

# Introduction to Basingstoke Voluntary Services

## An Introduction to Basingstoke Voluntary Services (BVS)

BVS is a Council for Voluntary Services linked to NACVA (national umbrella organisation), existing to provide professional help and advice for voluntary and community organisations in Basingstoke and surrounding areas.

BVS works to:

- Provide people with opportunities to make a positive difference to their communities through volunteering
- Provide voluntary and community organisations with the resources needed to help them achieve their goals
- Champion the voluntary and community sector as an influential force for positive change

Most services are free to members or delivered for a nominal charge from the Orchard in the heart of Basingstoke.

## BVS Voluntary and Community Sector Resource Centre

### Voluntary and Community Group Support

BVS provides guidance, information, support and resources for voluntary and community groups in Basingstoke and Deane, these include;

- One-to-one or group support advice and information on issues such as new group start up; governance; development of Constitutions, Terms of Reference; policy & procedure development; roles and responsibilities of committees;
- Business Planning; Writing a Business Plan; Outcomes; Monitoring and Evaluation
- Funding Searches through an online searchable database Basingstoke 4 Community [www.voluntaryservices.com](http://www.voluntaryservices.com) - Funding
- Funding guidance and application support; financial management; Community Accountancy; Tendering; SORP (Statement Of Recommended Practice for Accounting); Sustainable Funding Strategies
- Information on the Charity Commission, Companies House and other legal regulations.
- Information on organising and running an Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Marketing and general good practice guidelines.
- One-to-one Provision of HR and social Enterprise development support
- Communication of events; updates to legislation; funding opportunities; local, county, regional and national information that affects our sector though our BVS



- monthly Newsletter Vol.Comm and our monthly Voluntary Sector Forum gatherings available to all Voluntary Community Sector groups.
- Organisation of public events that enable groups to engage with the public, fundraise and promote themselves. Charity Events such as an annual Charity Fayre held in December and a Volunteer Awareness Day held during the National Volunteers Week in June.
- Training opportunities tailored for the voluntary & community sector (Purple Book)
- Hire of a range of equipment including gazebos; tables; chairs; display boards; A Frames; laptops; data projector; overhead projector; Portable PA system with roaming microphone; 14inch TV/Video/DVD combo; collection boxes.
- Resources at the Orchard with access to both black and white and colour photocopying with booklet facilities; heat binding; comb binding; laminator; industrial shredder; guillotine; fax facilities; use of PCs; mailing service; use of BVS address for a postal redirection service; hot desks available.
- Representation and advocacy for the voluntary & community sector to embed and empower local groups to take part in partnerships to ensure that policies and services are developed in light of the views of local vulnerable residents.
- Forums to network and inform the voluntary & community sector and partners i.e. Voluntary Sector Forum; Basingstoke and District Disability Forum; Older Person Special Interest Group; Multi-Agency Diversity Forum; Counselling Services Forum

To access the above services and for BVS membership information

Contact e-mail - [BVS@voluntaryservices.com](mailto:BVS@voluntaryservices.com) Tele - 01256 423816

## The Orchard - Charitable Building

The Orchard is a stylish and modern venue situated in the corner of the Memorial Park with stunning views offering:

- Hire of a fully equipped function room with up-to-date audio-visual technology to enable you to deliver your presentation in a professional manner
- Hire of a Board Room facilities suitable for those formal occasions
- Hire of a dedicated youth suite with a range of hi-tech equipment
- Hire of 3 smaller meeting rooms
- Hire of Hot Desk facilities for organisations without office premises
- Computer facilities for organisations without access to a PC, Office package or the Internet

The building is fully accessible to any one with a disability. Refreshments can be supplied and freshly prepared food can be delivered from an outside caterer. BVS members receive a reduced hire rate

Contact e-mail – [tricia.cubbage@voluntaryservices.com](mailto:tricia.cubbage@voluntaryservices.com) Tele - 01256 423800



## BVS Merlin – A Voluntary and Community Sector Database

Merlin provides a central contact management system for the voluntary & community sector to facilitate effective partnership working and enables BVS to capture/measure the sectors contribution to community wellbeing. Merlin provides:

- Searchable online Directory of member organisations by services, health support groups, Home Office Beneficiaries on the BVS website at [www.voluntaryservices.com](http://www.voluntaryservices.com)
- Entry in a paper directory held in the local libraries
- BVS also produces a range of Signpost leaflets highlighting the support available around a specific service. To date we have produced a Signpost leaflet for Over 55's in Basingstoke and Deane; Carers; Families with Young Children; disabilities; Counselling Forum to produce a Counselling leaflet.

