

# Quarter 1 Reporting



**April – June 2024**

## A few words from Dawn Yates-Obé, Chief Executive of Bolton CVS...

As we reflect on the first quarter of the new year, I am delighted to present the latest report from Bolton CVS, highlighting our activities and achievements from Quarter 1 of 2024/25. This report is not just an update but a testament to the continued dedication and impact of Bolton's voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

In the face of ongoing challenges, the resilience and creativity of our VCSE sector have been truly inspiring. From the vibrant heart of our communities to the quieter areas where essential services make a difference, the spirit of collaboration and compassion has continued to thrive.

I encourage you to take a moment to explore this report, where you will find stories of success, insightful case studies, and a preview of our plans to evolve our services. Each number and narrative here represents lives improved, aspirations achieved, and communities fortified.

At Bolton CVS, we remain steadfast in our belief in the power of collaboration and inclusivity. With this in mind, we continue to develop and support new relationships, partnerships and evolve our network, forum and collaborative spaces.... come and join us!

As you read through this report, I hope you feel the shared sense of purpose and the deep commitment we have to fostering environments where everyone can succeed. Thank you for your steadfast support, tireless dedication, and belief in the transformative power of Bolton's VCSE sector!

## Quarter 1 in Numbers

[Click here to see how we have evolved](#)

- **£631,880.49 in grants and investments** made to **69 groups** and organisations
- **83 volunteering enquiries** managed, **67 individuals** received one-to-one support, **60 direct connections** made to volunteering opportunities
- Overall, **82 VCSE groups and organisations** have been supported in a development capacity
- **20 eBulletins** delivered to **2,589 people** across the sector (weekly, TGI Friday, Funding Bulletin, Proper Good and Bolton CVS Training Programme)
- **11 training sessions** with **81 participants**
- **1 Voluntary and Community Sector Forum** held with **23 people** in attendance

# Engagement

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025



**34,015**

website hits

The most viewed pages this quarter are: 'Bolton CVS Homepage', 'Bolton's Fund', 'Job Vacancies', 'Training & Events', and 'Proper Good'.



**6,005**

followers

This quarter, we have had **24** new followers, and sent out **39** tweets. We also passed 6,000 followers!



**3,035**

followers

This quarter, we have had **45** new followers and **36** page likes. The Bolton CVS Facebook page now has a total of **2,599** likes.



**561**

followers

This quarter, we have gained **39 new followers**.

# Engagement

## Additional Information



**13** weekly eBulletins have been sent out reaching **2,589** recipients.

**3** Trustee, Governance and Information (TGI) Friday e-shots, **2** Stronger Together Training Programme e-shots and **2** Proper Good e-shots have been shared.

**47** groups were promoted in the weekly eBulletins.

**12** consultations and surveys were promoted via eBulletins and social media, ensuring Bolton CVS supports a comprehensive response to local key consultations and that the borough's VCSE sector voice is included.

The GM Workforce and Recruitment Hub is now officially live!

Bolton CVS worked in partnership with organisations across Greater Manchester as part of the 10GM network to create a Workforce and Recruitment Hub where you can share jobs, learn ways to support your team's wellbeing and gain insight into being better, more inclusive employers.

[Click here to check it out!](#)



Bolton CVS supports the, **Show The Salary** campaign.

This campaign is designed to promote transparency between employers and potential new employees, by making sure they can make an informed decision on whether a role is right for them by always displaying the salary in all job advertisements.

# Events & Celebrations

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

Click here to see one of the stories shared during [#VolsWeek](#)

## Volunteers Week 2024

Bolton CVS held our Volunteers Week event on Saturday 1st June in Victoria Square! It was a great event. We had 16 stalls from a variety of VCSE groups, including the BACKUP van, promoting the importance of volunteering and volunteering opportunities in Bolton. With all the 16 stalls combined, engagement/conversation around volunteering took place with **475** members of the public. The event was a great opportunity to recruit new volunteers, celebrate Volunteers Week and thank volunteers for their invaluable contribution to the community of Bolton.



## Organisational Learning Centre (OLC) Careers Fair



Debbie and Nicola attended the event, engaging with students around Bolton CVS services.

It was a good opportunity to promote the Benefits of Volunteering workshop, network with other organisations, educate the students about the VCSE sector and careers available in the sector.

