

# 2021-2022

Thriving Communities



Shared Prosperity



Thriving People



Making a difference in  
our community

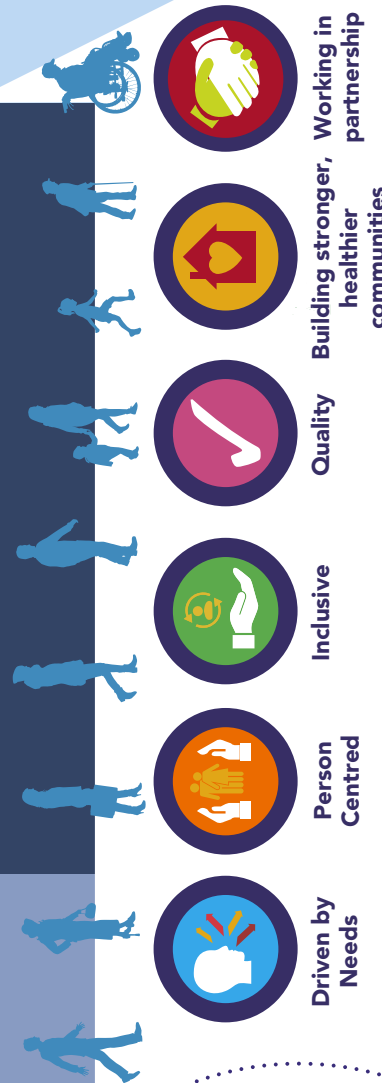
Sussex Community Development Association  
Annual Report 2021-2022

[sussexcommunity.org.uk](https://sussexcommunity.org.uk)

# difference

- Mental wellbeing
- Physical health
- Safety and security
- Empowerment and choice
- Connecting and giving
- Learning and skills
- Home and money

## delivers



## SCDA Values

Thriving People

Thriving Communities

Shared Prosperity

A D C S

Making a difference in our community by improving economic stability and opportunity, health and wellbeing and addressing loneliness, social isolation and social cohesion.

Sussex Community Development Association Ltd  
Denton Island Community Centre  
Denton Island  
Newhaven  
BN9 9BA  
Tel: 01273 517250  
Website: [www.sussexcommunity.org.uk](http://www.sussexcommunity.org.uk)

Sussex Community Development Association is a:  
• Registered Charity number 1094905  
• Company limited by guarantee, registered in England number 3387617  
• Development Trust and member of Locality

# Chair's Report

SCDA delivers difference through a broad range of services and our annual report sets out the difference we are making for individuals and in communities. Our values are at the heart of SCDA activities. The 25th AGM will take place on 7th December 2022: our 25th anniversary year. This annual report reflects the responsiveness of SCDA staff and volunteers in ensuring our local community needs in times of economic hardship are met.

### Driven by needs

SCDA identifies needs and gaps in services delivering real change for local individuals and communities.

- **56,624 people benefitted from SCDA services and activities**

### Person centred

User and community involvement in developing services. Addressing the wider determinants of health and wellbeing to support prevention and resilience.

- **Listening and acting on community needs**
- **Understanding people's lives are complex**
- **Building community strengths and assets**

### Inclusive

SCDA supports inclusion in access to services, employment, volunteering and governance

### Quality and impact

SCDA is committed to maintaining quality through monitoring, research and quality kitemarks. SCDA monitors and evaluates the difference our services make.

SCDA develops and adapts services through learning what communities and need and what works.

- **SCDA annual Community Impact Survey 2022 tells us:**
- **96% agreed SCDA identifies and responds to community needs**
- **95% feel SCDA contributes to building stronger, healthier and inclusive communities**
- **Quality kitemarks: Information Advice and Guidance Matrix, Ofsted and British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy**
- **Research and evaluation with University College London, University of Sussex, Curved Thinking and Learning and Work Institute and Collaborate CIC**

### Building stronger communities

SCDA builds individual and community skills and resilience to address current and future issues. SCDA delivers services with the commitment of volunteers and local employees. SCDA is rooted in the community.

- **338 volunteers, community messengers and community champions**
- **70 member groups**
- **100 full and part time staff**

### Working in Partnership

SCDA works in partnership with private business, statutory bodies and other voluntary and community organisations. SCDA's role includes being the 'glue': coordinating services to ensure cost effective local delivery and building voluntary sector collaboration.

- **Working together helps us all achieve more and ensure value for money, added value and avoid duplication of services**

*John Cornish*

**John Cornish, Chair**  
Sussex Community Development Association

# Treasurer's Report

SCDA trustees, on behalf of the people who access SCDA services, are grateful to those who have supported SCDA's work.

### Income:

Total income 2021/22 was £5,063,085. This was up 28% up on the previous year. Unrestricted income from charitable activities increased by 10% and restricted income increased by 48% (particularly through increases of £537,000 in SCDA Employability services). Donation income, the majority of which is unrestricted, increased by 79% as shops and services re-opened after the pandemic.

### Sources of Income:

**Social Enterprise** income remained at 10% of total income as revenues also grew, including the Nursery incomes which increased by 15%.

**Contracted Services** increased by 24% and is 34% of total income, with growth particularly through Employability services and increased community development delivery. Because of Covid restrictions on delivery, some funders permitted funds to be carried forward to 2022/23.

**Charitable Gifts and Donations** remain fundamental to the ongoing ability of SCDA to deliver services. Income sources include small donations to help support the foodbank, Big Lottery funds for the Advice Hub and a wide range of other funds vital for Family activities, Employment Support and Youth Services.

### Expenditure:

Total Expenditure remained at just over 94% of turnover for the year with total spend of £4,773,620.

### Reserves:

At 31 March 2022, SCDA's total reserves was £2,028,134, an increase of 17%. Free reserves at the same date were £794,395, an increase of £54,104.

