

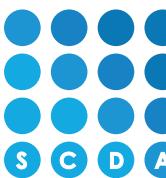
2024-2025



Health & Wellbeing | Vibrant Communities | Money, Housing & Jobs

Supporting people and communities to thrive

Sussex Community Development Association
Annual Report 2024-2025

 Sussex
Community
Development
Association
S C D A

sussexcommunity.org.uk



Supporting people and communities to thrive by delivering a wide range of services, projects and activities which improve health and wellbeing, increase financial resilience and opportunity and support community integration, connection and assets.

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

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Denton Island Community Centre
Denton Island
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Chair's Report

SCDA is committed to supporting people and communities in Sussex to thrive. Our 28th AGM will take place on 10th December 2025. This annual report sets out the broad range of SCDA activities and services in 2024 to 2025, showcasing their impact, commitment to partnership working and quality, and the responsiveness to community needs in times of continuing economic hardship.

SCDA: Supporting people and communities to thrive

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

- 281 volunteers
- 75 member groups
- 73 full and part time staff

The SCDA Board has considered the critical challenges of our communities and our revised Vision for 2025-2028 gives the focus to deliver a wide range of services, projects and activities which improve health and wellbeing, increase financial resilience and opportunity and support community integration, connection and assets.

Our values are at the heart of SCDA activities and projects:

Driven by community needs

SCDA listens: identifying needs, delivering real change for local people.

- 80,036 people benefitted from SCDA services and activities in 2024/25
- SCDA annual Community Impact Survey 2025 tells us:

- 87% agreed SCDA identifies and responds to community needs
- 89% feel SCDA contributes to building stronger, healthier and inclusive communities

Person centred

SCDA appreciates people's needs have to be addressed in the round as we face multiple, inter-related issues. We also understand that there are many strengths in local communities:

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

Inclusive

SCDA is committed to enabling community cohesion, community connections and inclusion in access to services, employment, volunteering and governance:

- Addressing barriers to access
- Providing targeted activities for under-served communities
- Building a skilled and compassionate workforce

High quality

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

SCDA develops and adapts services through learning what is needed and what works.

- Quality kitemarks: Information Advice and Guidance Matrix, Ofsted and British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
- Lived experience: working with people who access SCDA services to ensure their insights are heard and contribute to shaping services

Working in Partnership

SCDA works in partnership with other voluntary and community organisations, the statutory sector and local private businesses. We are an active member of the East Sussex VCSE Alliance, committed to the shared principles of generous leadership and collaboration to get the best for our communities.

- Working together helps us all achieve more and ensure reach, value for money, added value and avoids duplication of services.

The SCDA Board, our funders, staff and volunteers are committed to continuing to address the challenges facing local people and together, supporting our communities to thrive now and in the future.



Edward Wagstaff
Chair
Sussex Community Development Association

Treasurer's Report

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

Income:

Total income for the year to 31 March 2025 was £4,863,006, a decrease of 3.8% on the previous year.

Unrestricted income from Charitable activities increased by 5% to £2,443,958, while Restricted income decreased by 13% to £2,245,917.

Contracted services accounted for 41% of total income (2023/24 39%), while Grants and Social Enterprise contributed 46% and 9% respectively (2023/24 51% and 6%).

Donation income, the majority of which is unrestricted and which includes income from our charity shops, increased by 9%. However, at £142k, donation income represents only 4% of the total income.

Expenditure:

Total Expenditure decreased by 6% to £4,861,042 representing almost 100% of total income (2023/24: 94%). SCDA works hard to keep its indirect costs as low as possible. Support and governance costs for the year amounted to 9% of total income.

Reserves:

At 31 March 2025, SCDA's total reserves were £2,310,313, a decrease of 7% on

the previous year end. This total includes unrestricted reserves of £1,407,779 which is a 21% increase although over a third of that increase is associated with a revaluation of the Community Centre.

The Trustees monitor closely the sustainability of the charity's operations and are committed to increasing the level of free reserves, which are those unrestricted reserves that are not tied up in operational fixed assets.

The Trustees have set a target minimum level of reserves of £650k which represents just over 3 months unrestricted expenditure cover. This allows on-going support to SCDA services in response to need, even

when available funding is insufficient. At 31 March 2025 free reserves totalled £800,284, achieving 123% of the target. 50% of the reserves exceeding the target have been designated to existing projects.

For more detail on SCDA's financial position, including a full list of grant funders, SCDA's Trustee Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 are available on our website or through Companies House and the Charities Commission.



Daniel Stewart-Roberts
Treasurer

Championing volunteering

In 2024/25, a total of 132 people volunteered with SCDA, including a range of roles:

- Community Food volunteers in Newhaven, Peacehaven and Lewes
- Volunteer counsellors with Sussex Community Counselling
- Helping at our charity shops in Newhaven and Lewes
- Newhaven Families Forum volunteers
- Gardening at Denton Island Community Centre
- Helping with reading to the children at Denton Island Nursery

Volunteers are at the heart of SCDA, playing vital roles across all service areas to help us create stronger, more resilient communities. From managing stock in our two charity shops, to leading cookery sessions and serving in our community supermarkets, their contributions are invaluable. Volunteers also support our educational initiatives, delivering free community English lessons, and contribute to the smooth running of our community centres by assisting with events and daily operations.