Debbie and Nicola talked about volunteering opportunities available and how to access them through our website.

## Jobs and Careers Fair



Bolton CVS was present at the Jobs and Careers Fair in June. We talked about the jobs in the VCSE sector and where to find them. It was also great to share about the volunteering opportunities that are available. Bolton CVS staff engaged with **45** individuals.



## IRONMAN Night Run

The Bolton CVS team dusted off their running shoes and took part in the IRONMAN 5K Night Run to help raise money for Bolton's Fund. The team enjoyed the chance to connect and get active - and also took some time out to network too!

£190 was raised for Bolton's Fund.



# Training

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

Click here to see all the training sessions we held this quarter!



11

sessions

81

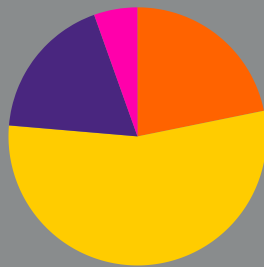
participants

11 training sessions with 81 participants from 44 different VCSE groups.

Size of groups accessing training



How individuals found out about our training



Bolton CVS Website (21.82%) Email (54.55%)  
Word of Mouth (18.18%) Other Source (5.45%)

16 people have completed the Volunteer Passport training. 80 people have been signposted to the session.

The **Volunteer Passport** is a short online course for potential volunteers covering basic information and topics to ensure they are 'volunteer ready'.

**A bespoke Safeguarding training session was held with 11 staff and trustee members at Asian Elders Resource Centre** - *Thanks for delivering the training, it covered many aspects of safeguarding. The training has helped staff to understand the importance of safeguarding, different types of abuse, identify signs of abuse and be more confident to deal with these issues. We really appreciated the knowledge and how the training was delivered by Elaine Butt* - **Shabeen Rehman, Centre Manager**

## Feedback from Nosheen Hussain (Safeguarding Adults at Risk)

'I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for the exceptional safeguarding training you provided recently. Your extensive knowledge and expertise in the subject matter were evident throughout the sessions, and I found the training to be incredibly valuable.'

[Read the full quote here!](#)

# Funding

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

**11**

Funding programmes open

**69**

Grants approved

**£631,880.49**

Total amount approved

**30**

Groups supported

In Quarter 1, Bolton's Fund made up the majority of the funding awarded through grants administered by Bolton CVS (£463,644.95).

**£9,976.00 funding returned this quarter from Bolton's Fund Round 3.**

Bolton CVS also administered the following grants in Quarter 1:

- Bolton Community Homes Investments Programme
- VRU Community Led Programmes – Oldham – Year 2
- VRU Community Led Programmes – Stockport – Year 1
- VRU Community Led Programmes – Trafford – Year 1
- VRU Community Led Programmes – Rochdale – Year 1

The following rounds of funding were administered in Quarter 1:

1. Bolton's Fund Micro Grants
2. Bolton's Fund Small Grants
3. Bolton's Fund Medium Grants
4. Bolton's Fund Large Grants
5. Bolton's Fund Summer Holiday Activities and Food Fund 2024
6. Bolton's Fund Household Support Fund 5 Grants

The summary reports for Bolton's Fund awards can be found [here](#).

*'Once again, thank you for your support and for giving us this incredible opportunity. We are excited to commence our summer activities and make a positive impact with the help of this fund' – Elite Tuition Club*



# Volunteering

Quarter 1, 2024 - 2025

**83**

Volunteering enquiries

**67**

1-2-1 support

**60**

Direct connections made

**55**

Organisations supported

**112**

Volunteering opportunities promoted

This quarter, **1 Volunteer Development Network** meeting was held with **14 participants** in attendance who were interested in learning more about volunteering.

There were **4 sessions** of the **Benefits of Volunteering Workshop** delivered at Deane and Derby Community Centre, Bolton College and BAND engaging with **47 participants**.

**20** people gave their time as Bolton CVS volunteer grant assessors during this quarter.

We were invited to attend a community Litter Pick organised by Bolton at Home and other partners from the Rumworth Community Alliance. It was a great opportunity to create connections with volunteers and have an insight into the impact of individuals who care about their local community.