For more detail on SCDA's financial position including a full list of grant funders, SCDA's Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 are available through Companies House, the Charity Commission and the SCDA website.

*Helen Macaulay*

**Helen Macaulay**  
Treasurer



## Healthy Lifestyles

### Healthy Lifestyles aims to:

- Deliver healthy lifestyle activities to address the wider determinants of health and health inequalities
- Complete and promote evaluation of Making it Happen asset based community development approaches to address health inequalities
- Deliver activities promoting access to green, open and blue spaces (GBOSH)
- Develop community gardens and growing food

### WE DELIVER

- Development of delivery with local people to meet their needs and support affordable, accessible and sustainable community-led activities
- Inspiration for local people to live healthy and active lives
- Promotion of links between mental wellbeing, physical health and eating healthily
- Support for people to feel connected with the community around them and make best use of local assets

### OUR IMPACT: HAILSHAM ALLOTMENT

- Seeds and Weeds Allotment group continues to thrive with members becoming a constituted group. 100% of those that have attended report to feel a better connection with their community

### NEWHAVEN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES GARDEN

- Gardening club developed with 4 regular attendees. Children and Families garden designed by members to include a water feature and wild growing area
- 23 families engaged in outdoor learning projects including Plant and Play and Family Forest School in Newhaven

### DENTON ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE

- Gardening club organised to maintain garden areas. Attendees sharing skills and knowledge, reporting improved wellbeing
- Connections made with other local gardening projects with a view to work together, sharing ideas, equipment and produce

### WILLINGDON TREES COMMUNITY GARDEN

- 10 volunteers, Willingdon Trees Gardeners
- 20 participants, Power of Plants course
- 10 families, Trees Toddler Allotment

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- 40 Children attended Holiday activities and food project
- Children in Need Project running in partnership with local forest school, promoting outside learning and engagement with nature activities, parents and children supported in a woodland environment to have fun, build confidence and learn new skills
- 6 families attended Family Food café in Hailsham

### NURSERY

- 110 children registered
- Promoting healthy snacks and lunch box ideas with parents to encourage them to offer healthy food choices to their children
- Promoting good oral care to our children and encouraging dental check-ups
- Large outdoor area to support physical play and risk taking

### NEWHAVEN YOUNG PEOPLE

- 3 weekly youth clubs, 122 individual attendees
- 20% of youth club attendees attend other SCDA young people's provision including wellbeing services, youth counselling and Newhaven Young People's Forum
- Themes focussed on: transitions, mental health and wellbeing, identity, inclusion, connecting to the local community and green education

### MAKING IT HAPPEN

- Improving health and wellbeing through Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)
- Making it Happen delivers ABCD in 17 neighbourhoods across each of the 5 Districts and Boroughs of East Sussex
- It is delivered in a partnership with Action in Rural Sussex (AIRS), 3VA, Rother Voluntary Action (RVA) and Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA), led by SCDA
- Despite disruption caused by lockdown, Community Development Workers engaged with communities online, and as the lockdown began to lift were able to hit the ground running
- The evaluation, led by the Centre for Health and Realist Research, has identified 8 theories about why Making it Happen might work
- Connections: 555 connections which demonstrate a positive change, improvement or development
- Grants awarded:
  - 28 Small Sparks Grants (up to £500)
  - 9 Next Step Grants (£501 - £3,000)
  - 3 Grow Grants (£3001 - £15,000)
  - 2 Community Grants (up to £2,000)
- Neighbourhood 'Sparks' events: Five events held, one in each of the Districts and Boroughs.
  - Events are planned and delivered collaboratively with local residents, bringing people together to celebrate community, share stories and make connections
  - Events include decision making on the allocation of a community budget
- The Learning Programme: 2 sessions delivered with extremely positive feedback
- Community of Practice: first event took place in Newhaven. 36 people from across the county attended and feedback was overwhelmingly positive



**We have built up a rapport in the community with regular people coming along to the Saturday kitchens. It has been rewarding to see the community come together at these lunches. It has helped our Mosque community to build their confidence and feel more connected with the Peacehaven community**





# Wellbeing

## Wellbeing aims to:

- Deliver professional counselling and therapeutic support
- Build access to counselling through Sussex Community Counselling
- Support people affected by suicide
- Support mental wellbeing of young people

## WE DELIVER

- Quality assured British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) accredited Sussex Community Counselling supporting all SCDA counselling
- Access to affordable counselling for those living in Newhaven, Lewes, Hailsham and Eastbourne
- Access to youth counselling addressing the mental wellbeing of young people
- Free counselling from qualified counsellors for individuals at risk of suicide
- One to one support for individuals bereaved by suicide
- Partnership working with Counselling Plus Community in Hastings and Rother

## OUR IMPACT:

- 423 referrals
- 201 people received counselling
- BACP quality assured
  - Developed strong working relationships and pathways with statutory and non-statutory mental health support services
  - Training organised in response to issues arising: children and young people, ASIST (suicide response) training, working with trauma, autism and suicide

## AFFORDABLE COUNSELLING

- 9 more volunteer counsellors recruited and continue to recruit for the service to grow to cope with the increase in demand
- Face-to-face sessions delivered in Newhaven and Hailsham. Working to secure suitable venues in Eastbourne and Lewes
- Affordable counselling offered by 18 quality assured volunteer counsellors
- 198 referrals received and 78 assessed for individuals aged 16 to 90
- 64 went on to receive support
- Of respondents: 100% of the feedback about the counsellors was positive and 100% said that the counselling had been helpful and made them feel better using COREOM outcome measure
- Partnership project with Sompriti, delivering counselling sessions for those affected by domestic violence who come from black, Asian or minoritised ethnic backgrounds

## YOUTH COUNSELLING

- Supported 24 young people through issues including self-harm, bereavement, anxiety
- Young people offered up to 12 sessions
- 75 referrals received and assessed
- Youth counselling expanded to 4 volunteer counsellors

## SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE (SSOS)

- 90 referrals and 68 clients supported
- Clients are offered 8 sessions of 1 to 1 counselling (access to counselling is offered immediately)
- 31 individuals supported with information and signposting
- Developing links with statutory services within the NHS
- Two new counsellors have been recruited in response to demand for the service

## BEREAVED BY SUICIDE OUTREACH

- 60 individuals made contact with the service, 4 returned for more support from the previous year and a further 5 had two rounds of support within the year, resulting in 65 people reaching out for support
- 15 people signposted to more suitable service
- The majority of clients completed CORE feedback forms, which showed improvements following support, with the notable difficulties in the areas of wellbeing and purpose showing the greatest improvements

# Loneliness and Social Isolation

## Loneliness and Social Isolation aims to:

- Support individual and community wellbeing by promoting community connections
- Provide community hubs as part of social infrastructure
- Deliver befriending activities and buddy support
- Promote volunteering and community messengers

## WE DELIVER

- Face to face and telephone befriending facilitated by volunteers
- Peer support groups in community hubs
- Volunteering for community activity
- Projects and services that create opportunities for connection
- Community hubs which provide a wide range of activities and services
- Volunteering opportunities for community activity
- Active participation on developments of community hubs to address loneliness and social isolation with East Sussex County Council

## OUR IMPACT:

### BEFRIENDING:

- 100% of befriended report that they feel less lonely and isolated as a result of using the service
- 98% of befriended report that they feel a greater sense of community support
- 96% of befriended report they are better able to cope with the impacts of COVID-19

### COMMUNITY HUBS:

- 92% of those that attended a community hub report to feel more connected to their community
- 98% of those that have attended a community hub report an improvement in their wellbeing
- 100% of community hub volunteers report an improvement to their wellbeing

### FOOD:

- Café areas established at the 2 Community Supermarkets to provide space and opportunity for social interaction and connection
- Minibus transport provided by volunteers to enable those most isolated to access the community supermarkets, café and advice services
- On average, 73% of community supermarket members agree or strongly agree that the social elements of the supermarket are important to them



**I look forward to my befriender calling me every week. It makes me feel valued and that someone cares**



**Reaching out for help wasn't easy for me. I felt heard and not judged. The staff are very helpful**



**Very helpful service for people in crisis with a very quick response time. Couldn't be more grateful for the support I received and I will be using the things I learnt**





## Young People

### Young People aims to:

- Facilitate an active youth voice through the Newhaven Young People's Forum (NYPF) to ensure services meet young people's needs
- Promote a positive image of young people
- Reduce risky behaviours by young people
- Create and sustain safe, dedicated spaces for young people's activities

### WE DELIVER

- Three weekly term time youth clubs and holiday activities
- Outreach to promote engagement and access
- Information and advice drop in: Platform-9 (wellbeing 1-1s)
- Support youth mental health through wellbeing groups, counselling and peer to peer support
- LGBTQ+ support and safe space through a peer-led youth group (NYPF)
- Partnership, Activities, Community and Education (PACE): supporting extended learning time and increasing wellbeing
- Sexual Health access, support and education through the C-card Scheme in a local secondary school and Newhaven Youth Centre.
- Promotion of youth voice and participation including NYPF and annual youth survey
- Development of dedicated Youth Centre for Newhaven

### OUR IMPACT:

#### YOUTH CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

- 3 weekly youth clubs, 122 individual attendees and 65 new enrolments, with a footfall of 1,034. Average attendance at each session of 15-22 young people
- Provision is youth-led and adapted to the needs of the current cohort. Termly educational workshops related to life skills and contextual themes
- 35% of youth club attendees are members of the LGBT+ community
- 20% of youth club attendees attend other SCDA young people's provision including wellbeing services, youth counselling and the NYPF
- Themes focussed on: transitions, mental health and wellbeing, identity, inclusion, connecting to the local community and green education
- 70% of existing youth club members continued engagement alongside new members

#### YOUTH VOICE AND PARTICIPATION

- 4 active NYPF members established LGBTQ+ and Allies Support Team sessions. Peer-led safe space activities for young people in or supportive of the LGBTQ+ community. 42 individual young people have benefited from this project
- 2 NYPF members accessed Young Leaders Training
- Feedback demonstrated that 100% of young people identify Newhaven Youth Centre as a safe space
- 93% of young people rated the sessions at the youth centre a 4 or 5 out of 5
- 51% of young people stated they had learnt something new and could recall what they had learnt
- 60% of young people stated the youth workers had helped them and could identify how they were supported

### INFORMATION AND ADVICE

- 19 additional young people engaged with the PACE project
- 96% of young people, who have accessed PACE, reported symptoms of one or more of: Anxiety, Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia
- 100% of young people report increase in confidence and positive wellbeing as a result of the project. Parents have commented on improved behaviour
- Wellbeing groups, 1-1's support and workshops ran in 2 local secondary schools and Newhaven Youth Centre, supporting 203 young people
- 90% of young people accessing wellbeing support have reported a notable difference
- 25 young people have accessed sexual health support and education through the c-card scheme

### ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- 'Beat the Police' basketball competition between local Sussex Police and young people with aim to improve youth community relationships with the police
- 25 young people attended and 5 Police Officers
- SCDA worked in partnership with Newhaven Youth for Christ to engage young people with this event

### PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnerships include: ESCC Targeted Youth Support; Sussex Clubs for Young People; Creative Force; Sussex Police; Seahaven Academy; Seaford Head School; Peacehaven Community School; East Sussex Community Voice; and many more
- SCDA Youth team have been working to establish a Seahaven Youth Partnership (SYP) to increase partnership working and improve youth provision across the Seahaven area. 6 interested stakeholders. Development of SYP in 2022 will utilise partnership with Sussex Clubs for Young People

