



Our year in review 2017/18

“Keep up the good work and your great support for the charities in Buckinghamshire. It really is appreciated.”

Another busy year

The charity sector in Buckinghamshire is so valuable and we're lucky to have many dedicated volunteers, charities and community groups working tirelessly for local people.

It has been another busy year for the team at Community Impact Bucks, helping our local charities and community groups. This year we've seen more organisations coming to us for help finding funding for their core costs, for help setting up as social enterprises and for help finding trustees. We're proud to do the work we do and know that we can make a difference. We're proud to help them be as effective as they can be.



Mimi Harker, OBE
Chair, Community Impact Bucks

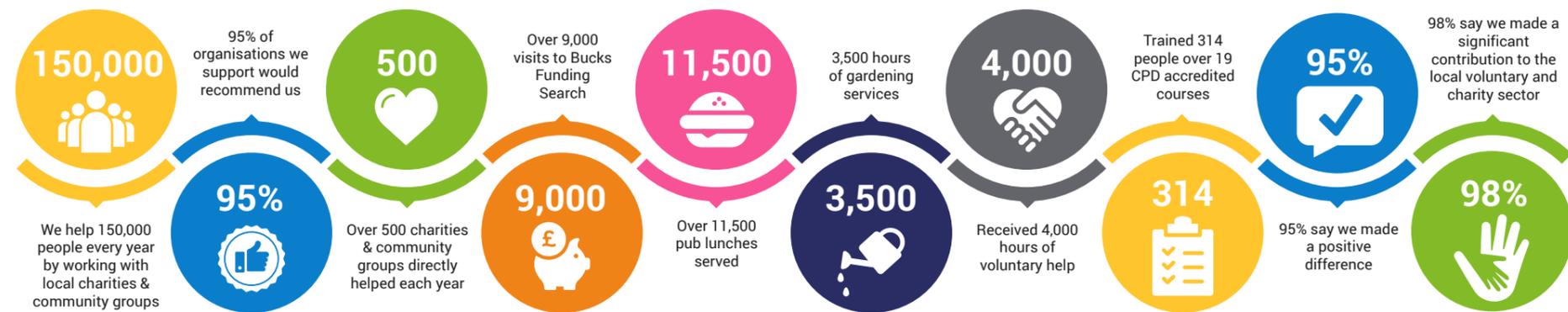


Nick Phillips
Group chief executive,
Community Impact Bucks



Yet, the sector is struggling. We know that eight out of ten people benefit from the support of a charity or voluntary group every year. However, as funding reduces many of our local organisations are finding it harder to fund themselves at a time when demand for their services is greater than ever.

These charities do so much and change so many lives. There has never been a more important time to support the sector and we will continue doing just that.



“You’re my first go-to when I have questions... the support we’ve had will help us develop.”

Fran West, Winslow Activity Club

About Community Impact Bucks

We’re here to improve the lives of people in Buckinghamshire through helping charities, volunteers and community groups to thrive.

We do this by:

- Helping charities and community groups find funding
- Inspiring volunteering and making it easy
- Building strong communities
- Helping develop strong leadership

But, it’s tough. Funding is getting harder to secure and many charities are seeing increased demand for their services. Charities and voluntary groups are relied on more than ever before and often need support to be the best they can be.

That’s where we come in. We help charities, voluntary and community groups get started, find funds and volunteers to make their work happen and provide the tools and resources they need to deliver change. Our aim is to train, support and help resource each charity so they can carry on being effective and sustainable for their future.



“ Within five months I had applied to 29 trusts and received £12,500 in grants. Many of these trusts were researched through the Bucks Funding Search. One of the grants allowed us to support two adopted children to give them the tools they need to form a lasting bond with their adoptive family and reach their potential from childhood to adulthood. ”

4 *Leanne Sinclair, St Francis' Children's Society*

Image supplied by St Francis' Children's Society

Our funding support

Funding remains the greatest challenge to our local charities and not-for-profit groups.

This year we've...

- Trained 37 people on our Get Fit for Funding course and met with 55 organisations at our one-to-one advice sessions
- Provided unique opportunities for local organisations to meet with the Big Lottery to discuss their ideas and make applications with a better chance of success
- Secured funding for the Bucks Funding Search for a further three years alongside our Bucks infrastructure partners
- Helped create the opportunity for 195 people to meet with over 20 national funders and support organisations at the 2018 Bucks Funding Fair which initiated a staggering £162,400 of funds for local charities in 2016*
- Partnered with local funder, Heart of Bucks, to deliver monthly one-to-one advice sessions



* latest figures available

Our volunteering support

Volunteers are at the heart of all charities and community groups. Volunteers have an impact on the lives of people across Buckinghamshire. Volunteers make a difference.

