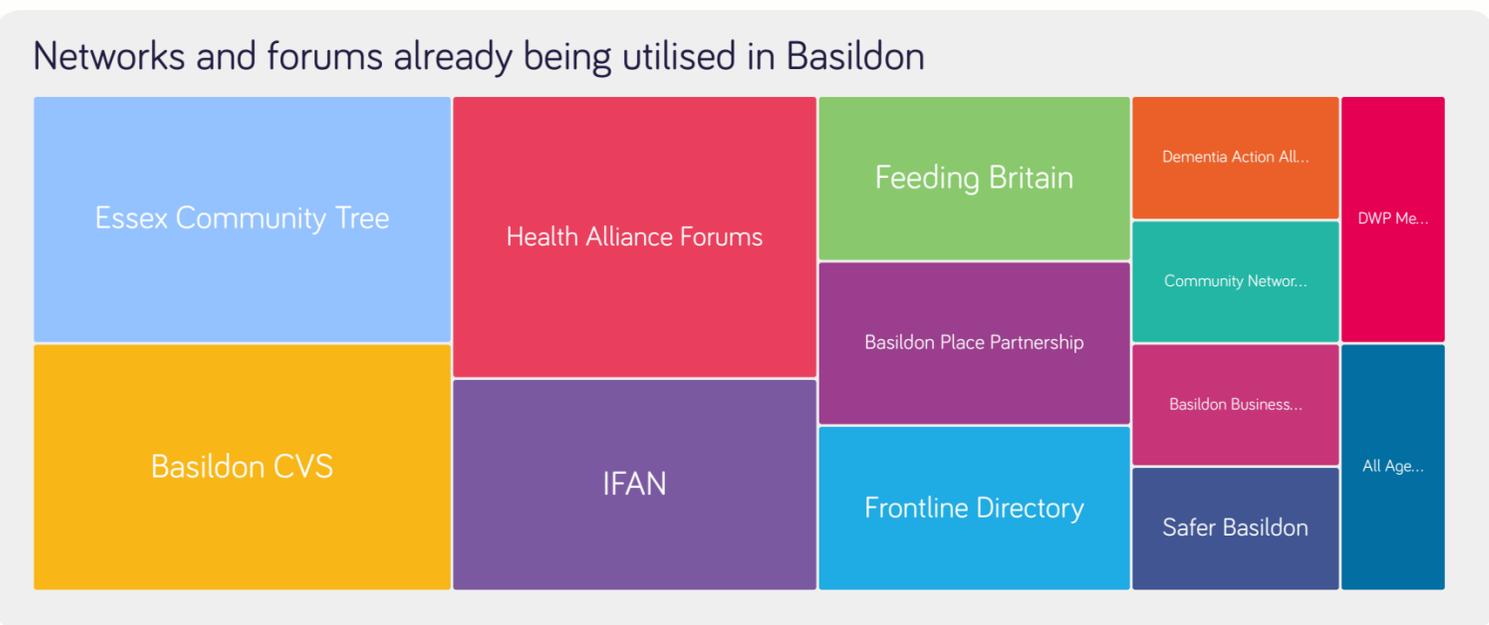
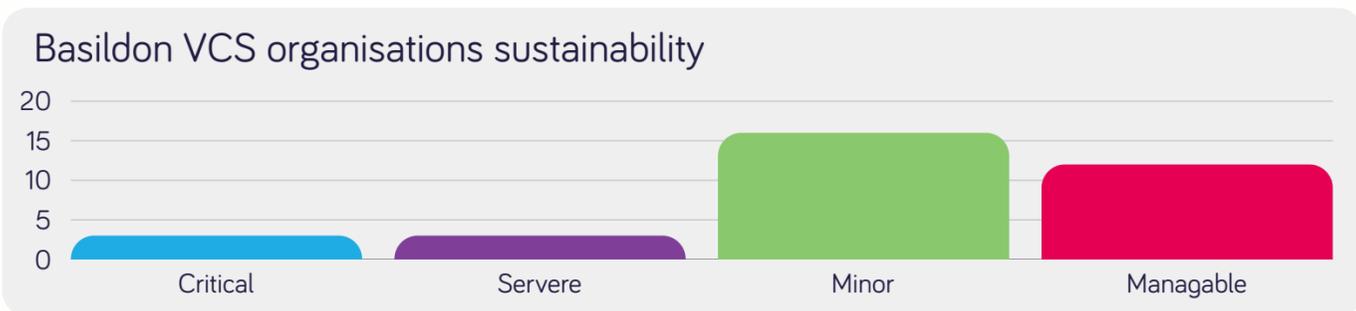


This place plan, is based off of **43** VCS organisations completing the survey.