BVS membership information e-mail - [BVS@voluntaryservices.com](mailto:BVS@voluntaryservices.com) Tele - 01256 423816

## BVS Volunteer Team

The Volunteer Centre promotes volunteering by recruiting volunteers for voluntary and community organisations and placing members of the public into volunteering opportunities. Check out the 'Do-it' website for up-to-date volunteering opportunities at [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk). The Volunteer Centre also provides:

- Training in the recruitment and retention of volunteers for groups.
- An annual Celebration of Volunteering evening hosted by the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane in the Civic Offices thanking the wide range of volunteers that we have in the borough.

Contact e-mail - [VC@voluntaryservices.com](mailto:VC@voluntaryservices.com) Tele - 01256 423850

vinvolved North Hampshire is linked to the National Youth Volunteering Programme encouraging and supporting young people in North Hampshire to volunteer their time to help their local communities. There is a dedicated website at <http://www.vinvolvednorthhants.co.uk> showing the vinvolved projects that offer innovative, high quality volunteering opportunities which tap into young people's passions for sport, music, art, the environment and other interests.

Youth Suite – provides a youth friendly resource centre with drop-in, tailored training and information.

Contact e-mail - [Vteam@voluntaryservices.com](mailto:Vteam@voluntaryservices.com) Tele - 01256 423821

The Employees in the Community Network supports businesses to release employees as volunteers to help with community projects and enable local voluntary/community groups to benefit from the skills, expertise and practical assistance available to them on a voluntary basis from local companies.

Contact e-mail – [vivien.harrison@voluntaryservices.com](mailto:vivien.harrison@voluntaryservices.com) Tele - 01256 423833



## BVS Community Projects

Over the years, the local voluntary and community sector has pioneered some of the essential services provided to vulnerable residents in Basingstoke and Deane. BVS takes a lead in identifying gaps in service provision and works with groups to develop new and innovative services to meet these needs. BVS has been instrumental in starting many of the charities that are now household names in the Borough such as Relate; Headway; Dial-a-Ride; Community Transport; Basingstoke Rape and Sexual Abuse Crisis Centre; CRUSE; Victim Support; Age Concern; Basingstoke Advocacy Scheme and Community Furniture Project. Our current projects are:

Basingstoke Adult Befriending Services in partnership with NeighbourCare provides Befrienders, who offer friendship, support and form a positive one-to-one relationship with vulnerable adults who may be isolated & experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Contact e-mail – [info@neighbourcare.com](mailto:info@neighbourcare.com) Tele - 01256 423855 / 423850

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum enables local disabled people with physical, sensory, mental health, health or learning disabilities to have a voice; inform service delivery; campaign for change & better inclusion and advocate for their rights.

Contact e-mail – [disabilityforum@voluntaryservices.com](mailto:disabilityforum@voluntaryservices.com) Tele - 01256 423869 / 423816

The Basingstoke Community Innovations Team supports people as they get older when many things they've always taken for granted can start to become more difficult. For many older people having a little bit of support to get those every day things done can help them stay independent and remain an active member of the community in which they live.

Contact e-mail – [pam.gibson@voluntaryservices.com](mailto:pam.gibson@voluntaryservices.com) Tele - 01256 423828 / 423816

Basingstoke Young Carers project helps to enable young carers access the services they need and provides projects, residential, trips and events, free phone information line for young carers and their families living in the Basingstoke and Deane area. The Youth Groups provide a respite for young carers aged 8-19 referred through schools, parents, Children's Services or self referral. There is a dedicated website for Basingstoke Young Carers at <http://basingstokeyoungcarers.co.uk>

North Hampshire Mediation in partnership with NFS Mediation Service promotes mediation and conciliation services for individuals involved in conflict or dispute that live within Housing Associations accommodation. The service provides impartial mediators that enable disputing neighbours to explore new ways of dispute resolution.

Contact e-mail – [mediation@voluntaryservices.com](mailto:mediation@voluntaryservices.com) Tele - 01256 423819 / 423816

Basingstoke Voluntary Services, The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 4AF  
Registered Charity Number 1077442, Company Limited by Guarantee Registration Number 3802713

