

Supporting a strong and sustainable voluntary sector in the New Forest

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Supporting local infrastructure for thriving communities

We make the voluntary sector better; supporting thriving organisations capable of delivering high-quality services that help people to be happy and healthy.

Leadership and Advocacy

Mobilising and encouraging community action

Partnerships and Collaboration

Bringing people and groups together

Capacity Building

Providing support with fundraising, business development & governance

Volunteering

Mobilising more people to volunteer in their community



Leadership and advocacy

- Re-energising the sector to tackle health inequalities, economic hardship & loneliness
- Membership events focussing on charity leadership issues and challenges
- Future New Forest Partnership and Waterside Steering Group
- Community and VCSE insight on specific issues including cost of living and giving voice to those seldom heard
- State of the Sector survey identified 3 key issues;
 - Support in more deprived areas
 - Training
 - Funding



Partnerships and collaboration

- Provide information about what services exist and where – capacity, capability and coverage enabling commissioners and customers to access services
- Engagement in key partnerships – New Forest Agencies Partnership, Totton & Waterside Community Forum and equivalent in Fordingbridge/Ringwood, LCP, Social Prescribing Network,
- Provide support youth organisations around collaboration and funding opportunities – New Forest Youth Forum
- Community Buildings Forum and Venue Directory
<https://www.cfirst.org.uk/venue-directory/>
- Working with NFDC on health & wellbeing



Capacity building

- Deliver 'Community First Essentials'. In Q3 23/24 engaged 88 organisations across 226 interactions
- organisational health checks **and digital** resources at <https://www.cfirst.org.uk/help-for-groups/new-forest-connects/>
- expert training safeguarding, wellbeing, impact measuring, and marketing for 93 staff and volunteers,
- 151 people participating in our networking events
- tailored advice on governance, financial, and business/strategy planning to 29 organisations
- Helped **118** groups access grants **and give** funding advice
- Help groups expand to fill gaps and avoid duplication
- Support for smaller groups and start-ups– new community group in Bransgore – lollipops to food!



Success with funding

- Funding surgeries with the National Lottery and Hants & IOW Community Foundation
- Opensight secured £2,400 from sovereign Network group for monthly social gatherings in Totton
- Sowing Seeds for Nature – New Forest Transition secured £1,000 from Aviva and Wild Isles via Crowdfunding for a nature garden
- New Milton Youth Trust secured £10,000 towards youth outreach and creation of a new youth facility
- Lymington Centre secured £1,500 for theatre lighting via CIL and support with crowdfunding



Volunteering

- Recruiting, inspiring and mobilising volunteers with focus on flexible, task-based volunteering. <https://www.volunteerfirst.co.uk/>
- 111 people signposted and referred to organisations and 14 new volunteers placed in Q3 + 25 volunteers still active
- Totton Volunteer Fair and Networking event (What's on in Totton) attended by 50 organisations in partnership with Totton & Eling Town Council
- Effective volunteer support – DBS, safeguarding, training and volunteer handbooks. 12 residents accessed free First Aid at Work training in Q3
- Targeted effort to recruit and inspire the next generation of Trustees and Management Committee members



Healthy Walks Programme

- Sept - Dec 2023 delivered 94 walks benefitting 1266 people with 578 hrs of volunteer time
- 5 new volunteer walk leaders recruited
- Launched monthly Totton walk, launching new Dibden Purlieu group, working with a veterans group in Ringwood and the Heritage Centre in Lyndhurst to create special interest walking groups
- Working with PEDALL to create walk and bike rides in Ashurst.
- Took part in the New Forest National Park's annual Walking Festival.
- Links to HCC's Live Longer Better and Energise Me's Hampshire Active Health Programmes



Adding value in the New Forest

- Partnership and SCO with HCC working with Adult's Health & Care and Children's Services brings in further £35k of funding, reducing to £25k in 24/25
- Lead and facilitate the Hampshire & IOW Social Prescribing Network
- Deliver Community Transport and working to set up new services with NFDC, Town & Parish Councils.
- Wheels To Work helping young people access employment and training
- Support our New Forest Young Carers



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