## Family Inclusion

### Family Inclusion aims to:

- Actively engage with parents through a vibrant Families Forum
- Ensure parents and carers have opportunities to access high quality family learning and wider support activities
- Develop access to family activities to meet local community need through SCDA hubs
- Develop partnerships to enable access to additional support

### WE DELIVER

- Denton Island Community Centre as a community asset for parents and families, partner services and a resource base for support, advice and activities
- High quality delivery of support, learning and activities
- 76 place nursery open 50 weeks a year

### OUR IMPACT:

- 40 Children attended HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) project in Newhaven and Peacehaven
- 38 Family Learning courses delivered. 100% of attendees report learning something new as a result of attending the sessions. 128 families attended
- Children in Need Project running in partnership with local forest school, promoting outside learning and engagement with nature activities
- This Girl Can project takes place weekly
- Weekend Plant and Play sessions well attended
- Peer support Group for parents and carers of children with additional needs
- 4 active volunteers through Newhaven Families Forum
- 21 members in a stable staff team help us to provide consistency for children and families
- 110 children registered in Denton Island Nursery
- Nursery rated Good by Ofsted inspection 2019. Quality maintained through management plan
- Large outdoor area to support physical play and risk taking
- Sensory Room to explore enhanced sensory play
- New under 3's garden created for children
- Nursery parent partnership: parents supported in child's learning, regular communication and home learning leaflets
- Promoting healthy snacks and lunch box ideas with parents to encourage them to offer healthy food choices to their children
- Promoting good oral care to our children and encouraging dental check-ups
- Regular assessments to address speech and language delays and early support
- Supporting 3 staff to gain level 3 Early educator





# Community Hubs

**Community Hubs aims to:**

- Promote community action and assets through local projects and volunteering
- Developing community hubs as community resources
- Establish partnerships to meet community needs
- Identify local needs and gaps in local services

**WE DELIVER**

- Community-rooted hubs as a focus for community activity
- Community events to support community pride and cohesion
- Understanding of community needs as the focus for activities
- Support for volunteering and building on community strengths to build sustainability



**They have helped me so much, I suffer with anxiety really badly and attending a craft group at Hailsham Community Hub this has made me feel so much happier**



**OUR IMPACT:**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EASTBOURNE**

- Joint Working Agreement with the Trees Community Association to provide staffing and community development for the Willingdon Trees Community Centre until April 2024. Second year of £156,000 funding awarded by the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, allows for additional staffing, including sessional workers for adult literacy and youth voice projects
- 1,300 visits per month and occupancy rate for regular bookings of 39%
- Community activities and courses have high numbers attending with 100% reporting improved wellbeing as a result of accessing services
- 'Spring and Hop' community event during Easter school holidays, attracted over 300 people, incorporating community litter pick with involvement from Eastbourne Borough Council, Neighbourhood First and Policing teams and young people from our Trees Youth Voice group

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWHAVEN**

- 2,135 visitors to Denton Island Community Centre
- Community coat rack established, 4 coats a week being donated and reused
- Christmas Extravaganza held in the town centre, 400 in attendance
- Newhaven Fish Festival attended by over 2,000 people
- Book swap created for community and staff/volunteer use
- Community gardens designed and developed in conjunction with local people. Art panels added designed and created by young people
- Midwife appointments continue 3 days a week seeing approx. 71 pregnant mothers a month. Young people's midwife service started on 1 day a week
- Community gardening club co-designed by local people

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BEXHILL**

- Links made with local groups and services to identify gaps in provision.
- Funding opportunities identified

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HAILSHAM**

- Allotment group continues to run weekly, 12 group members. 100% of those that have attended report to have improved wellbeing
- Community Kitchen operates twice weekly and the fridge 5 days per week, 243 people reached over four month period
- Kitchen Garden project based at Hailsham East launched in April 2022 in partnership with Crafty Annies C.I.C.

- Food waste project hosted by East Sussex College and Street Learning
- Join Together supports 28 phone calls per week, by supported volunteers. Peer support groups focusing on reducing social isolation. 89% of people that attend report that they feel more connected with their community directly as a result of attending the hub
- School uniform swap shop - introduced Warm Coats and outdoor weather gear
- HAF programmes offered to 20 children
- Craft workshops to promote peer support and combat loneliness and social isolation. 96% of people report improved wellbeing



**Attending the community allotment every week has made such a difference to my life. I've made new friends, learnt new skills, get some exercise and eating healthier. Everyone's support brightens my life**





## Community Inclusion

### Community Inclusion aims to:

- Build community engagement and community links
- Increase confidence to access the help participants need
- Support access by local people from diverse ethnic backgrounds through Sompriti
- Support people who are victims of crime

### WE DELIVER

- Community development workers with the ability to build community trust
- Community confidence to ensure word of mouth referrals
- Support to access a range of services and ensure holistic support
- Community events and activities in Lewes and Wealden Districts
- Community engagement in rural areas of East Sussex
- Partnership work with specialist providers such as The Rita Project and a stakeholder network throughout East Sussex
- Increased awareness of domestic and sexual abuse, creating space and support for recovery



**Thank you very much for the lesson, it was very interesting and helpful. We really enjoyed the reading, and getting to do a bit of everything, writing and speaking too**

