

# The difference we made in 2015/16



Encouraging volunteering

Supporting the rural community



Helping charities thrive



Our Mission:

**To help local charities, community groups and volunteers to thrive.**

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**Volunteers, charities and community groups in Buckinghamshire work tirelessly to deliver so much to improve the lives of others at a time when the demand for their services seems to be greater than ever.**

I am proud of the work we do here at Community Impact Bucks to support people and organisations in being as effective as they possibly can be in these straitened times.

I would like to thank our volunteers, staff team and fellow trustees for their enthusiasm, dedication and expertise which have delivered real results across the sector.

I hope you will enjoy reading about some of those activities in which we have been involved.

**Katharine Woods**

Chair | Community Impact Bucks



# Message from the CEO

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The charities and communities that we work with in Buckinghamshire do amazing, life changing things for others, from supporting children who are themselves carers of others or helping the homeless, to groups setting up community shops and clubs.

We regularly engage with over 6,500 volunteers, charities and businesses in Bucks. We helped 2,686 charities or groups last year.

Community Impact Bucks acts as front line support for helping charities and community groups thrive, it's what our team of staff and volunteers are here for and we are very passionate about it.

Charities are coming under increasing financial pressure from funding cuts. Our research shows that 20% of charities are in crisis with 75% finding demand for their services putting unsustainable stress on their organisations. We are the charity that helps other charities in Buckinghamshire to thrive and our services are needed now more than ever.

I would like to personally thank all the volunteers, staff and charities that change so many lives. I am continually amazed by the commitment, energy and enthusiasm of people to make things better for others across Buckinghamshire.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'N'.

**Nick Phillips**

CEO | Community Impact Bucks  
nick@communityimpactbucks.org.uk

# About Community Impact Bucks



**Community Impact Bucks supports volunteers, charities and community groups helping them to get started, be effective and grow. We are the first stop for expert advice, training and volunteering and we help you every step of the way.**

## **Working with charities and community groups**

We help over **2,600** charities and community groups every year to be the best they can be.

We provide expert advice, training and resources for exactly what your organisation needs, right now.

We support organisations which are just starting up, groups who are growing and those in crisis. We have expert knowledge and experience in governance, fundraising, business development, volunteering and marketing. Every year we help charities and community groups attract £1000's of funding.

We offer • online resources • training and events  
• one to one advice • mentoring services • first response telephone advice line.

## **Supporting volunteers**

**Volunteering changes lives.**

We encourage, inspire and make it easy for volunteers to connect with organisations that share their values. We work with employers and employees to promote the benefits of volunteering. We help volunteers with training and advice so they can offer the best of their skills and experience. We support organisations to work together with their volunteers to build the best relationships and create a meaningful experience for everyone.



Bucks Trustee Event

## **Supporting the rural community**

**As the County Rural Community Council, we respond to the needs of the rural community.**

Working with the people and communities in rural Buckinghamshire we address the issues of local concern such as transport, housing, social isolation and rural services. We touch the lives of many by running projects that make a difference, such as Community Transport Hub • Men in Sheds • Good Neighbour Scheme • Growing Together • Village "SOS" Rural Community Enterprise.

# Helping charities thrive



We help charities to:

## Startup

Helping with the creation of a trustee board, recruiting and managing volunteers, registering as a charity

## Bounce back

Advice and guidance, crisis management, arranging support from expert volunteers

## Thrive

Support for growth including fundraising strategy and implementation, affordable staff and volunteer training, ensuring good governance and legal compliance

# Making a difference



This year...

**568**

charities and community groups received one to one support from us

**65**

high impact training sessions helping charities be the best they can be

**92%**

of attendees said that our support made a positive difference

**1,107**

people took part in our training sessions

**617**

people attended our events

**“I found the training extremely focused with a lot of good and practical advice for working with volunteers, which will provide an excellent basis for the future, and a good toolbox of skills to work with. It covered all aspects of working with volunteers and was very thorough.”** Chiltern CAB

Bucks Trustee Event



## Events

Our major conferences...

**£162,900**

Funding Fair – £162,900 funding secured by charities from the event in 2015.

**100**

Helping over 100 charity trustees increase their strategic, legal and fundraising skills.

**Big Impact Not for Profit** – High profile speakers and workshops with a focus on marketing and communicating your stories and impact.

# Volunteering is in our DNA



As the accredited Volunteer Centre for Buckinghamshire we support organisations and volunteer co-ordinators by providing advice, information and training about all aspects of volunteering.

## We support charities with:

- Volunteer role development
- Volunteer recruitment
- Volunteer management

There are an estimated **60–80,000** volunteers in Buckinghamshire but many organisations still urgently need volunteer support and **34%** of people say they would volunteer if asked.

With the Cabinet Office's **2014–15** Community Life Survey indicating that overall volunteering rates have significantly decreased compared to **2013–14**, Community Impact Bucks is fighting back! We're more determined than ever to promote the value of volunteering, to celebrate the fantastic role played by all the volunteers who dedicate their time, skills, energy and enthusiasm to the **2,500** registered charities, and the hundreds of small "groups" doing great things for others.

## This year...

Our volunteer matching service:

- **90%** say they enjoy volunteering with the organisation we placed them with
- **84%** felt that the volunteering role was well matched with their skills and experience
- **91%** feel supported by the charity we placed them with
- **70%** feel volunteering has increased confidence
- **86%** charities agreed that our volunteer matching service is good and the same
- **86%** said that it has made a positive difference to their organisation.