*'Thank you for promoting our volunteer opportunity. We have had a really positive response and have recruited enough volunteers now.*

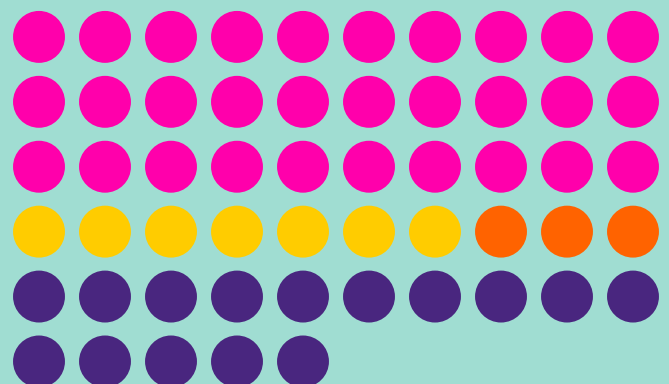
*We held our first session and it was a success.*

*Thank you for your help!*

**- Jess (& Su), Octagon Theatre**

*'Thank you for presenting on the benefits of volunteering, the attendees found it very interesting. You made the session very interactive, the language used was simple and informative'* - **Julie Hodgkiss, BAND**

## Size of Group Supported



Micro (54.55%) Small (12.73%)  
Medium (5.45%) Large (27.27%)



# Refugee and Asylum Seeker Volunteering

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

Our Refugee and Asylum Seeker Volunteer Development Officer (RASVDO) has continued engagement meetings, with 6 groups visited: BRASS, Gateway Support, North Bolton Support Group, Precious Gems, Believe Achieve and Bolton Solidarity Community Association. As a result, our RASVDO can support those organisations and their members around volunteering practises and opportunities.

Our RASVDO has built a relationship with Indira, Bolton ESOL Advisory Service Project Lead, to explore delivering bespoke sessions on the Benefits of Volunteering to the Ukrainian and asylum seeker communities.

Our RASVDO is taking a lead on the Positive Pathways programme. The programme is a partnership of 7 organisations that have come together to support people to develop their skills and routes into employment. The programme provides specialised, targeted support for people to overcome complex barriers to employment and engagement in mainstream activity, for example, people with poor mental health, low literacy levels or who are economically inactive. Bolton CVS is the lead partner and BRASS, North Bolton Support Group, Precious Gems, Believe Achieve, BSCA and Gateway Support Group are delivering the support at their venues. For more information, please email [debbie@boltoncvs.org.uk](mailto:debbie@boltoncvs.org.uk)

# Family Hub and Environmental Volunteering

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

**Family Hubs Engagement:** Our Family Hub and Environmental Volunteer Development Officer, Nicola, engaged with 5 Family Hubs across Bolton. Nicola had conversations with 60 individuals, explaining Bolton CVS services and the benefits of volunteering. This has led to volunteer enquiries, successful matches to organisations and support with setting up a group and group development. Further support has been given to 5 groups around providing space to deliver their community activities.

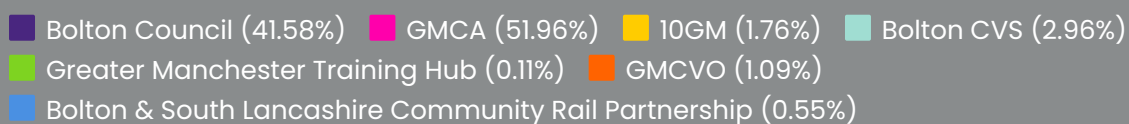
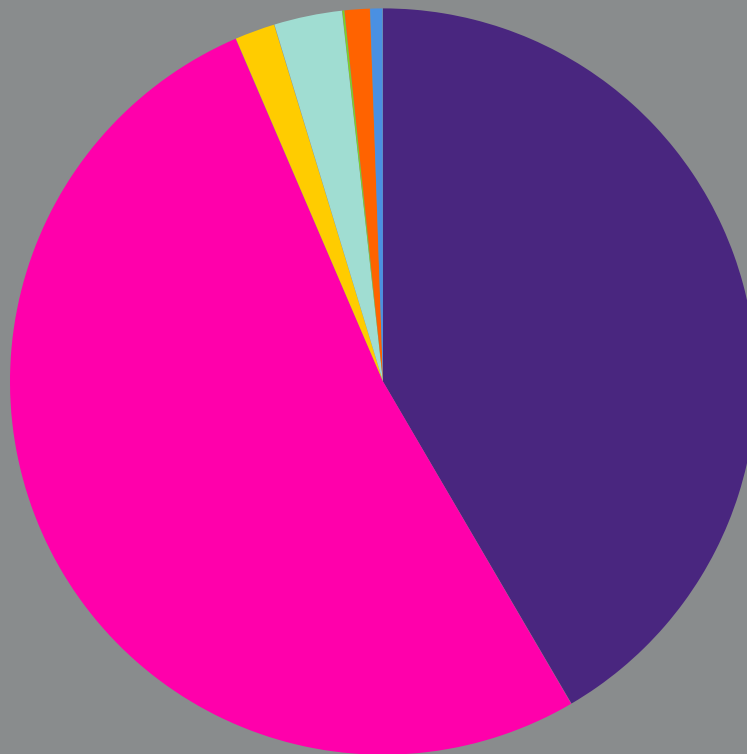
**Environmental Initiatives:** Nicola has built positive partnerships with the VCSE sector:

- 10 groups were offered support via sustainability check-ins, Volunteer Charter and discussions on The Bolton Mark accreditation.
- Referred a member of Four Seasons organisation to our Communications and Impact Development Officer for digital support which will enable the organisation to continue to do what they do best within the community.

# Income

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

Income Analysis By Funder



Total income for Quarter 1: £1,695,915.53

Our income during the 1st quarter has been generated via the following streams:

- GMCA – VRU Strategic Lead Programme
- Bolton Council – Infrastructure Contract, individual programmes including UKSPF E3 Environmental, Family Hubs, Farnworth Long Term Plan, Home Care consultation, Grants and Investments for the VCSE sector including Bolton's Fund and HSF
- Bolton CVS – Generated income from tenants, training and room hire
- 10GM – UKSPF E11 Voice & Influence
- GMCVO – Proper Good Programme
- Bolton & South Lancs. Community Rail Partnership – secondment programme for community rail engagement and development role
- Greater Manchester Training Hub – fellowship programme

# Wellbeing and Health

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

**Tackling Health Inequalities Conference** – *'It is incredibly important to us at Bolton NHS Foundation Trust to have colleagues from the whole of the VCSE sector collaborating with us in our health inequalities work. Whilst we recognise that our role as an FT is to ensure we address inequalities in access to, outcomes from and experience of the services we deliver, we whole heartedly understand that these areas of inequality are not siloed from the wider determinants of health and wellbeing. With regards to this, we know that we will only make the changes we want to see by collaborating with all our partners who have knowledge and influence in the wider determinants.'*

*The VCSE sector brings a perspective into this work which is different to those of us who have worked in health care all of our careers. And we benefit from that perspective being brought forward in our consideration.*

*As an anchor organisation in Bolton, we are committed to and benefit from working in partnership with our VCSE sector. We are incredibly grateful for the time that our VCSE sector colleagues give up to take part in our Health Inequality Enabling Group and in our conference.'*

**- Joanne Street, Director of Operations, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust**



**Smoking Cessation** – harnessing the power and connections of Bolton's VCSE sector, we are now working to help reduce smoking levels across the borough. In Bolton, smoking contributes to an average of 382 deaths per year and more than 2,200 hospital admissions. In partnership with Bolton Council's Public Health team & ABL Health, we are engaging VCSE organisations to help signpost people to the support on offer. Every successful 'quit' not only brings health and financial benefits to the

individual, it helps reduce strain on the NHS, as well as putting much needed funding into the VCSE sector. For more information, please email [liam@boltoncvs.org.uk](mailto:liam@boltoncvs.org.uk)

**Lived Experience Panel** – Bolton NHS Foundation Trust's Lived Experience Panel is all about giving a voice to the public to help shape how we deliver healthcare services. This quarter, training sessions have been held with 4 new members around issues such as quality improvement, equality, equity, diversity and inclusion. We've also held interviews to make the panel more representative of Bolton's diverse communities – 8 new members have now joined the panel.