SCDA celebrates our wonderful volunteer contribution during Volunteer Week in June.

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER SURVEY

The results of SCDA's annual volunteer survey demonstrate continuing high levels of satisfaction and sense of community among SCDA volunteers. SCDA is committed to providing supportive and fulfilling volunteering opportunities. We will continue to gather feedback as a way of improving the volunteering experience. Volunteers highlighted the positive community connections they experience with their fellow volunteers and SCDA staff. Many expressed feeling that volunteering gives them a sense of purpose and they greatly benefit from the experience.

- **84% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they are satisfied in their volunteering role**
- **81% agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the process of becoming a volunteer**
- **97% of volunteers report that they benefit from volunteering with SCDA**



The volunteer social gatherings are a great place to meet others with roles in SCDA as volunteers at local level.



SCDA volunteers say they volunteer because:

- **80% to give back to the community**
- **74% feel that they're making a difference**
- **61% because they believe in SCDA and the organisation's values**
- **42% to meet new people**

81% of respondents would recommend volunteering with SCDA to a friend



Having positive feedback from both customers of the community supermarket and colleague volunteers is very rewarding and gives me a sense of purpose.



I feel valued - I am genuinely participating in a worthwhile activity.



Working in partnership

Employability project partners include People Matter, Refugee Employment Project, Sussex Council of Training Providers, East Sussex County Council, Job Centre Plus, Department of Work and Pensions, East Sussex College Group Papworth Trust, Realise Futures and Shaw Trust – and put job seekers at the heart of our working together

Our Denton Island Nursery team works closely with local parents, carers and nursery partners to get the best start for children under 5

Seahaven Community Food works closely with a wide range of partners — including the town, district and county councils, Ovesco Energy, One You, Early Help, the local Baby Bank, the Hygiene Bank national charity, the NHS and many others — to provide our members with comprehensive wraparound support. Through these partnerships, we aim not only to help people through times of crisis but also to empower them to move beyond financial hardship towards greater stability and wellbeing

LDCAN provides infrastructure support to hundreds of VCSE groups across Lewes District. It works in partnership by connecting local VCSE organisations, statutory bodies, and community stakeholders to share resources, expertise, and opportunities, helping communities to thrive

Collaboration is key to expanding environmental and climate change efforts at a grassroots level. Strong partnerships between the South Downs National Park, OVCA partnership and community gardening groups help share knowledge and funding, creating unique opportunities that benefit local communities' wellbeing and empowerment

Denton Island Community Centre hosts a variety of providers who deliver essential services to meet community needs, including midwifery services, Seahaven Community Food, i-Rock youth counselling, English lessons, a uniform bank, breastfeeding support group, and Jitterbugs toddler group

SCDA Young People's team is part of the Newhaven Youth Partnership; a collaborative initiative bringing together a range of stakeholders - local authorities, community groups, charities, health services, police and the private sector to coordinate, improve, and sustain the range and quality of services for young people. Key partners include Youth Police Team, Newhaven Town Council, St Michael's Youth Group, Cultureshift, Voices from the Edges, Havens Young Creatives and ESCC Children's Services and Family Hubs

MoveAbility collaborates with the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, the South Downs National Park and Wheels4All, and are a key stakeholder in the Active Travel Hub at Peacehaven Big Park, supporting people with long term conditions and disabilities to work, wheel and cycle

Working in close partnership with East Sussex Public Health, our team delivers the Tackling Loneliness Programme. Our stewardship approach requires SCDA to act as convenor for partners, such as community infrastructure organisations, grassroots groups, statutory partners and the private sector

The Family Inclusion team collaborate with partners, families, parents and carers to deliver a wide range of courses for families, including forest school, cooking classes, and cycling sessions

SCDA coordinates the Welfare Benefits Helpline, delivered in partnership with Age Concern Eastbourne, Hastings Advice and Representation Centre and Eastbourne Citizen's Advice

SCDA is an active member of East Sussex VCSE alliance with a shared commitment to generous leadership. We are also key members of the Multi Agency Financial Inclusion Steering Group. This group, made up of specialist partners, is responsible for the delivery of the strategy and action plan for financial health and inclusion

Wellbeing delivers specialist suicide prevention and support services in partnership with Counselling Plus Counselling and maintains strong relationships with mental health practitioners and services, such as the Assessment & Triage Service, NHS Talking Therapies, GPs and hospitals across East Sussex, to ensure joined up and straightforward referral pathways for clients

Wellbeing

Providing accessible therapeutic support

Wellbeing aims to:

- Deliver counselling through Sussex Community Counselling
- Develop therapeutic support services
- Deliver suicide prevention and recovery
- Support mental wellbeing of young people

WE DELIVERED

- Quality assured British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) accredited Sussex Community Counselling
- Access to affordable counselling for those living in Newhaven, 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
- 8 week psychoeducation group to 9 clients who lost a child
- Counselling for people who have been affected by domestic abuse and sexual assault
- Partnership delivery with Counselling Plus Community in Hastings and Rother