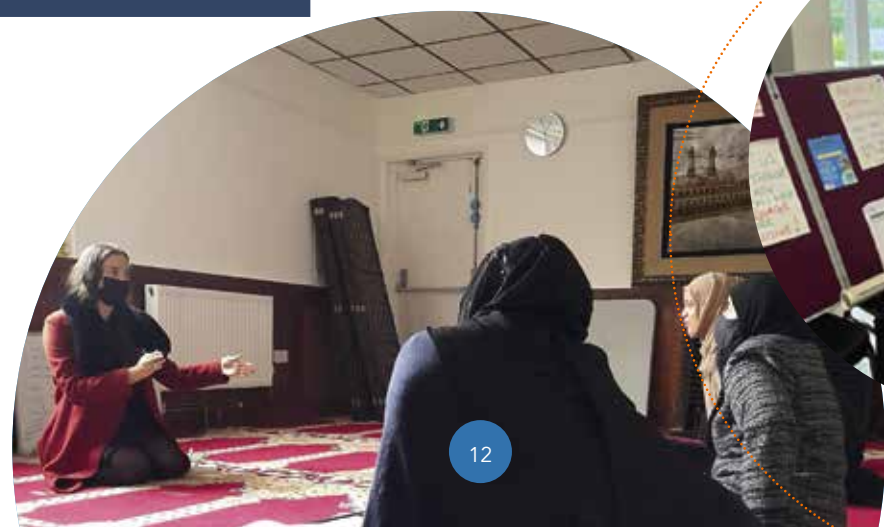


### OUR IMPACT:

- Sompriti team participated in 8 in-person community events over the year
- Weekly attendance at Peacehaven Community Supermarket to build relationships and trust with the community
- 32 individuals supported by Sompriti through community navigation and engagement
- Worked with Peacehaven Mosque and Peace Centre to set up English lessons
- 3 volunteer English teachers recruited and 16 lessons conducted to date with 10 regular attendees
- Funding secured to develop our 'Language and Links' programme
- Building and maintaining social media following, reaching an audience of over 800
- Funding received for partnership project between Sompriti, the Community Advice team and the Wellbeing team to ensure support for individuals affected by domestic abuse who are from black, Asian and minoritised ethnic backgrounds
- 17 referrals for support through this partnership project, where individuals receive community navigation to access specialist support and reduce social isolation
- 4 referrals to our Wellbeing service for therapeutic support
- Working with specialist providers in East Sussex to ensure those affected by domestic abuse from diverse backgrounds are responded to appropriately
- Training on domestic abuse delivered to Community Supermarket volunteers, to enable them to identify and respond to disclosures



**I am very grateful for the immense support I have been given by you**



12



## Environment and Climate Change

### Environment and Climate Change aims to:

- Strengthen community resilience to climate change
- Animate actions through behaviour changes
- Develop modal shift to cycling and walking
- Develop opportunities and skills in growing food locally

### WE DELIVER

- The development of an active travel hub in Newhaven to support residents to make journey on foot and by bike, including provision for people with disabilities
- Our 'Recycle' bike workshop, a social enterprise that develops employability skills and provides low-cost bikes to the community
- Ouse Valley climate action project in partnership with South Downs National Park
- Community gardens and allotments in Newhaven, Eastbourne and Hailsham

### OUR IMPACT:

#### ACTIVE TRAVEL HUB

- Funding from South Downs National Park Authority used for purchase of cycles including the Trishaw, which has been used at several events including Newhaven Fish Festival and Christmas Extravaganza
- Working with the partners group in Seaford to establish a Cycling without Age chapter in Newhaven
- Planning with Newhaven Green Centre about the delivery of skills workshops from the Active Travel Hub

#### GSA RECYCLE

- This project engages with the community to reduce emissions and vehicle use through the provision of bikes, spares and skills to keep people cycling around East Sussex and beyond
- The production of new vehicles is reduced through the reuse of existing bikes and spares and the recycling of components beyond use
- Communities are actively engaged in culture change through engagement with existing cycle groups, services and infrastructure

- The Re-Cycle model of repairing and restoring existing bikes is promoted to get people cycling with access for all
- Barriers to engagement around poverty, gender and disability are removed by offering support and actively promoting cycling to those groups who may feel excluded

#### OUSE VALLEY CARES

- Engaged 156 stakeholder groups and provided support to develop activities
- Delivered 14 'design & testing' activities e.g. training, climate cafes, youth engagement, forest school audit, energy webinars
- Supported 13 public events e.g. Eco fairs, seed swap
- Project staff interviewed on radio & FB Live
- Joined COP26 events
- Spoken to over 3,500 people about the project
- Obtained motions of support from 15 parish councils
- Submitted final project bid to National Lottery

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

- Denton Island Gardening Club maintained and developed the new garden area. Attendees sharing skills and knowledge with those that attend, members reporting improved wellbeing
- Willingdon Trees Gardeners extended club hours to provide drop-in sessions every weekday. Over the year, 10 volunteers were involved in maintaining their patches and the shared areas
- Hailsham Seeds and Weeds Allotment group continues to thrive with members becoming a constituted group. 100% of those that have attended report to feel a better connection with their community.



13



## Employability

### Employability aims to:

- Secure funding to maintain support into employment for people disadvantaged in the labour market
- Build partnerships to address the barriers to employment and secure funding through quality assured and innovative delivery
- Support employers to recruit and retain staff in a diverse labour market
- Address people's physical health and mental wellbeing by supporting them into employment, training, volunteering and education

### WE DELIVER

- Sustained employment (including self employment) for anyone over the age of 18 through 1 to 1, virtual and group work, supporting families, adults and the local community
- Meaningful voluntary work, work trials and work placements enabling participants to gain confidence and new skills
- Support to access training and education improving the skills in the local work force to meet employers' needs online, face to face and in group activities

### WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME (WHP)

- Delivered in partnership with Shaw Trust supporting people with health issues and disabilities to access sustained employment. A DWP funded project, extended to October 2024 (with a 15 month roll on)
- WHP team is the best performing supply chain partner across the two Shaw Trust CPAs (Contract Provision Areas) contract to date

### LET'S GET WORKING (LGW)

LGW is a National Lottery Community Fund and ESF funded project. This action research social prescribing project will finish in March 2023 and will have supported over 1,600 people with long term conditions and disabilities to get into work, training, volunteering and community engagement:

- Working across East Sussex and Kent with our partners Social Enterprise Kent (SEK) and Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI)