**Unlocking Wellbeing in Bolton** – Work has continued to identify the barriers faced by carers, particularly those from minority or marginalised communities due to ethnicity or financial hardship. To help build on progress made so far and to ensure maximum impact over the remainder of the project, we've recently commissioned Turn Up the Value to undertake a full evaluation of the work.

# Social Prescribing

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

**38**

Total referrals

**112**

Organisations referred to

**2**

Events attended

**4**

Group visited

**10**

Partners worked with

## Group visit to Horwich Over 50s Group, undertaken by Tracey McCue, Social Prescribing Link Worker:

### Visit to Bereavement Cafe

The Bereavement Café runs a monthly pop up service at different venues across Bolton, usually in established cafes, to offer peer support to those dealing with grief and loss.

When Tracey visited the group, it was the day after 33 members of the Bereavement Café had taken part in a 10k run/walk to raise money for their cause. It had been a very successful event with over £3,000 raised!

There was discussion around the Bolton Bereavement Quilt, a piece of creative art, which people can work on as a way of remembering their loved ones.

Understandably, much of the conversation centred on how members of the group are coping, following their individual loss.

Members shared how each person had various hobbies or belonged to groups and how that helped them to cope.

Tracey found this session to be very supportive and informative, and would encourage people who are bereaved to attend.



### Visit to Blackrod Sports and Community Centre

Tracey was shown around the Centre and told the variety of activities that take place.

On this particular day of the visit, the parent and toddler group, Tumble Tots, was taking place with a Warm Space group meeting in another room. When Tracey asked how everyone had got to the community centre, it was heart warming to hear that people who weren't able to make their own way there were brought by another group member. One woman told her that she felt the group had saved her life, as she had been so fed up because she had been stuck in all winter.

Outside, there was the Over 50s Football session and the weekly Walking Group were just setting off. The Over 50s Football Group were a lovely friendly bunch and Tracey chatted to some of the team, including Jim who organises the group.

She was told that most of the team are in their 70s and that the oldest player is 85!



# Development

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025



82

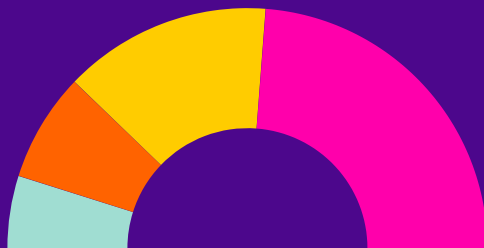
Groups were provided with support in this quarter



14

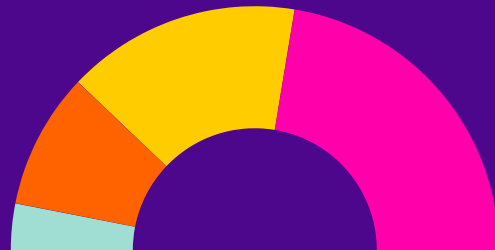
Individuals were supported around setting up a new organisation/group, DBS checks and/or GDPR

Size of organisations supported



Large (9.76%) Medium (14.63%)  
Small (28.05%) Micro (47.56%)

Hours of support given



Large (6.2%) Medium (18.02%)  
Small (31.01%) Micro (44.77%)



In this quarter, **3** organisations have undertaken a 'Health Check'.

**4 groups** are working towards acquiring the Bolton Mark.

**Transforming Lives Group** received a bespoke development session to look into developing their vision, values and members agreement for Transforming Lives Group.



## Type of support given

In this quarter, **18 types** of support have been given to different groups, organisations, and individuals, including:

Trustee Boards with governance, policy reviews, trustee recruitment, trustee roles and responsibilities and business plans.

Support with access to training, governance review, recruitment, access to funding, GDPR, managing money, safeguarding, cyber security, creating visions and values, risk assessments, registering with the Charity Commission and policy templates.



# Social Value

Our Business Development Manager, Helen, has been working with the Facilities Team to record social value undertaken by The Bolton Hub. We are working with the Growth Company to articulate outcomes. The following has taken place:

- Supported **17 members** of the community who came into The Bolton Hub with either the right contact, right place or the right organisation.
- Currently promoting The Lullaby Trust by having a collection box on reception.
- **159 hours** of volunteering undertaken by Bolton CVS Volunteers which is equivalent to **£1,912.80 social value**.
- Bolton CVS staff are encouraged to take part in wellbeing activities, staff have engaged by being part of the Book Club, held twice a quarter, taking part in Weekly Wanders and a one-off Guided Mindfulness session hosted by Dawn, CEO at Bolton CVS.