SUSSEX COMMUNITY COUNSELLING

Low-Cost/Affordable Service

- 16 volunteer counsellors (including placement students and self-employed, qualified counsellors working in other services)
- 136 referrals received, 103 clients assessed (aged 16 to 90)
- 56 clients received counselling
- 427 sessions completed

Counselling for clients affected by domestic abuse and sexual assault

- 6 self-employed, qualified counsellors
- Referrals received through partner services
- 15 clients received 1-1 counselling
- 119 sessions

YOUTH COUNSELLING

- 4 self-employed, qualified counsellors
- 24 referrals received and 19 assessments completed
- 17 young people received 1-1 counselling
- 145 sessions completed

SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE (SSOS)

- 12 self-employed, qualified counsellors (working across both SSOS & BSO)
- 71 referrals and 49 assessments completed
- 39 received 1-1 counselling
- 205 sessions completed



BEREAVED BY SUICIDE OUTREACH (BSO)

- 53 referrals received
- 40 assessments completed
- 35 clients received 1-1 counselling
- 9 bereaved by suicide parents completed 8 weeks group sessions
- 189 sessions completed

Summary of Client Feedback

All services

- 100% rated their overall counselling experience as "Good" or "Very Good"
- 100% felt their counsellor listened and understood them
- 97.6% reported improved wellbeing
- 92.8% said they were better able to cope with their difficulties
- 76.2% felt counselling changed their life
- 100% would recommend the service to others
- 100% felt safe during sessions
- 100% felt respected regardless of background or identity



My counsellor really listened. He promoted discussion, which encouraged me to think more deeply and furthered the healing process. I developed more confidence to speak out.



Environment & Climate Change

Grassroots community action on climate change

Environment and Climate Change aims to:

- Strengthen community resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Develop active travel and modal shift through cycling and walking
- Promote opportunities, knowledge and skills in growing food locally
- Support sustainability in local community action



This has been such a fun experience. It's helped me gain confidence and now I can ride a bike I have exceeded the doctor's expectations.



WE DELIVERED

OUSE VALLEY CLIMATE ACTION (OVCA) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK (SDNP)

- 1,200 people and over 40 community groups engaged with activities across Lewes District
- 400 attendees at 16 different OVCA training sessions
- 3 coastal secondary schools supported to work towards overall school sustainability and towards Green Flag status
- 5 Forest School sessions at Chyngton primary school, Seaford
- LDFP (Lewis District Food Partnership) and OVCA Summit attended by 100 people
- Newhaven Green Centre Swap Share Repair attended by 250 people, Peacehaven Climate Fair attended by 200 people; Seaford and Sustainability Fair attended by 1,000 people
- Biodiversity Gains Assessments with Dr Dan Danahar at Seahaven Academy, Peacehaven Community School, Seaford Head School, Meridian Primary School
- OVESCO Eco Extravaganza attended by 250 people and Open House series attended by 60 people
- Funded and supported Green United Youth Summit
- Funding packages for eligible community groups within the project
- Supported and attended the Love Our Ouse River People Tour and Citizen Science sessions in Newhaven

MOVEABILITY

The MoveAbility team worked with 92 individuals (59 identifying as having a disability) across 36 different walking, wheeling and cycling activities

- 2 Try a Cycle days organised for disabled people
- £19,000 won from the SDNP to purchase accessible bikes for use by disabled people.
- 17 One to one/two rides with local, disabled people
- 6 rickshaw rides in the Ouse Valley Nature Reserve
- 21 SEND children taught to learn to ride a bike in group sessions
- 6 bike workshops delivered for pupils at Seahaven Academy
- New learn to ride and cycle skills home education group – 5 weekly sessions with 14 children and young people
- Worked with a local Alternative Provision to run focus group and bike ride
- 3 focus groups run with youth group, 1 bike maintenance session, 1 bike ride, 1 'Try a Bike' session, and multiple bike loans to group
- Built relationship with Cuckmere Cycles and their adapted cycles to take participant on a ride
- 87% said that since taking part in the activity, there has been an improvement in their physical well-being (feeling fitter, healthier, stronger)
- 91% said that since taking part in this activity, there has been an improvement in their mental well being

(feeling happier, calmer, more resilient)

- 9 walking events delivered in Seaford and Newhaven
- 21 people took part, 15 defined themselves as having a disability
- Signposting opportunities for employment, energy saving and wellbeing activities
- Participants reported increases in wellbeing and active lifestyles as a result of attending walking groups
- All walkers informed about MoveAbility cycling opportunities, 4 of whom also participated in cycling events delivered by MoveAbility
- 34 networking opportunities delivered including NHS, Care for Carers, Friends of Bishopstone, U3A, Community Supermarkets



Healthy Lifestyles

Tackling health inequalities by supporting local projects

Healthy Lifestyles aims to:

- Deliver activities addressing the wider determinants of health and wellbeing
- Support asset-based community action to address health inequalities
- Deliver activities promoting access to green, open and blue spaces
- Develop opportunities to create community gardens and improve neighbourhood environments



WE DELIVERED

MAKING IT HAPPEN

- Asset Based Community Development in partnership with Action in Rural Sussex (AIRS), 3VA, Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) and Rother Voluntary Action (RVA)
- Final celebration event attended by over 60 people, with keynote speech from Becky Shaw (East Sussex County Council CEO) and presentations and artwork from projects supported by MIH
- Finalist in the Community Health Development category at the Royal Society for Public Health's 2024 Health & Wellbeing Awards



Loved being on the beach – very calming. Great to see children of varying ages appreciating the environment and engaging with activities.



