Place Plan Priorities

Basildon

Digital skills
Support and training for organisations in adopting digital tools for communication, service delivery, fundraising and administration.

Trustee recruitment and developing highly skilled boards
Support and advice with trustee recruitment and provide training on governance, legal responsibilities, strategic planning, and financial oversight aimed at trustees.

Enhancing forums and networking spaces
Developing collaboration and shared learning through regular forums, peer networks and thematic working groups. Including continuation and delivery of the Basildon Community Involvement Network.

Impact and evaluation
Helping organisations measure and communicate their impact through outcomes-based reporting, data collection and storytelling.

Personalised organisational support
Providing tailored advice and mentoring on governance, strategy, HR, finance and sustainability.

Volunteer recruitment, management and onboarding
Support organisations in attracting, retaining, and effectively managing volunteers. This could include advice on onboarding processes and recognition strategies.

Volunteerism/ independent voice for the VCS sector/representation
Champion the role of the voluntary sector in local decision-making and ensure its voice is heard.

Funding application support
Providing guidance on identifying funding opportunities, writing strong applications and managing grants.

Braintree

Strengthen collaboration and networking
Local networking events or forums - shared learning events.

Volunteers
- Support with volunteer recruitment, retention and recognition
- Training and peer support for volunteer managers or coordinators and volunteers
- Development of shared volunteer onboarding resources or packs
- Volunteer engagement campaign - marching volunteers with roles.

Training and development
- Improve access to training, learning and development - coordination of VCSE
- Subsidised access to essential training from local need
- Shared training sessions across organisations
- Spaces to share skills across organisations, groups or individuals.

Capacity building and governance
Workshops. training and learning opportunities for:
- Diversifying income (writing an effective application, fundraising newsletter, funding surgeries, finance and grant management)
- Governance, legal responsibilities and leadership
- Support with policy development and HR
- Practical training in impact measurement, monitoring and evaluation
- Help for new or emerging groups to formalise structure and operations - legal structure.

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Your Essex Community
Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector

Place Plan Priorities cont.
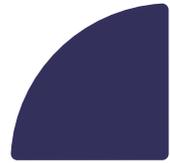
Brentwood

Digital skills
Support and training for organisations in adopting digital tools for communication, service delivery, fundraising and administration.

Trustee recruitment and developing highly skilled boards
Support and advice with trustee recruitment and provide training on governance, legal responsibilities, strategic planning, and financial oversight aimed at trustees.

Enhancing forums and networking spaces
Developing collaboration and shared learning through regular forums, peer networks and thematic working groups.

Impact and evaluation
Helping organisations measure and communicate their impact through outcomes-based reporting, data collection and storytelling.

Personalised organisational support
Providing tailored advice and mentoring on governance, strategy, HR, finance and sustainability.

Volunteer recruitment, management and onboarding
Support organisations in attracting, retaining, and effectively managing volunteers. This could include advice on onboarding processes and recognition strategies.

Funding application support
Providing guidance on identifying funding opportunities, writing strong applications and managing grants.

Castle Point

Networking, collaboration and shared delivery
- Facilitated local networking events and learning circles
- Networks that encourage partnership projects between two or more organisations
- Peer mentoring or buddy schemes across local groups
- Community of practice sessions on sector-specific topics.

Communications, visibility and signposting
- Social media training tailored to small or grassroots groups
- Website improvement support or digital profile building
- Skills that help capture and share impact e.g. storytelling or video workshops.

Volunteer development and recognition
- Training and peer support for volunteer managers or coordinators
- Development of shared volunteer onboarding resources or packs
- Networking opportunities for volunteers to connect and learn.

Capacity building and governance
Workshops, training and learning opportunities for:
- Diversifying income (advanced bid writing, corporate partnerships, trading, fundraising)
- Governance, legal responsibilities and leadership
- Organisational health checks to identify strengths and needs
- Support with policy and development, safeguarding and finance systems
- Practical training in impact measurement, monitoring and evaluation
- Help for new or emerging groups to formalise structure and operations.

Community engagement and listening
- Training in co-production and community outreach
- Facilitation of lived experience groups to shape local priorities
- Resources to collate and share learning across the VCS sector.

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Your Essex Community
Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector

Place Plan Priorities cont.