### ASPIRATIONS

Aspirations is a National Lottery Community Fund and ESF funded project. Aspirations is a specialist mental health project delivering 1 to 1 support for people not accessing mainstream mental health services to overcome barriers to work, training and volunteering, and works across East Sussex. This project will cease delivery in March 2023

### GET SOCIALLY ACTIVE

Get Socially Active (GSA) is a National Lottery Community Fund and ESF funded project. GSA supports people to find sustainable employment and access training, volunteering and education in the Lewes District area. This project will finish delivery in March 2023

- Recycle is our bicycle workshop, refurbishing donated bikes for sale in our local charity shops or on line
- We support development of cooking skills as a stepping stone to volunteering, training and employment



### WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOU

Partnering with Aspire, this project is a National Lottery Community Fund and ESF funded project supporting participants with significant barriers into work, training and volunteering across Lewes District. This project will cease delivery in March 2023

### LIVE, WORK, THRIVE

Funded through CHART, Live, Work, Thrive is a partnership with the Fellowship of St Nicholas, Education Futures Trust, Hasting Borough Council and Rother District Council, started in the summer of 2020 with referrals from Rother Housing Team or other housing providers to support participants with housing issues and entrenched barriers into work. This project will cease delivery in December 2022

### ESTAR (EMPLOYABILITY FOR SUPPORTED AND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION AND REFUGES) EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL PROJECTS, MOVING ON UP & GROW YOUR FUTURE

#### Moving on Up

This project supports people in temporary and insecure housing into apprenticeships or employment with training, and to gain independent rental accommodation. Partners include the East Sussex College Group, SCTP (Sussex Council of Training Providers) and ourselves. Finishing initially in March 2022 this project has been extended to March 2023

#### Grow Your Future

This project is aimed at people far from the labour market who want to gain experience working in an outdoor environment. Partners include Plumpton College and Ideverde (local horticultural employer). This project has been extended to March 2023

### MINDING THE GAPS

A UK Community Renewal Fund (UK CRF) Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) funded project, one of 5 UK CRF projects running across East Sussex and managed on behalf of DLUHC by East Sussex County Council. This project aims to support 450 people to gain a qualification or 'ticket to operate' and/or support to become closer to the job market in a 9 month period. This is a research project which initially aimed to inform the UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund). Minding the Gaps is a partnership with the East Sussex College Group, 3VA, HARC with SCDA as the Lead partner

### OUR IMPACT:

- 2,607 participants supported across all projects
- Wide range of online activities continue ranging from counselling, confidence building, stress management, finding work online, driving theory, customer service, photography and the arts to support participants to feel less isolated, build online relationships, gain work, access training and volunteering
- Less than a 5% drop out across all our projects
- Transformational blended approach to dealing with stress, anxiety or low confidence
- 100% of Employability participants have access to debt and benefit advice
- 100% of participants referred have a health or physical disability
- Client forums continued online to ensure participant engagement
- Over 78 IT Tablets given to participants to reduce digital exclusion
- 17 volunteers supported delivery through Recycle and LGW Community Messengers
- Quality assurance and high performance: passed to a high standard all external audits across Employability programmes
- Research continues into the impact of social prescribing supporting health referrals into employability support
- 6 Occupational Therapy university placements successfully placed across Employability teams

### WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME (WHP)

- 726 participants supported
- 375 new participants joined the programme
- 214 jobs starts in last 12 months
- 34% of new participants declared mental health as their primary health condition
- 41% of new participants declared physical health as their primary health condition

### LET'S GET WORKING (LGW)

- 1,554 participants supported across East Sussex and Kent
- 60% of participants record improved levels of confidence
- 75% of participants record improved levels of independence
- 75% of participants record improved assessment scores in relation to their wellbeing
- 50% of participants report reduced need for medicalised intervention and/or greater ability to manage their own condition
- 50% participants report they have increased interaction with one or more local community activities or organisations
- 50% of participants report increased incidence of social contact

### ASPIRATIONS

- 61 new participants supported
- 90 active participants in total
- 11 started work
- 3 moved into training or education
- 13 training/wellbeing activities funded
- 11 supported with access to counselling or other wellbeing therapies
- 3 supported with access to sports or fitness activities
- 985 meaningful engagements
  - 847 phone engagements
  - 100 zoom sessions
  - 38 face to face meetings for participants most in need



**all I know is the more I tried to find work and couldn't, the more disillusioned I felt. I am just so grateful that I was referred by my doctor as I now have full time employment. Thank you**



### GET SOCIALLY ACTIVE

- 38 new participants
- 374 sessions delivered in the bike workshop
- 110 refurbished bikes have been sold back to people in the local community
- 78 donated bikes from the local community
- Opened the kitchen workshop in September 2021
- Delivered 140 kitchen workshop sessions
- 75 bikes donated from Govia

### WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOU

- 12 new participants supported
- 26 active participants in total
- 1 started work
- 2 participants accessed training or education
- 287 meaningful engagements

### LIVE, WORK, THRIVE

- 36 participants supported from the target group

### ESTAR - MOVING ON UP & GROW YOUR FUTURE

- 46 participants enrolled
- 12 job starts (26%)
- 2 participants helped to secure accommodation

### MINDING THE GAPS

- 91 participants supported since January 2022
- 76 participants gained a qualification/participated in education





## Community Advice

### £5,533,533 ANNUALISED INCOME GAINS FOR EAST SUSSEX RESIDENTS

#### SCDA Community Advice aims to:

- Work in partnership with specialist advice providers to coordinate securing funding and maintain delivery to meet changing needs
- Provide holistic, joined up service delivery for all clients
- Ensure access to free, quality assured, confidential, impartial advice
- Ensure advice provision holistically addresses the wider social determinants of health and well being