- Hospitable Environment People's Plan and Knowledge Exchange. This event planned to explore ways that creativity and connected communities feed into healthy lives. The aim of the Knowledge Exchange was to highlight contribution of grassroots community organisations, create a space to have conversations across sectors, to share findings, open new partnerships for working together in the future, and to advocate for community voices in shaping future town planning and public services

DENTON ISLAND NURSERY

- Promoting healthy snacks and lunch box ideas with parents to encourage them to offer healthy food choices to their children
- Forest School activities with dedicated staff offered to children each week
- Large outdoor area to support physical play and risk taking

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) holiday play scheme with a focus on being active and healthy eating, open to all children and young people on benefits related free school meals
- Support for emotional health and wellbeing through connections with nature and the outdoor environment

OVCA

- 88 community events, workshops and groups delivered in Newhaven on the theme of active travel
- 14 bikes loaned to local children

NEWHAVEN YOUNG PEOPLE

- HAF activities included Beach School, nature walks, arts and crafts and sports activities
- Youth Club hot meals supported by funding from Lewes District Food Partnership
- Positive Activities project - 175 children and young people from Ukrainian guest community supported to access wellbeing activities

COMMUNITY FOOD

- 60 fresh portions of food made weekly by our Community Café team at Fitzjohn's, Lewes
- 'Pay as you feel' cafes at Community Supermarkets served nutritious food prepared by volunteers
- Community Fridge at Denton Island Community Centre offered seasonal fruit and vegetables as well as other healthy foods



Loneliness & Social Isolation

Making loneliness everyone's business

Loneliness & Social Isolation

aims to:

- Promote volunteering
- Build stewardship of actions to address loneliness and social isolation
- Develop vibrant community hubs as part of social infrastructure
- Develop welcoming community spaces



WE DELIVERED

TACKLING LONELINESS - CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES PROGRAMME

- Provided capacity building support and connections between services:
 - 7 shared learning group sessions for Rural Rother, Hastings and Seahaven to increase learning about loneliness for 55 participants
 - Developed Loneliness Matters Creative Health Collective and facilitated 4 workshops reaching 30 arts projects across East Sussex
- Facilitated stakeholder events, workshops and webinars to increase connections between services and shared understanding of loneliness:
 - 60 participants at 'Connecting the Connectors' event
 - 2 webinars with theme of creative health to 50 participants
 - 3 Loneliness Matters workshops to 25 participants



Extremely helpful in better understanding what loneliness means and the impact this can have on people throughout their entire life & how different transitional moments in life which can cause a person to become lonely. My improved understanding of the significance of loneliness in a person's life has helped me think more about how we can shape policies and interventions to better support people's health and wellbeing



It's given me great ideas and resources to help people think about loneliness and ways to address loneliness.



Community Action & Assets

Building communities, cohesion and capacity

Community Action & Assets aims to:

- Coordinate community engagement to identify local needs and gaps in local services
- Develop community infrastructure
- Deliver effective and best practice in building civic society
- Coordinate distribution of community grants

WE DELIVERED MAKING IT HAPPEN

- Making it Happen (MiH) ran from October 2019 to March 2025, delivered through a partnership of five local voluntary sector organisations: 3VA in Eastbourne, Action in Rural Sussex in Wealden, Hastings Voluntary Action in Hastings District, Rother Voluntary Action in Rother District and SCDA in Lewes District
- MiH worked with over 250 projects to award over 350 grants and £913,000 of funding in 13 areas across East Sussex, supporting the development of community networks
- 350 grants and £905k awarded to community projects in 17 neighbourhoods across the county over five and a half years
- Final Evaluation report by Collaborate CIC published in June detailing learning, impacts, and reflections from the duration of the programme
- Report shared with VCSE, public health and community leaders across the county and UK wide



LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL MAKING IT HAPPEN

- 72 Small Sparks grants awarded (up to £500)
- 25 Next Step grants (between £501 and £3,000)
- 12 Grow grants (between £3,001 and £15,000)
- 300 participants accessed ABCD learning opportunities
- 100% of grant reviews agreed MiH grant helped them to achieve something valuable or useful in their community
- 100% of grant reviews agreed MiH grant helped people in the community to connect together in a meaningful way

LEWES DISTRICT COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK (LDCAN)

- Lewes District Community Action Network (LDCAN) is supporting the grassroots Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector across Lewes District. Delivered by SCDA as part of a three year commission from East Sussex County Council (ESCC), which appointed SCDA as the lead infrastructure organisation for the District. LDCAN is the name of the Community & VCSE Infrastructure Programme being delivered through this commission
- LDCAN aims to ensure that smaller and micro VCSE groups have the tools and support they need to continue responding to local needs, building connections, and creating positive change
- LDCAN builds on the learning and ethos of the Making it Happen programme, which demonstrated the power of community-led action and the importance of nurturing local assets, relationships, and leadership
- The VCSE sector is a vital part of our local 'ecosystem' in Lewes District, delivering essential services that improve lives and strengthen communities. The State Of The Sector report highlights that over 3,500 VCSE organisations currently operate across East Sussex and they offer comprehensive coverage and value. The report highlights the interconnected critical challenges faced by the sector, including a severe funding instability, capacity and workforce crisis, systemic fragmentation and a struggle for groups to demonstrate their impact