Chelmsford

Strengthen collaboration and peer support

VCS organisations value existing networks but want more informal networking and skill-sharing opportunities. Activities could include:
- Create informal networking events for VCSOs to connect
- Facilitate peer support forums for those in similar roles
- Support development of a skills-sharing opportunities/initiatives.

Boost communication, PR and community engagement

Many VCSOs struggle with visibility, reaching target audiences and demonstrating impact. Activities could include:
- Deliver training opportunities for developing effective communications strategy and understanding the use of AI
- Explore the needs of VCSOs further on which evaluation and/or demonstrating impact support would be more suitable.

Support fundraising and sustainability

Core funding and sustainability and major concerns for VCSOs. Activities could include:
- Providing training on fundraising strategies and bid writing for grassroot VCSOs
- Clinics/events for connecting VCSOs to grant makers.

Support volunteer and workforce resilience

Volunteer burnout and retention challenges are limiting delivery. Activities could include:
- Initiatives that support staff/volunteer retention and reduce management burnout
- Subsidised inclusive training offers for VCSOs (e.g. EDI, mental health first aid).

Colchester

Strengthen core capacity and leadership

Many organisations are stuck in reactive delivery cycles and lack time/resources for strategic planning. Activities could include:
- Leadership upskilling (e.g. strategic planning, change management)
- Trustee development and governance support
- Business planning and income diversification.

Support workforce and volunteer development

Recruitment and retention of staff/volunteers is a major challenge. Activities could include:
- Volunteer experience design and retention strategies
- People management training for leaders
- Matchmaking, shared resources or peer mentoring pilots.

Enhance collaboration and networking

Duplication and fragmentation are issues, smaller groups are becoming disconnected. Activities could include:
- Facilitation or peer networks or community impact forums
- Cross-sector partnership events (e.g. with statutory services)
- Knowledge-sharing platforms or events.

Improve access to training, learning and development

Training is valued but often unaffordable or inaccessible. So activities could include:
- Subsidised access to essential training from local need
- Shared training sessions across organisations
- Spaces to share skills across organisations, groups or individuals.

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Your Essex Community
Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector

Place Plan Priorities cont.

Epping Forest

Short-term

Fundraising and income generation
- Bid writing skills (small and large partnership grants)
- Developing fundraising skills and effective fundraising campaigns.

Engaging target audiences
Delivery of the community participation workshop.

Partnership working
Support on how to map out partnership goals, align missions and create value propositions.

Long-term

Staff/HR
Upskilling opportunities to enhance employee skills, ensure compliance with HR policies, streamline recruitment processes, and manage PAYE obligations efficiently.

Supporting and retaining the workforce
Training and development to support organisations in both attracting new volunteers and retaining existing ones.

Planning for the future
- Support charities and community groups to set clear, long-term goals. Include tools for adapting to changing community needs.
- Upskilling staff and volunteers in digital tools for service delivery, communication and data use.

Continuation or relationships and networking
- Develop joint statutory and VCS networks focused on specific themes or topics, such as health priorities and local authority priorities. More structured in delivery and approach
- Develop 'getting to know' networks through informal, speed-dating style networking opportunities, for a less structured delivery and approach.

Harlow

Short-term

Fundraising and income generation
- Workshops to support writing compelling funding applications (small and large partnership grants) in addition workshops on how to say no to funding (prevent mission drifting) and what funders do / dont mean in their criteria i.e full cost recovery vs salaries
- How to develop and submit joint funding bids
- How to create a sustainable, long-term fundraising plan.

Engaging target audiences
Delivery of Community Participation workshop in partnership with TAWS and ATF (Element 2).

Partnership working
- Support on how to map out partnership goals, align missions and create value propositions
- Tools and methods for co-designing and delivering joint projects.

Long-term

Continuation or relationships and networking
- Develop joint statutory and VCS networks focused on specific themes or topics, such as health priorities and local authority priorities. More structured in delivery and approach
- Develop 'getting to know' networks through informal, speed-dating style networking opportunities, for a less structured delivery and approach.

Growing and supporting the workforce
- Training and development to support organisations in both attracting new volunteers and retaining existing ones.
- - Training and development to equip volunteers, particularly those in board or trustee role, with the skills and knowledge needed to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

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Your Essex **Community**
Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector

Place Plan Priorities cont.

Maldon

Capacity building and governance support

- Support with governance (e.g. trustee roles, policy development, charity registration)
- Leadership development and mentoring
- Business planning and sustainability training.

