

WARWICKSHIRE & SOLIHULL

CAVA

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION



2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

*Approachable
Inclusive
Empowering*



Success



begins with a



GREAT
VCFSE!

thank you
FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.

You are truly
appreciated!

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Follow us



Our Vision

Continue making a positive impact within communities by promoting and advocating the impact of volunteering and support delivered by the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE). Working collaboratively with all partners to reduce inequalities, tackle disadvantage whilst embedding and celebrating the diversity of the sector, its people and its value to society.

Our Values

Approachable, Inclusive, Empowering

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Foreword from Our Chair

This has been my first year as Chair of the Board of Trustees and it has been a privilege to serve in this role. The past year has brought both challenges and opportunities for Warwickshire and Solihull and I am proud of the way CAVA and our members have responded.

This report, and the stories within it, illustrate the major contributions our sector has made towards tackling poverty, addressing social deprivation, supporting people with learning difficulties, protecting the environment, and improving physical and mental health. These positive outcomes have only been possible through partnership and collaboration with our members, and with colleagues across the public and private sectors. Working together always delivers more than working in isolation.

At a national level, while the government is no longer new, its policies and priorities continue to shape the environment in which we work. Funding remains tight, demand for services is rising, and inequalities are deepening. Yet there is also recognition from government of the importance of collaboration with the voluntary and community sector. This report is a testament to our sector's readiness to engage and contribute in that spirit.

We must not however become complacent. The challenges facing our communities remain acute and our sector must continue to adapt and evolve in response.

CAVA will remain a strong voice, advocate and supporter for the voluntary and community sector in Warwickshire and Solihull. We will continue to highlight the vital role our members play in enhancing the wellbeing of our citizens and we look forward to working with all our members, partners and funders in the year ahead and beyond.



A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, consisting of a large 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Clare Spiers

Chair of CAVA's Trustee Board

WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE

Warwickshire Infrastructure

We are contracted to deliver infrastructure support to the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector groups across Warwickshire by Warwickshire County Council (WCC), Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC), Rugby Borough Council (RBC) and Warwick District Council (WDC).

Elements of our WCC contract namely Social Enterprise and Social Action are delivered in partnership with Coventry and Warwickshire Co-operative Development Agency (CWCD) and Grapevine.

CAVA teams provided support to 1,149 groups and organisations working in partnership across all Boroughs and Districts, providing 2,056 incidents of support. Funding continued to be a challenge for many groups and we assisted with funding applications, with 411 applications supported amounting to £14,295,669, of which £5,052,163 came into Warwickshire within the financial year through funding applications and grant panels. CAVA teams held 259 events including webinars and workshops and contributed to 194 others, which enabled 13,940 people to contribute and for 1,728 organisations to be upskilled.



WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE: OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

2024/25



1,149

Organisations supported



£5,052,163

Funding awarded



259

Events held



1,728

Organisations
upskilled at events



£4,907,042

Economic value
of volunteering



1,466

Volunteers placed

WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE: NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

Our 'Simply Connect' volunteering portal supported by our volunteering coordinators enables volunteers and volunteer involving organisations to have 24-hour access to volunteering opportunities. During 2024-2025 1,925 individuals interested in volunteering (Warwickshire) were supported by CAVA's volunteering team, resulting in 1,466 being placed in a volunteering role, of which 1,043 were placed within a service supporting community need. This includes 376 one off ESV (Employee Skilled Volunteering) and micro volunteering opportunities undertaken. The economic value of this volunteering equated to approximately £4,907,042 per annum.

Case Study: North Warwickshire

Building Confidence and Community: CAVA's Volunteering Workshop

Following on from a meeting at the Coleshill Library Pop Up earlier this year we were asked if we could do something to support the school and pupils at Woodlands School Coleshill. Pupils attend from across the county and have a range of additional needs in particular learning disabilities and autism.

CAVA held a session for older pupils (17-19yrs) who will looking at college and work options soon. The session was called 'Benefits of Volunteering' and contained fun and interactive quizzes and games to help students think about their gifts and skills, what sort of volunteering they might do and how it would help them as well as helping others. The students were keen and participated throughout the session. The next steps are to finalise arrangements for some group volunteering as well as working with students individually.

The teachers felt that this had gone so well and was such an important step for their pupils that they have asked us to go back next year and work with younger students to start to plant the idea earlier.

Case Study: Nuneaton & Bedworth

Community Networking Leads To Funding

Kersley Village on the edge of Bedworth is well known for its problems with anti-social behavior. Six months ago, our Funding and Group Development Officer, Michelle was invited to a newly formed meeting called the Kersley Multi - Agency Meeting.

Several partner organisations were also in attendance including the local church, voluntary sector clubs, sports clubs, school representatives the police, residents and councillors.

It was here Michelle met Evelyn from Ash Green School, the secondary school for the village. Evelyn had been brought into the school to try and improve some of the issues around non-engaging students. She had been looking at initiatives to engage hard to reach students who don't always attend lessons.