There was so much magic in yesterday's event. It was hard not to be moved by the stories and inspired by it all. The amount of energy, thought, and care that went into the event could be seen all the way through the big and small details



Family Inclusion

Supporting families with young children

Family Inclusion aims to:

- Support the active engagement of parents and carers through Families Forum
- Deliver access to family learning
- Deliver access to wider family support activities
- Deliver high quality childcare through Denton Island Nursery to support life chances of children



WE DELIVERED

FAMILY LEARNING

- 14 family learning courses delivered across East Sussex, reaching a total of 228 people (93 adults and 135 children)
- High quality delivery of support and family learning courses and activities across the county for adults and children aged 0-11 years
- Courses included Beach School, Balance Bikes / Learn to Ride, Music Makers, Plant and Play, Forest School, Mindfulness and Family Food. All courses aim to provide learning and development activities for both children and their families through creative play and fun, engaging activities that can be taken beyond the sessions
- 100% of parents who attend family learning courses agreed that they have learned something new

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF)

- 297 children and young people attended 20 individual sessions
- HAF is a holiday play scheme with a focus on being active and healthy eating, open to all children and young people on benefits related free school meals
- Engaging and exciting activities delivered including bowling, trampolining, assault courses and crafts for 20 children per session (aged 7-11 years) and 13 young people per session, during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays

JITTERBUGS

- 124 family visits to Jitterbugs - free under 5s family drop-in group
- A warm, welcoming space providing support, advice, and signposting to other local services
- 95% of parents who attended Jitterbugs agreed it has made them feel better connected to their community



I was very nervous about joining the group, but everyone made me feel so comfortable.



Absolutely love Forest school, it's the highlight of the children's week. Perfect balance of child directed play/learning and opportunity to take part in group activity and skill development.



Community Hubs

Bringing communities together

Community Hubs aims to:

- Create a vibrant community hub at Denton Island Community Centre
- Contribute to the development of Community Hubs as community resources
- Establish partnerships to meet community needs
- Identify local needs and gaps in local services

WE DELIVERED

- 12,731 visits to Denton Island Community Centre
- 86% of visitors agreed or strongly agreed they were satisfied with their visit



Myself and my twins came to the postnatal group. It was informative and relaxed and a great space with the other mums. We look forward to future sessions.



Denton Island reception is always welcoming...very happy with everything they offer to the community.



- 3 community events - Christmas Event, LDFF Food Summit and Ukrainian Children's Day
- A range of co-located services and activities, including Culture Shift, Breastfeeding Support, Diabetes Prevention workshops, Pohwer Advocacy, CAMHS, East Sussex County Council, Care for Carers, Singing Mamas, Early Help, Develop Outdoors, Neurodiverse Café, Wellbeing courses, SEND Home Education, Lotus, Computer Support Group, Living Coast VR Experience, Cookery courses, Figment Arts, Play On Shakespeare, DWP, University College London, Community Voice, OVCA and Creative Newhaven



- i-Rock based within the centre, providing support and advice to young people between 14 and 25, 3 days a week
- 8 active volunteers including reception volunteer, social media volunteer and community gardening volunteers
- School uniform exchange through Newhaven Families Forum, book shelves for book swaps and community fridge to redistribute surplus items
- New community gardening group developing open spaces around the community centre, growing fresh produce to be distributed in the Community Supermarkets in both Newhaven and Peacehaven. Implementing waste reduction processes through composting and repurposing existing equipment
- Community midwife appointments continue 5 days a week
- Other regular activities delivered by SCDA at Denton Island include: two weekly term time youth clubs and one weekly LGBTQAI+ and Ally group; free holiday activities and food provision for children aged 7-11 and 12-16 in receipt of benefits related free school meals in the Spring, Summer and Winter breaks; family learning courses including Plant and Play, Family Food, and Learn To Ride; weekly term time Jitterbugs baby and toddler group; Newhaven Community Supermarket and Community Fridge; four weekly volunteer-led cooking groups; free weekly conversational English lessons; counselling support groups



Young People

Helping young people reach their full potential

Young People aims to:

- Support the active young people's voice through the Young People's Forum
- Support young people's access to services and support
- Deliver activities supporting the mental wellbeing of young people
- Sustain a safe, dedicated space for young people's activities



WE DELIVERED

YOUTH CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

- Dedicated Youth Centre for Newhaven
- Three weekly youth clubs, 810 visits Average attendance 20 young people
- Youth-led and adapted to the needs of the current cohort
- Specialist support for attendees who identify as members of LGBTQ+ community
- Themes included transitions, mental health and wellbeing, identity, inclusion, emotional resilience, creative arts, connecting to the local community and green education
- Continued Youth Music funded programme in partnership with Culture Shift, delivering creative programme with skilled practitioners and musicians
- Arts Project supported by two new ipads with creative software applications and craft materials for each club session
- 66 internal referrals to other SCDA projects, including 4 referrals for bike safety and maintenance course, providing 4 young people with a brand-new bike and equipment, employability and advice & guidance
- Sexual health sessions for small groups and 1:1
- Targeted Behaviour Change Support focused on issues such as risky sexual behaviour, risk of exploitation and extremism (through the 'prevent' programme) substance misuse and knife crime
- Promotion of youth voice and participation including NYPF (Newhaven Young People's Forum) and annual youth survey