We have developed a request for Expressions of Interest for a partner to measure the social return on investment (SROI) of the activities of the Bolton's Fund. This is due to go out in quarter 2.

Partnered with the Greater Manchester Business School to host the Greater Manchester Social Value Network in Bolton. Created connections between businesses, VCSEs and social value professionals from across Greater Manchester and highlighted the work of the Bolton Family Social Value Partnership and their aim to generate more social value across Bolton.

Bolton CVS is working with Bolton Council to develop a refreshed Social Value framework for scoring and measuring social value through contracts.

## Membership

Bolton CVS is a membership organisation open to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

In total, there are **634 Bolton CVS members**. This number is made up of **560 full members**, and **74 associate members**. **No members** have disbanded in Quarter 1.

**2 new full members** were approved by the Bolton CVS Trustees. These groups are known as **Bolton Black History Group** and **Light Music Society**.

**Dave, from Light Music Society, has said this about becoming a member of Bolton CVS:** *'Becoming a member of Bolton CVS would give us space to network a lot more in Bolton, have regular updates that we need to run our charity and find additional training.'*

[Find out more](#) if you are interested in becoming a member of Bolton CVS.

# Social Enterprise

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

**10**

Workshops delivered

**10**

1-2-1 support given to entrepreneurs

**2**

LAP funding applications

**30**

attendees Social Enterprise Networking event

This quarter:

- **10** workshops delivered to **33** Social Enterprise leaders.
- **3** organisations were supported with the Local Access Partnership (LAP) funding process with **2** organisations completing the application for social investment.
- **3** monthly drop-in sessions held with **9** people attending.
- **2** advice clinics held with attendance by **4** participants.
- **10** Social Enterprises and/or entrepreneurs were given one-to-one support either face-to-face, via email advice or signposted to the social investment fund at Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations, to Bolton CVS services and to the various elements of the Proper Good Programme.
- **4** entrepreneurs took part in our tailored business mentoring programme.

## Funding Distribution

Seed Fund: 4 x £300 seed fund grants awarded

Business Development Grant: 4 x £995 grants awarded



The Proper Good Programme is funded by Big Society Capital and Access – The Foundation for Social Investment. It provides locally delivered, free support and social investment for social businesses, social entrepreneurs and social enterprises that aim to make a positive difference to the community. [Find out more.](#)

This quarter, we collaborated with The Woodland Trust and took our networking session outdoors and share social enterprise opportunities.

One of our Business Mentoring graduates applied for Proper Good Social Investment, with another two in the pipeline! This is fantastic evidence to show the mentoring programme is helping social enterprises to get support.

We have launched our new Social Enterprise Resource Hub on the Bolton CVS website. The dedicated pages will host videos, information, links and resources designed to support social entrepreneurs. [Find out more.](#)



# Business Development

Quarter 1, 2023 – 2024

Our Business Development Manager, Helen, is working alongside the Funding Team to develop opportunities for local businesses to be involved and invest in the Bolton's Fund 5th Celebration.

Supported Farnworth Town Board to engage with the Farnworth VCSE community in their consultancy phase of planning for the Long Term Plan for Farnworth and supported the VCSE sector to develop Expressions of Interest for projects to be included in the final plan to the government.

Environmental sustainability: 3 applications in progress for grants to improve the energy efficiency of The Bolton Hub.



Bolton CVS received donations to the Bolton's Fund from Tyson Construction and Bolton Wanderers Remembrance Group totalling to £5,500.

Philip Helm, Business Development Director at Tyson Construction, said *'We are delighted to support the Bolton's Fund. At Tyson Construction, we believe in building not just structures, but stronger communities, and this donation to the grants fund allows us to support small, local charities and community groups that make a meaningful impact in Bolton.'*

If you are interested investing in Bolton's Fund please contact Helen, our Business Development Manager, at [helenc@boltoncvs.org.uk](mailto:helenc@boltoncvs.org.uk)

# Accessibility

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

Bolton CVS and The Bolton Hub continues to be a centre for community activity and action in Bolton.