This place plan, is based off of **43** VCS organisations completing the survey.

Fundraising and income generation is the most common unmet support need, followed by engaging target audience and partnership working

Training opportunities will include:

- Diversifying income
- Bid writing skills (small, large and partnership grants)
- Fundraising skills and delivering effective campaigns, impact and evaluation.
- Developing effective communications and publicity
- Ongoing Asset based community development
- Volunteer management and retention
- Access to countywide training and development opportunities

Networks will include:

- Meet the funder and/or funding clinics
- Regular networking opportunities- including relaunch of the Basildon CIN
- Regular e-bulletin of funding opportunities local, county, national and clearpathways / accessible ways to access local funding
- Incorporation of the Area Committees
- Dedicated training

Bespoke support will include:

- 121 organisational support with the South West team to discuss, ensuring the right level of support at the right time
- Matchmaking and brokering service with other local organisations,

Community Participation:

ATF are well embedded in Basildon as a lead partner for Community Participation with TAWS.

Broadening community participation and linking to social mobility and employment are key to the ongoing successes that Basildon as seen in place with ABCD.

What does the survey not tell us? What does their response tell us beneath the surface?

Basildon has many VCS organisations, with established leaders who have expanded their operations and income in recent years. However, reach to smaller VCS organisations and faith groups is limited.

The closure of Basildon, Billericay, and Wickford CVS is significant. There are collaborative efforts to manage the potential gaps in local services, which will have a considerable impact across the borough. Also, the Local Area Committees will need to be affectively aligned to this area of work.

Over the past 18 months there has been increased financial pressures on public sector organisations and the community. This has been exacerbated due to the loss of key personnel, but further investigation is needed to why some forum and community connection spaces have disbanded.

There is a local need to promote the activities of VCS organisations and support a more coordinated, co-ownership approach. Increasing opportunities for networking and information sharing to establish self support through collaboration and learning. There is regular reference to the LDP Community Involvement Network and the need to reignite this work bringing communities together and sharing strengths.





What else have we found/heard?

Local Infrastructure Support

As a key local organisation dedicated to infrastructure support in Basildon goes into administration there is a need to ensure the success and sustainability of charities and community groups continues. The closure of Basildon, Billericay, and Wickford CVS by the end of the year is significant. We are collaborating with Basildon Council to manage the potential gaps in local services, which will have a considerable impact across the borough.

Engaging Target Audience

Over the next 5 years, all organisations foresaw that demands for services would increase or increase substantially. However two paid services for physical activity and movement predicted a decrease in their offer (Dance Fantastique and South Essex Gymnastics Club) Community and voluntary organisations often face challenges such as limited resources, communication barriers, cultural nuances, competition for attention, and the need to build trust with their target audiences. These challenges can hinder their ability to effectively engage and support the communities they serve. We intend to support capacity building, funding, networking opportunities, advocacy, and technical support. These efforts can enhance the skills, resources, and reach of community and voluntary organisations, enabling them to better connect with and serve their target audiences. By addressing these challenges, infrastructure organisations play a crucial role in amplifying the impact of community initiatives.

01

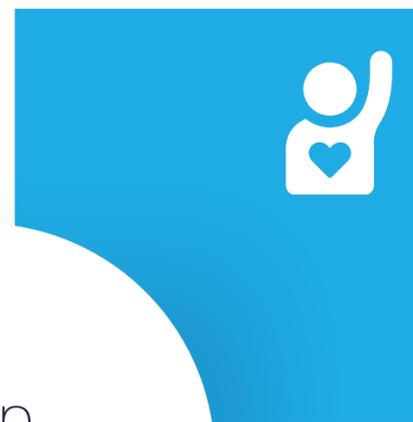


02



Top challenges:

03



04



Volunteer Management

Recruiting and retaining volunteers remains a critical issue. Many organisations rely heavily on volunteer support to deliver services, but finding individuals with the right skills and availability can be challenging. It is also referenced that organisations are looking for regular volunteers, where volunteers seek ad hoc opportunities. This impacts organisations that requires time and resource, train and ensure safeguards for new volunteers. There is often a disconnect between those looking to volunteer and the opportunities available.