- 100% of young people who access the Youth Centre agree that they view it as a safe space

POSITIVE ACTIVITIES FOR MIGRANT, REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

- Free activities that support emotional health and wellbeing
- Two dedicated Positive Activities workers support families, young people and children using trauma informed approach
- Improved emotional wellbeing, mental health, and/or physical health of children and young people involved through Positive Activities
- Reduction in referrals to mental health and wellbeing services
- Improved awareness of social prescribing to children and young people within services such as GPs, schools, voluntary sector and service users
- 104 referrals to other programmes, such as the Refugee Buddy Project
- Ukraine Events: Children's Day 1st June 2024 and Unity Day on the 25th January 2025; over 100 families attended

WELLBEING GROUPS

- 273 young people attended wellbeing sessions including 1-1 support, group sessions at the youth centre, IAG and Sexual Health Advice (ESCC C-Card Scheme)
- 1:1 Well-being Support (Platform 9) for young people apprehensive about a group setting, or require additional support



Today she received her trophy — she was over the moon, and we're so proud of her achievement! Thank you for everything that you are doing!



- Supportive activities to provide learning around improving wellbeing, as well as diversionary activities that can be 'just for fun' and an expressive outlet

LGBTQ+ AND ALLY SUPPORT TEAM (LAST)

- 49 attended. A safe space session for young people who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community or wish to actively support LGBTQ+ young people
- Sessions on topics included challenging negative behaviours, gender expression, exploring pronouns, sexuality, gender identity

NEWHAVEN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF)

- 62 attended. Government initiative supporting disadvantaged young people to access activities and food
- Hot wholesome meal and snacks on offer throughout the day

Employability

Ensuring everyone has access to support into employment

Employability aims to:

- Deliver specialist support to enable local people, disadvantaged in the labour market, to get and sustain employment
- Support employers to recruit and retain staff
- Deliver support which addresses barriers to sustained employment
- Support people's physical health and wellbeing by access to employment

WE DELIVERED

- 1,161 participants supported across all projects
- Wide range of online activities continue, ranging from financial health, housing support, counselling, confidence building, stress management, finding work, driving theory, customer service, art groups, supporting participants to feel less isolated, build relationships, gain work, access training and volunteering



The staff are really friendly, they help you in every way possible.



- Less than a 5% drop out across all our projects
- Transformational blended approach to dealing with stress, anxiety or low confidence
- 95% of Employability participants have access to debt and benefit advice
- 85% of participants referred have a health or physical disability
- 100% of participants accessing CMI (Count Me In) said their Maths confidence had improved
- 3 volunteers on the Work and Health Programme to deliver targeted job searching including mock interviews
- Quality assurance and high performance: passed to a high standard all external audits across Employability programmes

- 3 Occupational Therapy university placements successfully placed across Employability teams
- Successful first ever Wellbeing Day, next one September 2025
- 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
- Access to support for housing and financial health via a range of tools
- 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



I was dreading coming as I face discrimination daily and the staff went out their way to help me



WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME (WHP) & WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME & WHP PIONEER

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

ESTAR (EMPLOYABILITY FOR SUPPORTED AND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION AND REFUGES) EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL PROJECTS: MOVING ON UP & SUPPORT INTO WORK

MOVING ON UP

Supporting people in temporary accommodation or at risk of homelessness to find employment, along with offering housing support. This project works with individuals who are unemployed but also those in work on low hours or insecure employment. Working in partnership with People Matter and SCTP (Sussex Council of Training Providers). Moving on Up is funded by COMF, Public Health and UKSPF. This project ceased March 2025



What a wonderful day. Very informative and inspirational. Very well organised.



SUPPORT INTO WORK

Support into Work is a Home Office funded project supporting Ukrainians settled in East Sussex under the Home for Ukrainians government scheme. Support into Work is a partnership with People Matter and Refugees Employment Project and East Sussex County Councils ESTAR team. We support participants with up to 15 hours of employability skills, knowledge and job sector information and regional and national accommodation information and refer participants onto other locally based projects

COUNT ME IN - MULTIPLY

Count Me In is a Multiply, Department for Education funded national project. We are delivering Count Me In across East Sussex on behalf of East Sussex County Council. Our project aims to support anyone over 19 who does not have a maths GCSE C/4 or above with 3 hours of budgeting support and help with the basic maths that underpins this. We can support both the unemployed and those on a low income. Project ceased March 2025

FIND YOUR FUTURE

Find Your Future is a Department Levelling Up Housing and Communities UKSPF funded project. Supporting people furthest from the job market to access work, volunteering, training and education. Project ceased March 2025

WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME & WHP PIONEER

- 486 participants supported
- 255 new participants joined the programme
- Achieved 100% of contract to date sustained outcomes against target, the first in Shaw Trust's national supply chain to do so.
- 199 jobs started in last financial calendar year
- 16 participants have started a self-employed business (8% of total job starts)
- 97 Digital College Courses completed by participants
- 5,378 appointments delivered by the team

ESTAR – MOVING ON UP

- 177 new participants enrolled
- 76 job starts in the last 12 months
- 20 participants helped to secure accommodation

FIND YOUR FUTURE

- Lewes: 37 new participants supported to find work, learning and volunteering opportunities
- Eastbourne: 33 new participants supported to find work, learning and volunteering opportunities

SUPPORT INTO WORK

- 65 participants enrolled and supported to find employment opportunities
- 53 job starts in the last 12 months

COUNT ME IN - MULTIPLY

- 428 people supported with 85% completing Better Off Calculation to understand their household income, earnings and benefit entitlement
- 100% improved Maths confidence in everyday life



Community Advice

Access to specialist advice

Community Advice aims to:

- Sustain partnership with specialist advice providers to meet community needs
- Ensure access to free, impartial, quality assured, confidential, specialist information, guidance and advice
- Maintain insights into community advice needs
- Support community members to improve their financial health

WE DELIVERED

- 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 with: Age UK East Sussex; Amaze; Brighton Housing Trust; CA1066; Eastbourne Age Concern; Eastbourne CAB; Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC); Lewes District CAB; Possibility People; 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
- Mental Health and Money Community Navigator, providing dedicated support to people experiencing mental health difficulties who need access to money advice services
- Distribution of the Household Support Fund
- Supporting Ukrainian residents and guests to access private, rented accommodation through Move On: Homes for Ukraine
- Hosting specialist advice provision: Brighton Housing Trust; East Sussex Credit Union; Hastings Advice and Representation Centre; Lewes District CAB; Money Advice Plus
- Coordination of advice training for effective information giving and signposting to specialist advice



You believed in us and helped keep us out of debt while this was going on.....you explained everything and helped when we needed it. I am still working a few hours from home when I can...I need to for my sanity...what PIP did made me want to stop working and just give up on life. I lost all hope but you gave it back to me.



EAST SUSSEX WELFARE BENEFITS PROJECT AND ADDITIONAL MEASURES ADVICE SUPPORT

- £5,840,180 annualised benefit income realised for residents
- 10,530 people received benefits advice
- 82% of respondents reported improved mental wellbeing
- 17,508 household members benefitted from benefits and debt advice:
 - 2,378 older people received advice to support their independence
 - 7,732 people with long term health conditions received benefits advice
 - 1,771 families with children received benefits and debt advice
- 10,254 people contacted the helplines:
 - 28,440 different benefit enquiries dealt with
 - PIP and Universal Credit most common benefit enquiries
 - 52% of callers lived in the most deprived wards
 - 79% of callers had long term health conditions

- For every £1 invested in our Expert Services we generated £29 in financial gains for each of our clients
- Depression and physical issues most common long term health conditions
- 1,717 people received face to face casework support:
 - 57% of casework clients lived in the most deprived wards
 - 92% of casework clients had long term health conditions
 - Addressing socially determined health and social care issues:
 - 1,781 referrals from health and social care professional



£5,840,180 Annualised benefit income realised for residents



I was really helped and supported through each step of the budget plan and benefit checks. It certainly was an eye opener to our household spending, also realising that my child benefit was stopped in September so I've applied again...I am thankful for this service and would recommend to any carer.



- Quarterly insights reports collated from advice partner input on advice and community needs feeding into strategic oversight and commissioning
- SCDA co-chair of East Sussex Multi-agency Financial Inclusion Partnership

HAVENS INFORMATION AND ADVICE HUB

- Twice weekly Community Navigation drop-in service at the Community Supermarkets in Newhaven and Peacehaven
- Twice monthly Community Navigation drop-in service at Lewes Fitzjohn's Food Bank
- 248 referrals to our Community Navigators
- Distributed £458,378 in food, essential items and utility vouchers to 2,075 households across East Sussex as part of the Household Support Fund scheme, on behalf of SCDA, BHT, HARC, Southdown Housing, Amaze and Possibility People

- Funding secured for additional Community Advice Services: Move On Homes for Ukraine, Community Navigation and continuation of Household Support Fund
- Supported 87 Ukrainian families to access grants to secure their own homes
- Provided 52 Ukrainian families a grant to access financial support to buy immediate and essential furniture
- Provided a guarantor scheme to 15 Ukrainian families

CARER MONEY MATTERS

- A partnership project between SCDA and Care for the Carers, providing community navigation focussing on income maximisation and energy efficiency measures for carers
- Project commenced in January 2024
- 117 carers reached in the first quarter
- Supported carers to achieve potential savings or additional earnings of £78,432

- Established support protocols and pathways with Southern Water, Catapult, Energise East Sussex, Warm Homes service, Bexhill beach huts
- Secured £5000 grant to provide free electric blankets to carers

I wanted to say how happy I was with the service today. She guided me through a tricky form as I am a carer for 3 people it was not as easy to follow. She was very patient and kind and really helped me focus on what my next steps will be. She was professional and explained as we went.



