunities for the VCSE sector to build influential and collaborative relationships with each other, with public and private sectors.





The infographic features a central light green circle with a dark green border containing the text 'To provide active leadership, amplify the voice of the sector and strengthen leadership in neighbourhoods'. Five orange lines radiate from this circle to five numbered orange circles (1-5) on the right. Each number is inside an orange circle, and each is followed by a white rectangular box containing a strategy. The background is dark green. In the top right corner, there are several yellow curved lines. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for 'VCFA Bury Voluntary Community & Faith Alliance'.

To provide active leadership, amplify the voice of the sector and strengthen leadership in neighbourhoods

1

Actively promoting and strengthening our offer to increase membership of Bury VCFA.

2

Collect and share stories of VCSE groups and the impact they have on lives of individuals and communities.

3


Increase awareness and participation through our digital and social platforms.

4

Strengthen representation of the VCSE Leadership Group to ensure the voice of the diverse sector in Bury is heard.

5

Explore leadership development opportunities (including for young people) to ensure a strong voice for the sector in strategic spaces.



The infographic features a central light green circle with a dark green border containing the text 'To support VCSE groups to set up, develop and thrive ensuring high quality standards are at the heart of our offer'. Five orange lines radiate from this central circle to five numbered orange circles (1-5) arranged in a vertical column on the right. Each numbered circle is connected to a white rectangular box containing a specific goal. The background is a solid dark green. In the top right corner, there are several yellow curved lines of varying lengths. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for 'VCFA Bury Voluntary, Community & Faith Alliance'.

To support VCSE groups to set up, develop and thrive ensuring high quality standards are at the heart of our offer

1

To increase and enhance our capacity building offer to reflect the needs of the diverse VCSE sector in Bury.

2

To advocate for the VCSE workforce and collaborate to increase workforce development opportunities (paid and voluntary).

3

Champion opportunities for Public and Private sector investment in the VCSE sector.

4

Grow our training offer, utilising expertise within all sectors to create more social value.

5

Strengthen our grants delivery offer to become the trusted partner for grant-making of the VCSE sector in the Borough

To enable,
encourage and
champion
volunteering,
supporting people to
be active citizens in
their community

The infographic features a central teal circle with a white border containing the main objective. Five orange circles, numbered 1 to 5, are connected to this central circle by orange lines. Each number is inside its own orange circle, and each is followed by a white rectangular box containing a specific strategy. The background is a solid dark green. In the top right corner, there are several yellow curved lines of varying lengths. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for the Bury Voluntary Community & Faith Alliance.

1

Create a volunteering action plan aligned to the priorities of the Volunteering Strategy to improve the quantity, quality and diversity of volunteering.

2

Champion the breadth of volunteering opportunities in civic life such as school governors, trusteeship and the Bury Older People's Network.