#### EAST SUSSEX WELFARE BENEFITS PROJECT AND ADDITIONAL MEASURES ADVICE SUPPORT

##### OUR IMPACT:

- £5,575,041 annualised income gains for Sussex residents
- 9,838 people received specialist welfare benefits support
- 16,471 household members have benefitted from specialist welfare benefits advice:
  - 1,752 families with children
  - 2,406 older people
  - 6,684 people with long term health conditions
- 9,099 people contacted the telephone and e mail Helpline:
  - 14,137 different benefit enquiries dealt with
  - 66% of callers live within the most deprived wards
- 1,633 people received casework support:
  - 71% of casework clients live in the most deprived wards

#### WE DELIVER

- Free, quality assured, confidential and impartial specialist advice through quality assured partners addressing the wider determinants of health and wellbeing and the practical needs of local residents
- Specialist welfare benefits advice in partnership with:
  - Eastbourne Citizens Advice Bureau • Eastbourne Age Concern • Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC)
- Collaboration to meet specialist advice needs post Covid with: Age UK East Sussex; Amaze; Brighton Housing Trust; CAB 1066; Eastbourne CAB; Eastbourne Age Concern; Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC); Lewes District CAB; Possability People; Rother CAB; Wealden CAB
- Quarterly summary report on community advice needs and insights
- Havens Information and Advice Hub: Accessible, cost effective information and advice through Navigators and volunteers
- Hosting specialist advice provision: Brighton Housing Trust; East Sussex Credit Union; Hastings Advice and Representation Centre; Lewes District CAB; Money Advice Plus; Stop Loan Sharks

- Reducing health inequalities which are driven by financial crisis or poverty:
  - PIP and Universal Credit are the most common benefits issues
  - 76% of callers to the Helpline had long term health conditions
  - 93% of casework clients have long term health conditions
  - Depression and mobility issues are the most common long term health conditions
- 80% of clients surveyed reported improved mental wellbeing as a result of advice
- For every £1 invested in this specialist welfare benefits service we generate £29 of financial gains for clients
- Addressing socially determined health and social care issues:
  - 1,352 direct referrals and enquiries through health and social care
- Coordination of regular updates on the economic impacts of Covid, cost of living crisis and the triggers to greater needs for additional specialist advice provision identifying issues, gaps in services and the needs of local residents.

#### HAVENS INFORMATION AND ADVICE HUB

##### OUR IMPACT:

- Hub telephone service through pandemic and move to face to face appointments
- Twice weekly Community Navigation drop-in service at the Community Supermarkets in Newhaven and Peacehaven
- 260 referrals
- Feedback from clients showed:
  - 71.1% of clients reported low wellbeing *before* intervention
  - 28.9% of clients reported moderate wellbeing *before* intervention
  - 16.7% of clients reported low wellbeing *after* intervention
  - 83.3% of clients reported moderate wellbeing *after* intervention
- Distributed £260,000 in food, essential items and utility vouchers through the Household Support Fund to 812 households (total 1,113 adults and 683 children) on behalf of SCDA, BHT, HARC, Southdown Housing, Amaze and Possability People.

- 43 volunteers received training on information, advice and signposting
- 34 new volunteers
- 185 recorded conversations between clients and volunteers
- Wellbeing Volunteer made weekly phone calls to 61 clients over the year, totalling 153 phone calls
- Signposting/referrals made as appropriate about: children/family, housing, physical health, finances, mental health, employment, caring, benefits, finances, bereavement, food, energy and utilities, domestic abuse, transport, digital exclusion, debt, social isolation, addiction and crime
- Social media engagement reaching 3,000 people each month
- 131 clients received support from CAB Generalist Advisor
- 405 contacts made by CAB Advisor, addressing 534 issues
- Supported local residents to realise £18,492 annualised income gains





## Food Security

### Food Security aims to:

- Provide an emergency food response in Newhaven and Peacehaven
- Promote healthy affordable food choices across all age groups
- Establish a sustainable Lewes District Food Partnership
- Create East Sussex and Brighton and Hove links for those issues which cannot be addressed locally

### WE DELIVER

- Emergency food provision across the Newhaven & Peacehaven area
- Two community supermarkets, which provide food on a pay-as-you-feel basis
- Coordination of over fifty volunteers
- Signposting to other SCDA services, including strong links with the community advice team
- Coordination of Denton Island Community Kitchen
- Free and affordable cookery courses
- Coordination of Lewes District Food Partnership
- Development of Social Eating Spaces

### OUR IMPACT:

#### EMERGENCY FOOD PARCELS

- Food parcels received by 254 unique households
- A total of 325 adults and 212 children received support
- 2,250 food parcels distributed
- Average of 6 deliveries per client
- Steep decline in deliveries through the year due to reopening of services

#### COMMUNITY SUPERMARKETS

- 243 members joined Newhaven Community Supermarket and attended a total of 1,944 times
- 238 members joined Peacehaven Community Supermarket and attended a total of 1,817 times
- Specialist induction and training delivered to dedicated volunteer team
- 'Pay as you feel' ethos
- Project aims to reduce stigma and provide dignity and autonomy for members
- Service evaluated in partnership with Kingston University
- Development of social eating space within service

#### DENTON ISLAND COMMUNITY KITCHEN

- Team of fourteen cookery volunteers including three volunteer cookery leaders
- Dedicated chef / community kitchen development worker
- Retained five star hygiene rating
- 250 portions of food cooked and frozen each week
- Salad boxes and baked goods produced for community supermarkets
- Emphasis on using surplus food and reducing waste
- Free plant based cookery courses offered

### OTHER COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS

- Denton Island Community Fridge redistributes surplus food
- Volunteer-led initiative 'Friends of Food Bank' continues to support through donation drives and fundraising
- Over 200 Christmas presents and dinners distributed with support from Newhaven and Peacehaven Town Councils and Much Ado Books