Food Security

Providing local access to affordable food

Food Security aims to:

- Co-ordinate Lewes District Food Partnership and strategy delivery
- Deliver activities which support community food security through Community Supermarkets and emergency food response
- Deliver cooking of surplus food
- Promote access to healthy, affordable food choices

WE DELIVERED NEWHAVEN AND PEACEHAVEN COMMUNITY SUPERMARKETS

- 322 households made a total of 4,043 visits to Newhaven Community Supermarket, supporting 6,134 adults and 2,867 children
- 261 households made a total of 4,967 visits to Peacehaven Community Supermarket, supporting 7,650 adults and 2,119 children
- 81 volunteers
- 'Pay as you feel' cafes served nutritious food prepared by volunteers
- Range of services offered to supermarket members, including Ovesco, NHS, Public Health, CAB, Sussex Fire Brigade and Gardening events
- Denton Island Community Kitchen, run by volunteers, provided 10,000 healthy frozen ready meals for community supermarkets, and free cookery courses

- Partnered with Alliance for Dignified Food Support
- Onsite composting - repurposed food waste to facilitate growing of fruit and vegetables in our Community Garden
- New donation points established in Telscombe Civic Centre, Peacehaven Football Club and St Michael's Church
- Community Fridge at Denton Island Community Centre helped reduce food waste by supplying surplus food to members of our community

LEWES DISTRICT FOOD PARTNERSHIP (LDFP)

- LDFP's small grants programme funded 26 community food projects
- Through Household Support Fund, LDFP distributed £16,000 worth of supermarket vouchers to members of Lewes District food banks, reaching 160 households that have a family member with a disability

It is nice to be able to just sit down and have a coffee and sometimes somebody will talk to you and it's just nice to get out the house.

- LDFP developed new 3 year strategy and action plan, launched in 2025. Three strategic priorities were identified around emergency food provision, schools and young people, and a good food culture
- Pinch Points project completed workshops with total of 22 participants, who shared their experiences of poverty and food insecurity



“

I never thought I'd end up at a community foodbank... but I'll meet people I wouldn't otherwise meet and can look forward to it as a social thing.

”

- Worked with NHS social prescribing team and Seasons Wholefoods, to launch community meal kits programme to families in Lewes with financial and/or health challenges

FITZJOHN'S, LEWES

- 40 active volunteers
- 5 are also members of the Community Food Project
- 60 fresh portions of food made weekly by Community Café team
- 35 people helped through Hardship Fund
- On average, 60 households supported with food every week, the value of the groceries taken home is between £20-£30 per household

Social Enterprise

Supporting community wealth building

Social Enterprise aims to:

- Maintain viability of existing SCDA social enterprises
- Identify opportunities for SCDA to initiate new social enterprises
- Support community wealth building through local social enterprise development
- Provide access to advice in establishing social enterprise



WE DELIVERED

DENTON ISLAND NURSERY

- 85 children registered
- Ofsted inspection January 2025 - Rated Good. Quality maintained through management plan
- 14 children supported in transition to school in September 2024
- 76 place nursery, open 50 weeks a year
- Sensory Room to explore enhanced sensory play
- Supported 6 children with English as a second language
- Supported 10 children with high functioning additional needs being supported by external agencies
- Supported 3 children with long term chronic health conditions
- 1 nursery volunteer supported the nursery management team, 4 volunteers helped improve the nursery garden
- Ensuring the business model maintains sustainability and supports parent access to childcare subsidy
- Employed 3 new employees from the local area



We can't thank you enough for the care you have shown my child but also us as a family!

SHOPS

- 9 new volunteers, 22 in total across two shops
- Volunteers contributed 7,500 working hours
- Supported 2 ESOL volunteers (students with SCDA English classes)
- 2 work experience students from local schools
- 2 Duke of Edinburgh Award participants
- 3 volunteers moved to paid employment
- Supported SCDA and local events by providing stalls selling affordable clothing
- Focus in shops has been mainly to support local families with low priced items – clothing, toys, household goods

SUSSEX COMMUNITY COUNSELLING

- 427 sessions completed
- 136 referrals received, 103 clients assessed
- 16 volunteer counsellors



My child has complex needs and I was always worried about sending them to nursery, however the staff at nursery are amazing and adapt their care to my child's individual needs, they have become much more confident.





**Sussex
Community
Development
Association**



SCDA Board members:

John Cornish
Helen Macaulay
Andrew Shields
Daniel Stewart-Roberts
Ioni Sullivan
Edward Wagstaff
Sean Williams

SCDA Patrons:

David P Allam DL
Hugh T Burnett OBE, DL
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

SCDA Member groups:

1218 (Newhaven) SQN Air Training Corps
Access in Seaford & Newhaven
Baby Bank & Beyond
Bambino Beatz
Boomerang Klub
Breakwater Academy PTFA
Castle Hill Group
Churches Together in Newhaven
Community Spirit
Community Transport Lewes Area
Culture Connect Project
Culture Shift
Denton & Newhaven Guides

Denton & South Hefton Junior Football Club
Eastbourne Blind Society
East Sussex Recovery Alliance
Force Basketball
Friends of Bishopstone Station
Friends of Sompting
Friends of West Quay
Furniture Now!
GIA (Gardening in Action)
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