3

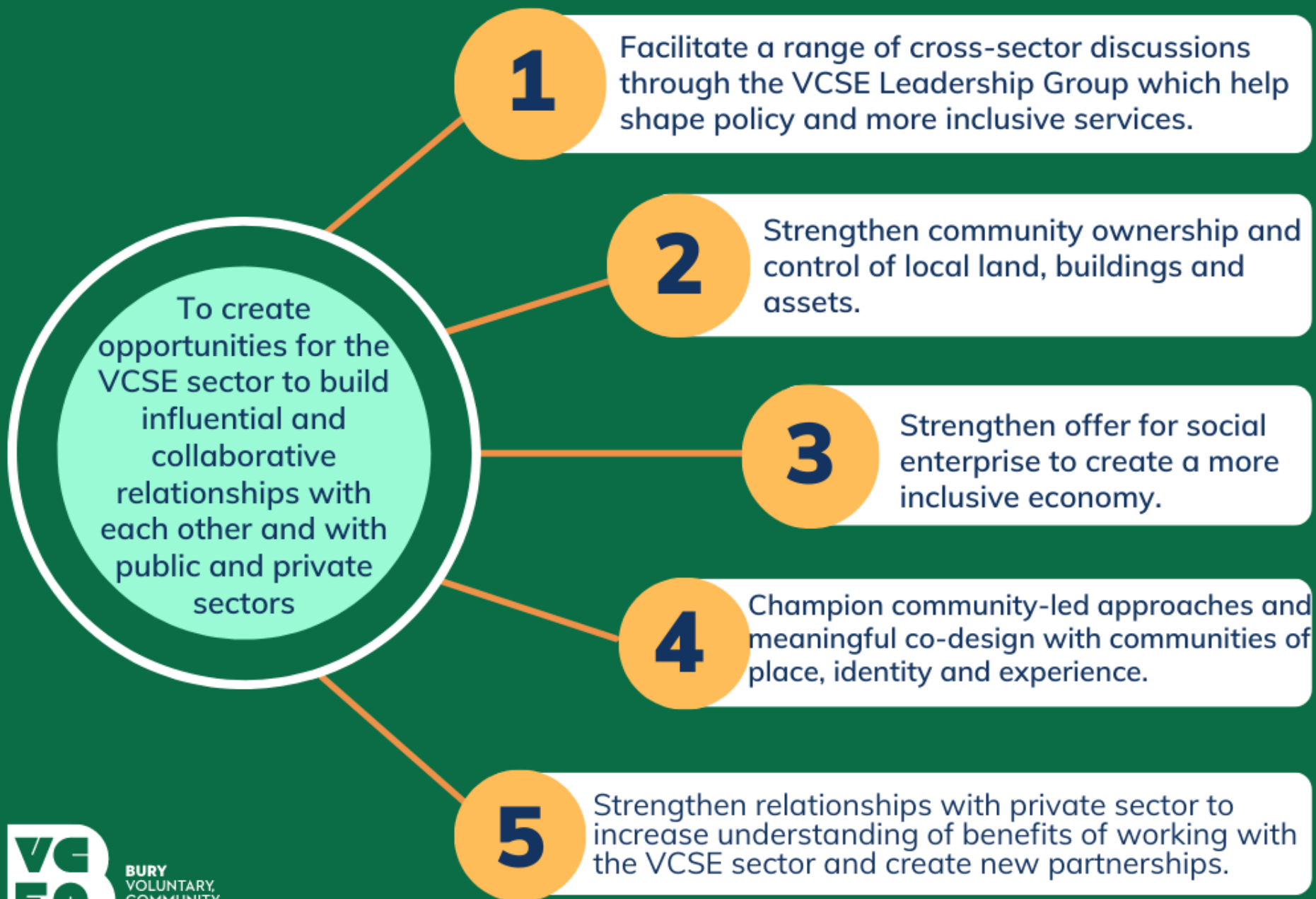
Establish new ways to recognise and celebrate the contribution of volunteers in Bury.

4

Work with Bury Council to build an emergency response approach working with volunteers and the VCSE sector.

5

Enable new approaches to employer supported volunteering to maximise opportunities for people to give their time and skills through their employer.



How will we know we've succeeded?

- Our team of staff and volunteers feel supported and engaged and have access to personal and professional development opportunities.
- Increased membership of Bury VCFA.
- More people volunteering from communities of place, identity and experience.
- Increased number of VCSE groups receiving capacity building support.
- The role of the VCSE sector is better understood by partners from public and private sectors.
- More VCSE leaders are engaged in strategic spaces and feel able to affect change.
- We are able to communicate strong stories which demonstrate the role of the VCSE sector in tackling inequalities and creating real change in communities.
- We have developed robust grant-making practices that increase trust in our services.
- We have increased investment and in-kind support into the VCSE sector from public and private sector partners.
- We can clearly demonstrate our work aligns to our charitable purposes.
- Continued attainment of the NAVCA LIQA.



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