Volunteer recruitment and retention

- Run a Maldon-specific volunteering workshop
- Promote cross-volunteering opportunities between organisations
- Support with volunteer management and matchmaking.

Marketing, comms and community engagement

- Deliver marketing and communications workshops
- Support organisations to reach underrepresented communities
- Help raise awareness of services and increase referrals.

Funding readiness and income generation

- Deliver funding workshops (small grants, bid writing, fundraising strategy)
- Provide 1:1 support for funding applications
- Re-establish 'Meet the Funder' sessions and a funding newsletter.

Networking and collaboration

- Align and strengthen existing forums (e.g. Maldon CVS, Livewell)
- Create informal peer support spaces
- Encourage joint funding applications and shared learning.

Rochford

Training, workshops and learning opportunities

Workshops, training, learning and mentorship that supports the building of skills, understanding and capacity in:

- Income diversification
- Fundraising strategies
- Business development
- Social value
- Governance
- Developing a volunteering strategy
- Recruiting, retention and rewarding volunteers
- Developing a digital presence
- Social media
- Showing impact
- Trustee roles, responsibilities, and succession planning
- Co-production
- Inclusive service design.

Networking, collaboration and peer support

Opportunities for collaboration, networking and partnership working, which could include:

- Facilitation for VCS organisations to come together, network and share
- Thematic networking opportunities (e.g. specific community needs in Rochford)
- Peer learning on key issues and topics
- VCS Leadership forums and representation
- VCS voice, facilitation of lived experience groups to shape local services
- Further listening opportunities and insight gathering of local VCS sector needs.

Place Plan Priorities cont.

Tendring

Strengthen collaboration and partnership effectiveness

There's a strong appetite for collaboration, with opportunities to develop sharing resources, skills and creating partnerships wanted. Activities could include:

- Mapping purpose of existing networks and developing
- Peer-to-peer mentoring or partnership-building pilots
- Explore opportunities for groups to share resources and skillset's.

Support strategic planning and organisational development

Many organisations want to plan for the future but may not recognise or articulate their development needs. So, activities could include:

- Workshops or 1:1 support on business planning, governance, or leadership
- Tools or consultancy to help organisations reflect on their development needs
- Trustee recruitment and board development support.

Improve access to training and workforce development

Training is valued, but often inaccessible due to cost or availability. Many organisations highlighted a need to support people management, leadership and volunteers. So, activities could include:
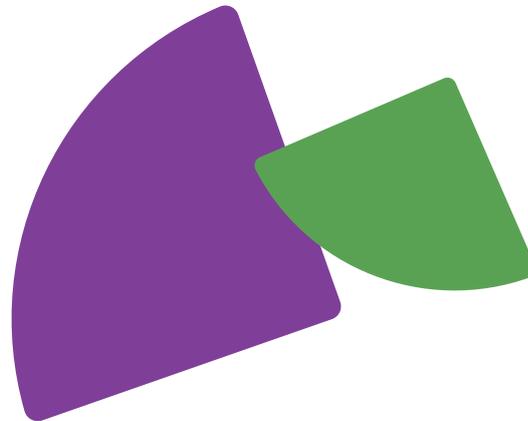
- Subsidised access to essential training (e.g. safeguarding, digital skills, EDI, AI)
- Leadership and people management development
- Volunteer recruitment and experience design.

Uttlesford

Short-term

Fundraising and income generation

- Workshops to support writing compelling funding applications (small and large partnership grants)
- How to develop and submit joint funding bids
- How to create a sustainable, long-term fundraising plan.

Partnership working

- Support on how to map out partnership goals, align missions and create value propositions
- Tools and methods for co-designing and delivering joint projects.

Communications and PR

- Communicating with Older Audiences workshop
- Digital Inclusion & Hybrid Communication support.

Long-term

Continuation of relationships and networking

- Develop Joint Statutory and VCS Networks focused on specific themes or topics, such as health priorities and local authority priorities. More structured in delivery and approach
- Develop Getting to know networks through informal, speed-dating-style networking opportunities. Less structured in delivery and approach.

Supporting and retaining the workforce

- Training and development to support organisations in both attracting new volunteers and retaining existing ones
- Training and development to equip volunteers, particularly those in board or trustee role, with the skills and knowledge needed to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

Engaging target audiences

- Support in helping organisations get to better know and understand their target audience
- Development to better understand how to co-design services and support.