#### LEWES DISTRICT FOOD PARTNERSHIP

- Sustainable Food Places membership achieved on first attempt
- Funding secured until October 2023, with work plan agreed by steering group
- Monthly steering group meetings, which includes twenty stakeholders
- Development of working groups to focus on priority areas including school food, community growing and moving beyond foodbanks
- Monthly Emergency Food Network meetings, including statement on the Cost Of Living Crisis
- Logo and brand identity developed
- Working towards cross-county approach with Wealden, Eastbourne and Hastings and Rother
- Delivered £20k in small grants to community groups across the district who are tackling food poverty

“Amazing - This is a lifeline. Every volunteer is so, so friendly and welcoming. I am made to feel comfortable. The freezer foods are amazing. The salads and pasta are amazing”



18

## Social Enterprise

### SCDA Social Enterprise aims to:

- Maintain the viability of existing SCDA social enterprises
- Identify and realise opportunities for SCDA to extend and initiate new social enterprises
- Identify and realise opportunities for SCDA to extend existing social enterprises
- Realisation of social enterprise incubator including building conversion
- Realise the SELEP Social Enterprise Working Group Prospectus

### WE DELIVER

- Sustaining SCDA social enterprises
- Chairing the SELEP Social Enterprise Working Group
- Securing funding and development of initial business planning for Social Enterprise Incubator in Newhaven



The nursery has been a wonderful place for my child



### OUR IMPACT:

#### DENTON ISLAND NURSERY

- 110 children registered
- Rated Good by Ofsted inspection 2019
- 32 children supported in transition to school in September 2021
- Supporting 4 children with English as a second language
- Supported 9 children with high functioning additional needs

#### AFFORDABLE COUNSELLING

- 18 quality assured volunteer counsellors
- 198 referrals received and 78 assessed for individuals aged 16 to 90
- 64 went on to receive support

#### RECYCLE

- 38 new participants
- 374 sessions delivered in the bike workshop
- 110 refurbished bikes have been sold back to people in the local community
- 78 donated bikes from the local community

### SHOPS

- 24 Volunteer staff, covering a variety of retail roles
- 12,375 volunteer hours donated over the past year
- Thousands of items of household goods and clothing recycled by being sold in our shops, helping our local communities to access good quality items at affordable prices

### SOCIAL ENTERPRISE COLLABORATION

- Update of South East Local Government Partnership (SELEP) Social Enterprise Prospectus
- Quarterly meetings of SELEP social enterprise working group
- Collaboration to promote social enterprise

### NEWHAVEN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE INCUBATOR

- Funding agree by Town Deal
- Business plan in progress



I was so worried about my child starting nursery, but I didn't need to worry, the staff supported myself and my child to make this step and it's been the best thing for us both



19





#### SCDA Board members:

John Cornish  
Helen Macaulay  
Maria Aguilar  
Sean Williams  
John Bell  
Ioni Sullivan  
Dan Osborn  
Anneke Langford  
Andrew Shields

#### SCDA Patrons:

David P Allam DL  
Hugh T Burnett OBE, DL  
Caroline Mayhew  
Robin Furber (retired Sept 2022)  
Andrew Gibbs (retired Sept 2022)  
Sir Peter Field  
Lady Margaret Field  
Violet Hancock DL  
Derek Stevens DL

#### Sussex Community Development Association Ltd

Denton Island Community Centre  
Denton Island  
Newhaven  
BN9 9BA  
Tel: 01273 517250  
Website: [www.sussexcommunity.org.uk](http://www.sussexcommunity.org.uk)

#### SCDA Member groups:

1218 (Newhaven) SQN Air Training Corps  
Access in Seaford & Newhaven  
Bambino Beatz  
Boomerang Klub  
Breakwater Academy PTFA  
Castle Hill Group  
Churches Together in Newhaven  
Community Spirit  
Community Transport Lewes Area  
Denton & Newhaven guides  
Denton & South Heighton Junior Football Club  
Eastbourne Blind Society  
East Sussex Recovery Alliance  
Force Basketball  
Friends of Sompriti  
Friends of West Quay  
Furniture Now!  
Growing Together Community Garden

Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC)  
Haven Harmonies  
Hillcrest Amateur Boxing Club  
Hillcrest Community Partnership  
Home Start South Downs  
House Project  
Ignite Theatre  
Lewes District Churches HOMELINK  
Lewes & Seaford CAB  
Meeching Amateur Dramatics  
Meeching WI  
Meridian Mature Citizens' Forum  
Munchkins Parent & Toddler Group  
National Coastwatch Institution  
Newhaven & District Lifeboat Society  
Newhaven & District Mencap  
Newhaven & District Model Railway Club  
Newhaven Families Forum  
Newhaven & Seaford cadet Unit 442  
Newhaven & Seaford Sailing Club  
Newhaven Baptist Church  
Newhaven Chamber of Commerce  
Newhaven Cricket Club Senior Section  
Newhaven Cricket Club Youth section  
Newhaven Football Club  
Newhaven Historical Society  
Newhaven in Bloom  
Newhaven Karate Club  
Newhaven Tennis Club  
Newhaven Twinning Association  
Newhaven Yacht Club  
Newhaven Young People's Forum (NYPF)  
Newhaven, Peacehaven & Seaford Lions Club  
NIPPERS  
Noah's Ark Nursery School  
Nomads

Old Town Community Association  
Old Town Community Library  
Our Newhaven  
Ouse Valley Cycle Network  
Rotary Club of Newhaven  
Seahaven Academy Governing Body  
Seahaven Bird Rescue  
Seahaven Harriers Fundraising Committee  
South Coast Bounty Hunters' Fishing Club  
St Leonard's Church, Denton  
Start Art & Smart Art  
Supporters of Southdown PTA  
Tenants of Lewes District (TOLD)  
University of the Third Age (U3A)  
Wave Leisure Trust  
West Quay Residents Association