As the nationally accredited Volunteer Centre for Bucks we are the local experts.

This year we've...

- Helped over 70 organisations via our training and one-to-one advice sessions
- Released the vital Volunteering Innovation Report providing local organisations with new, innovative and exciting ideas to attract and support their volunteers
- Developed partnerships with Reach Volunteering and Do-it to live-stream general, specialist and trustee roles for local people via our website
- Actively supported Trustees' Week, International Volunteer Managers Day, Volunteers' Week & Student Volunteering Week

“ Very pleased to be working with you - if only all partnerships were so easy and productive.

Janet Thorne, chief executive Reach Volunteering ”



“ You might be unsure what volunteering is about but it is a really good way of finding out more about your interests and getting more experience. Give volunteering a go!

Harry, gardening & animal management volunteer ”



Our community services

We support the development and delivery of services to help community projects throughout Bucks. Focussed on meeting the needs of the vulnerable and socially isolated, we work in the heart of the community to develop volunteer-driven solutions.

This year we've...

- Successfully run a Handy Helper scheme in Aylesbury to help 78 vulnerable residents with 269 jobs around their homes
- Launched five new Lunch Clubs bringing the total to 36 across the county, allowing more than 900 people to enjoy 11,000 lunches
- Signposted more than 350 people to find a community transport solution, an increase of 166% on last year
- Welcomed Defra Minister Lord Gardiner to Buckinghamshire to visit a diverse range of village halls and launch Village Halls Week 2018
- Managed the Bucks Rural Affairs Group annual conference where speakers, including Rt Hon David Lidington MP, presented to over 100 delegates
- Had over 60 volunteers provide 876 gardening and befriending visits for 167 clients across Bucks
- Successfully delivered a unique community organising project in East Wycombe, gaining commitment from nine civic institutions and active involvement from 13 community leaders
- Supported 120 individual members and two community buildings in 60 rural locations to bulk purchase oil, representing savings of over £4500 against average prices



“Our project aims to strengthen communities in East Wycombe and improve residents' health and well-being. We've held 400 conversations to find out their issues, concerns and pressures. We've built a network of community leaders, organised an Assembly where commitments to change were publicly announced and already we've seen new community partnerships, development of new youth provision for the area and new community funding opportunities.

Debi Game, CIB head of projects





“ New organisations just grow, don't they? We grew and I needed to stop and evaluate. Before becoming chair, I had no experience of working on or with a board. I was feeling overwhelmed and struggling with making my board effective. Coaching helped me articulate why I was feeling that way and helped me see my way through.

My coaching sessions helped me realise I need to step back and think about the organisation's future needs. It clarified for me what I really want, and need, to do.

”
Chair of a Buckinghamshire voluntary group

Our leadership support

We know that a charity's leaders – the trustees, management committee and senior managers – are key to its success. And that's why we've increased our leadership support.

This year we've...

- Held a unique chief executive networking session on collaboration and alliances
- Run a sold-out conference for over 150 delegates to help charities better use digital tools to provide services, measure impact, communicate and fundraise
- Delivered training to new and existing trustees focused specifically on their roles and responsibilities
- Provided a coaching programme to 20 senior staff and trustees and launched a partnership with Henley Business School to provide additional free of charge coaching to charity leaders, with 14 people signing up in the first three months
- Welcomed over 50 delegates to our annual trustee conference
- Provided bespoke, expert help to a wide range of new and start-up organisations enabling them to become stable and sustainable

How we represent the sector

We're here to be the hub of the charity, voluntary and community sector in Bucks. It's our job to know what's new in the sector, what matters to the organisations in our region and how we can help and involve them.

This year we've...

- Joined the new strategic working group with Bucks County Council as a key partner to increase awareness of the work and opportunities across the not-for-profit sector in Bucks
- Released an updated State of the Sector report providing an overview of the sector, for the sector
- Worked in partnership with the Rothschild Foundation and local charities to facilitate shared solutions to homelessness in Bucks
- Led a delegation of voluntary sector representatives in a national project to improve their involvement in health transformation, resulting in commitment from the local CCG that the voluntary sector will be represented on all relevant decision-making committees
- Surveyed local organisations to ensure they have their say on our work
- Been commissioned by Thames Valley Police to set up two Crime Priority Groups in Bucks
- Partnered with Adviza on the Building Futures project to provide focussed support to local charities working with local people furthest from the job market



“Increasing the profile and influence of our invaluable voluntary sector will be key to ensuring Buckinghamshire continues to benefit from a fantastic range of community services. Building a strong partnership foundation ensures the VCS are involved from the outset, and able to contribute to strategic conversations at the right time.”
Rachael Shimmin chief executive, Buckinghamshire County Council

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