Fundraising and Income Support

Local organisations face significant challenges in fundraising and there is a lack of confidence in seeking mid-large scale grants. Economic uncertainty heightens this issue and it compounded by opportunistic funding rather than planned funding strategy's underpinned by robust business planning. Limitations of IT skills as we move to a more digital space. These factors make it difficult for organisations to secure consistent financial support. In terms of income support, organisations struggle with funding shifts, technological advancements, and staffing. Diversifying revenue streams is essential to mitigate risks, but it remains a challenging task. Addressing these issues requires strategic planning, effective communication, and leveraging technology and individuals confidence in using new technology explore alternative income sources.

Collaboration, partnership and co-ownership opportunities for in person networking

CommuUnity

A known Community Networking Event, recently discovered and currently delivered by Trustlinks, Sign Post, Bases, Phoenix Future and Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

Area Committees

There are six Area Committees across the borough consisting of elected members from the wards they represent. They provide a greater opportunity for residents to work with elected Members to focus on what most matters in their communities. Their input could help to ensuring hyperlocal relevance of content

Community Involvement Network

Community Involvement Network Evaluation Report highlights the importance to the community for it to be community led.

Place Partnership/ FYA Operational Group

The FYA Operational Group has key community member that could contribute to the agenda and planning of borough wide forums

8 forums held

2 drop-in sessions held

Organisations that are interested in joining the Community Participation offer

Basildon Borough Neighbourhood Watch, Carers First, Changing Elements CIC, Citizens Advice Braintree and South Essex, DIAL South Essex, David Randell Foundation, Essex Boys and Girls Club, Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service, Families in Focus, Hamelin Trust, Heads 2 Minds, Hearing Help Essex, Kool Carers, Maru Karate Kai, Motivated Minds, Peaceful Place, Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Migrant Action, Saint Francis Hospice, South Essex Gymnastics Club, Sport 4 Confidence, The Craig Tyler Trust, Trustlinks, Viadcoms EAP & Wellbeing Service.



Place Delivery Plan (Group and Forum)

- Establishment of Community Involvement Networks inclusive of meet the funder workshops.
- Supporting grassroots collaboration and local voice across key neighbourhoods in partnership with the local Area Committees.
- Launch of the Basildon Faith-Based Forum a platform to strengthen interfaith dialogue, community cohesion, and joint voluntary social action.
- Leadership Development Programme in partnership with the Find Your Active Operational Group: a structured training initiative to identify, equip, and empower emerging social leaders from diverse backgrounds.
- Deliver Place based VCS newsletters
- Make connections with VCS organisations ensuring proportional representation to the borough
- First point of contact for VCS Organisations
- Signposting services and promotion of the Your Essex Community platform

What's the plan going forward?

Urgent things we must do:

Mitigate the impact on the community and discuss strategies to ensure continuity of services and support for local voluntary and community sector (VCS). This work will continue in partnership with Basildon Council.

Work in partnership with known local forums, and developing co-ownership of community networks to ensure they are not in competition. It's important to work with existing structures to build on established trust and resources, Facilitating in person networking events is an urgent need for voluntary, community organisations as well as to catalyse faith networks and smaller organisations.

Review our network and extend our reach to reflect the local demographic. A diverse and extensive network can provide access to a broader range of resources, expertise, and opportunities, enhancing the our ability to enable a self serving community. Continued work to maintain and expand these networks helps in building stronger partnerships and collaborations, which can lead to more innovative and impactful initiative. We need to review and update contacts to ensures that we are connected with key stakeholders and can adapt to changing needs and priorities within the community and more sustainable and resilient community support structures.

Place Delivery Plan Individual and Bespoke Support

Tailored Support for Voluntary and Community Organisations:

- One-to-one bespoke support including:
 - Fundraising strategy and bid writing
 - Organisational development and governance
 - Peer mentoring
 - Leadership coaching

In depth Key Partner Mentoring with VCS Organisations

Biannual Funding Clinics: supporting VCS organisations with guidance from a panel of experienced funders and development officers.

Develop connections with VCS organisations

To date 22 organisations have pledged their support and expertise, collectively covering a comprehensive range of needs.

To ensure effective alignment between organisations that seeking support and those offering it a structured matching and coordination process. must be established. This will enable more strategic and efficient collaboration across the network and sharing expertise and learning.

Our initial insight work indicates significant potential within community-led self-service initiatives. To build on this, we propose the introduction of a more detailed needs assessment process, complemented by a structured support offer form. This will help to capture both demand and supply more accurately. It is essential to careful consider the scale and complexity of the matching process. Whether implemented manually or support by AI-driven technology - similar to existing volunteer matching platforms - the solution must be proportions, user-friendly and sustainable.