We are committed to ensuring accessibility of our services both within The Bolton Hub and within the community.

In this quarter, we had **2,024 visits** to The Bolton Hub.

## Rent a Desk

The Bolton Hub is offering desk space and a great range of services available to hire on a daily basis. Printing, copying and mail box facilities are available at an additional charge. Email our team at [hub@boltoncvs.org.uk](mailto:hub@boltoncvs.org.uk) if you are looking to rent a flexible desk space, we will be happy to provide more details.

**4** free room hires provided to 10GM, Health Watch Bolton and Bolton GP Federation.

The Facilities Team are very supportive of service users when coming to The Bolton Hub. An example is helping a member of the U3A group who has difficulty in hearing and walking, the team will support with arranging transport and ensure the process is smooth which will result in the group members having confidence in attending these sessions.



Welcome to Finlay Cole who joined Bolton CVS as a Facilities Assistant. His role covers all general cleaning in The Bolton Hub as well as helping out the Facilities Team with reception and room hire tasks from time to time. He is responsible for making The Bolton Hub the clean, friendly and welcoming place that it is.

Finlay has described his first two months at Bolton CVS as 'fantastic'. He has spent a lot of time talking and getting to know his new colleagues, whilst grasping an understanding of the key role Bolton CVS plays in the local community.

He has felt extremely welcomed by everyone in the team and has already participated in events such as the Ironman 5K Night Run, representing in Bolton CVS purple!

Finlay is very much looking forward to seeing what the future holds at Bolton CVS. Since graduating from the University of Leeds last summer, Finlay has been keen to work within the Bolton community and give back to his hometown. He has found just the right place to do that at Bolton CVS. He is excited to see how the team works in it's vital role in the VCSE sector of Bolton and could not be prouder to be a part of it all.

*'Our group attended a training session at The Hub. A great facility with helpful, friendly staff – can't ask for more. Thank you, The Bolton Hub!'*

**- Deb, Bolton Dementia Support**

# Introducing...

## **Beth Warriner, Chief Operating Officer**

Hello! I am delighted to be a part of the incredible team here at Bolton CVS, after joining in mid-May!

So far, I've been working closely with the brilliant Leadership Team; planning for the future, embedding our vital values, and supporting cross-team communication. I've also been working alongside the new Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) Working Group to further develop the Bolton CVS Strategy and Action Plan in this area.

There is so much I'm looking forward to in the near future, including upcoming Development Days with staff and trustees and the Bolton's Fund 5th Celebration in December!



## **Dominic Bell, Project Co-ordinator**



It has been brilliant to meet the partners on the Unlocking Wellbeing in Bolton programme and see the work they have achieved. I am excited to see how the project can evolve and grow to benefit the wellbeing of unpaid carers in Bolton.

Everybody at Bolton CVS has been super welcoming and it is amazing to work with such an experienced and supportive team. Bolton has a thriving VCSE sector which is filled with passion, dedication and, most importantly, an on the ground commitment to making a real difference in the community, which I am very excited to work

alongside. I hope to meet many of our members and partners in the coming weeks and months.

## **Stuart Fletcher, Peer Navigator**

Hi, my name is Stuart Fletcher. I am the Peer Navigator for Farnworth. My main roles currently are helping with the running of New Bury UCAN with the men's group and pantry. I also like to turn my hand to helping with the outdoor community events.



# Influential Voice & Collaboration

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

## Voice and Influence

This quarter, work has continued to further understand our Voice and Influence spaces. As these spaces are starting to become more meaningful and purposeful, we thought now would be a good time to start thinking about insight gathering; what insights we are capturing, how we capture them, and then how we share with the wider Bolton and GM systems. We realise that this is a complex task, with lots of moving parts and lots of ways of working to consider. We also recognise that we cannot do this alone – partnerships and collaboration with both Bolton's VCSE sector and other stakeholders is the key to success.