## Volunteering Bucks launch



[www.volunteeringbucks.org.uk](http://www.volunteeringbucks.org.uk)

Our new Volunteering Bucks website features local volunteering opportunities and helps make finding local volunteer roles easy. A recent campaign saw a **296%** increase in visits to [www.volunteeringbucks.org.uk](http://www.volunteeringbucks.org.uk). Why not get involved?

# Lindengate

Health and Wellbeing through  
Nature and Horticulture

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“The support that we have received has been fundamental to our success so far. Having such professional and knowledgeable people to support us in dealing with the unknowns has been a godsend. There is no doubt in our minds that had we not been able to benefit from their input we would not be in such a strong position. Excellent overall support and advice. We would highly recommend this service to others. Thank you!”

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Siân (left) and Charlie (right)  
Lindengate charity founders





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**“Volunteering with children is time well spent – the children’s excitement and curiosity is inspiring and entertaining! They never fail to make me smile so any task I’m given is rewarding.”**  
Jo – regular volunteer.

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# Volunteering benefits everyone!



## Give a little, gain a lot

When you volunteer, you want to make a big difference but it's not just about what you can do for others. Volunteers get a lot out of the experience too.

Here are some of the things that volunteering can do for you:

- Improve career prospects
- Sense of belonging
- Try new things
- Feel good by helping others
- Increase confidence
- Improve health
- Meet new people

Find out what it's like from someone who's done it. Take a look at 'Volunteer Voices' on [www.volunteeringbucks.org.uk](http://www.volunteeringbucks.org.uk)



**“Due to the valuable advice received I have been able to implement a structured, organised volunteering system for our organisation and this has helped us take on many more volunteers and place them in roles that benefit our community.”**

Ellie Ruddock, Chiltern Music Therapy

## Employee volunteering

### Volunteering is good for business too:

Some reported statistics about the benefits of volunteering:

- **Bigger bottom-line:** 16% increase in profitability
- **Loyal & healthy staff:** 3.5 days per annum less sickness with 87% less likely to resign
- **Employer of choice:** 55% of millennials say volunteer policies affect their decision to accept a job
- **More customers:** 88% of consumers are more likely to buy from a company that engages in activities to improve society
- **82%** said their buying decision would be affected by whether a company engaged with charities and its local community.

# Projects – creating a better life together



Community Impact Bucks steps in where no one else is acting. Our large rural population means that many people struggle with isolation. Our project team make a difference...



Photo: CIB Gardeners

“I haven’t been out since my fall last year. Looking out of my window into my lovely garden really cheers me up. The volunteers are so nice and they always leave my garden neat and tidy. They are very polite and friendly. They like to have a chat with me. They brighten up my day.”

Joan, 102 years, Growing Together scheme

## Gardening

- Our team of gardening volunteers provide over **1,100** gardening visits a year to many who can’t manage their own garden.

## Pub lunches

- Last year we organised **8,400** pub lunches for elderly people in our communities – helping bring people together. We have now set up over **30** clubs in all areas of Buckinghamshire since the project began and more are planned.

## Healthy living

- We helped over **100** people get healthier through the Delivering Differently / Active Bucks projects.
- Through our “Love Fitness, Love Family, Love Life” intervention project we have worked with Pakistani women to start fitness and activity clubs.



Photo: Men in Sheds

## Men in Sheds

- More than **100** men have benefited from taking part in woodwork based activities in sheds which are located in Amersham, Buckingham and High Wycombe.



### **Good Neighbours Schemes: helping communities develop fantastic life changing projects for their communities**

- Community Impact Bucks helps establish Good Neighbours Schemes across Buckinghamshire using volunteers to deliver support including befriending and providing transport .

### **Rural and Transport projects**

- Through the national ‘Village SOS’ project we have worked with rural communities across Buckinghamshire to support them in developing community projects.
- We have enthused and guided parish groups to develop fantastic transport projects serving their communities.

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**“I felt so proud of what our group achieved, how they worked together and put so much energy and passion into making the film. I felt like crying!”**

Ali – Youth Worker on CIB Healthwatch Project

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# Get in touch

Bucks Trustee Event



Find out how we can help you, or you can help others!

 **0300 111 1250**

 **[info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk](mailto:info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk)**

 [communityimpactbucks.org.uk](http://communityimpactbucks.org.uk)

 [@CommunityBucks](https://twitter.com/CommunityBucks)

 [CommunityImpactBucks](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityImpactBucks)

 [community-impact-bucks](https://www.linkedin.com/company/community-impact-bucks)

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**“Each one of us can make a difference. Together we make change.”**

Barbara Mikulski, United States Senator

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We are a small independent charity with a mission to help other local small charities, we value any support you might be able to offer.

## Ways you can help



**Sponsorship:** you can sponsor events and training programmes as well as projects and services. We will recognise your contribution in our marketing materials.

**Lend us your meeting room:** if you have a room in your office we could borrow occasionally to run advice and training sessions that would be a great help.

**Become a trustee or trainer for us or other charities:** put your professional skills to good use by volunteering with us.

**Sign up** to receive our email newsletters on our website. Over **6,500** people are already connected to us!

**Encourage your staff to volunteer:** contact us to discuss team volunteering / fundraising opportunities.

**Volunteer:** opportunities on [volunteeringbucks.org.uk](http://volunteeringbucks.org.uk).

Volunteering is sometimes getting your hands dirty!



# Community Impact Bucks Impact Report

Call us: 0300 111 1250

Email us: [info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk](mailto:info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk)

Visit: [www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk](http://www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk)

## Community Impact Bucks

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