An example of this is the recent change in name of one of our Voice and Influence spaces. The space has changed from Funding Collaborative to VCSE Collaborative. The attendees of this space felt that it was about much more than applying for funds together. It became about sharing skills, networks, experiences and knowledge of previous collaborative/partnership projects. This insight has been helpful for us to share with our internal Development Team

Another example is looking at a different Voice and Influence space, the Preventative Providers Collaborative. The transferable insight this group collects around community preventative services is unique, and is something that the wider system is beginning to take a real interest in. This quarter, attendees of this space have been invited to speak and network at a variety of public health events or meetings – including the Short-Term Integrated Care Partnership, a Health Inequalities Conference and a Making Every Contact Count workshop. This shows that the work done through this space is being recognised and it has enabled the attendees to make connections and build relationships with a variety of colleagues working across the Bolton health and care system.

The final example is Bolton CVS engaging with GM systems change and leadership training led by the Leadership Centre. Here, representatives are given the opportunity to learn, grow, develop and reflect on blockers/barriers in the system and to try to create the conditions that allow us to drive collective, focused solutions together.



The main thing we have currently learnt is that networking and relationship building is key to enable effective influencing and our role is to ensure Bolton's VCSE sector gets the opportunities to do so.





# Partnerships

Partnership and collaborative working is very important to us at Bolton CVS, as such, members of our team continue to participate in **102** strategic Boards and Partnerships across Bolton and Greater Manchester.

## Workforce Development Project with 10GM

This quarter, we are excited to share the launch of both the GM Workforce and Recruitment Hubs!

The ambition for the GM Workforce Hub is to be a dedicated website to reduce demand and increase the capacity of workforces in this sector. It will host useful information, tools, and resources all in one place, so that it can be easily accessed, and VCSE sector colleagues will no longer have to spend lots of time and resources searching for information, examples of best practice, or training opportunities from across the internet.

The ambition for the GM Recruitment Hub is to be a dedicated website that will host VCSE recruitment opportunities across Greater Manchester. We have now managed to get this hub to communicate with most of the Local Infrastructure Organisations recruitment pages, so we do not need to keep posting opportunities to different websites, with different providers.

This means that recruitment processes will remain the same for the VCSE sector, however, colleagues will be able to add an opportunity to the GM Recruitment Hub and advertise on a GM level to increase reach.

We have already started to socialise this with Bolton's VCSE sector – our Development Team have been directing people to use this as a resource and the Recruitment Hub has been promoted at a variety of fairs where Bolton CVS has had a presence.



# Case Studies & Success Stories

Quarter 1, 2024 – 2025

## If at first you don't succeed...

A referral came in from an Occupational Therapist who reported that the patient had recently moved to Bolton from another area and was feeling very socially isolated. She suffered from severe anxiety and lacked motivation.

[Find out how our Social Prescribing Link Worker supported.](#)

## Proper Good Support



UK Funding Futures have been engaged with the Proper Good programme since its launch in 2022, accessing workshops, mentoring and one-to-one support. In that time they have grown from an idea to a rapidly growing social enterprise, delivering large-scale projects with key public sector partners.

[Read more about how the group has developed.](#)

## Meet Bolton CVS



One of the local Councillors for the Westhoughton area asked if it would be possible for staff from Bolton CVS to provide a drop in for local VCSE organisations to access support with development, funding and recruiting volunteers.

[Read more on what support was provided for the local community.](#)

## Training your Trustees

It came to light that Bolton Hindu Forum trustees needed to undertake The Essential Trustee training, either as a refresher or for the newer trustees, as an introduction to their legal duties stated by the Charity Commission.

[Find out how our Senior Development Officer supported Bolton Hindu Forum.](#)

## A Truly Collaborative Effort

The aim of the event is to unite the community, help Bolton to become more active and allow VCSE organisations to raise funds and promote their work.

[Read how organisations came together to make this event a success.](#)

# Next steps, looking forward to Quarter 2, 2024 – 2025

**1** Continue with training review, in the process of collecting feedback from the sector

**2** Benefits of Volunteering workshop to be delivered to Family Hubs

**3** Organise training for VCSE groups involved in the smoking cessation programme

**4** Improve website pages for development support

**5** Ensuring members welcome pack is accessible, motivating and keeping our new members involved with Bolton CVS

**6** Piloting a short programme of 121 support for 3 established trading charities on social enterprise

**7** Increase the number of Social Prescribing referrals

**8** Potentially look at installing bike storage for staff, tenants and service users to use when coming to The Bolton Hub