Michelle worked with Evelyn to set up parent's group called 'The Friends of Ash Green'. There were a couple of parents who wanted to support the school, so Evelyn supported them, and under the umbrella of the school they were able to set up a group. The group have been volunteering and fundraising within the school.

Evelyn and the parents had some great practical project ideas to help engage with the students who were struggling in normal structured lessons.

Michelle supported the group with a Warwickshire County Councillor grant for some activities to keep the students busy and off the streets after school had finished. They managed to put on some cooking and beauty sessions for them.

All parties continued to attend the Kersley Multi Agency meeting to build relationships and link in with other key community members.



WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE: NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH

“

I am very grateful to Michelle for helping with the setup of the parent's group, and for supporting with the funding.

- Evelyn

WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE: NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) also presented two pots of funding to the group. Michelle supported Evelyn to apply for both the Community Safety Grant and the Community Development grant. The two grants, in total worth £10,000, were successful, enabling The Friends of Ash Green to run more practical sessions out of school including a new gardening project called From Plot To Plate.

Evelyn said "I am very grateful to Michelle for helping with the setup of the parent's group, and for identifying and supporting with the funding. The students have engaged with the more fun sessions we have been putting on and the feedback has been really positive."

Michelle said "The Multi Agency meeting was a good initiative and has been really useful in linking Evelyn and The Friends of Ash Green School with other organisations and the local community, including a resident group and local councillors."

The Friends of Ash Green are now talking to the resident group about supporting them with an orchard they have plans for. The community group have been granted funding for the trees, but there is nowhere to put them, this is where the school might be able to help out.

Linking the school to the groups helps them connect with the wider community, making them more attractive to funders.



Case Study: Rugby Borough

Transition Town Rugby - supporting grass roots community action to ensure sustainable change

Our Funding and Group Development Officer, Lou initially met a member of Transition Town at a networking meeting. They spoke briefly about their plans to develop a sustainable hub in Rugby and agreed to meet to discuss further with other members of the committee. This initial meeting was a fact-finding session, which outlined their vision for the hub. This was still very much at the infancy stage at this point.

It was evident, through discussion that the governance situation was complicated. There were various arms to the current structure which led to a confusing set up that could have created implications for community understanding and wider funding opportunities. To address this, we discussed the option of bringing all aspects of their work under one clear organisation. Various options were outlined to the committee which identified two potential structures; a CIO or a CiC.

In addition to the structure issue, a full review of their existing governance was conducted. Whilst there were policies and processes in place, there were some gaps that needed additional input to strengthen the delivery of all aspects of both their current activity and future plans which included taking on a lease of a property to host the Hub.

In order that the committee could make an informed decision about their new structure, Lou referred them to CDA Coventry and Warwickshire to explore the pros and cons of becoming a CiC. Charity Commission guidance was also shared to enable them to review this in more detail following our discussions. Following exploration of all the information, the committee agreed that they wanted to register as a CIO.

A robust action plan was created for the committee to enable them to address various aspects of governance and good practice to support the safe and compliant delivery of the hub, which was now to be known as Rugby Eco Hub. The plan included the process for registering the CIO, Trustee support, insurance requirements, policies, risk assessments and writing a business plan.

WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE: RUGBY BOROUGH & STRATFORD DISTRICT

Lou has been supporting the committee to address specific aspects of the action plan by providing templates and links to appropriate resources for policies and risk assessments along with reviewing of their draft policies and business plan. I have provided guidance for their CIO registration and supported them with writing their constitution.

The Outcome: the committee has been able to engage new members to become Trustees of the CIO and they have addressed many aspects of their action plan. A lease has also been secured for hosting the Eco Hub. There are still some points to be addressed including finalising the CIO registration, but the group are now more equipped to address these by working through the action plan.

Case Study: Stratford District

Empowering Ukrainian guests to rebuild their lives

This case study has been written by Sofia*, a guest from Ukraine, who is now volunteering at two organisations - a local Kindergarten and Escape Arts.

It will soon be a year since I came to Stratford. When I arrived, I felt depressed, cried all the time, felt bad, I didn't know anyone in this town and felt very lonely and anxious.

Meeting CAVA's Volunteering Coordinator, Karen, changed everything! It's like sunshine on a long rainy day. You helped me feel the joy of life, because it's important for me to feel that I'm helping people. Now I'm happy, I laugh and enjoy life.

I'm a volunteer and I'm proud of it, it sounds proud! Thanks to you, Karen, I've made a lot of friends. When I come to Escape Art, everyone greets me and I always say "*You are my family.*" I communicate, give my love and help. Together we draw, celebrate holidays: Halloween, Christmas, Birthday.

*Not her real name.

WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE: STRATFORD DISTRICT

Teachers invite me to their discussion groups. It's very interesting for me, because I'm also a teacher.

When I come to the Kindergarten I am very happy. I love children and parents and it is mutual. I have a psychological and pedagogical education, I have worked as a teacher all my life, this is my calling, it inspires me. I was very sad to leave my job in Ukraine and in Toddler Group I seem to have returned to my favorite job again and feel needed.

Volunteering for me is an opportunity to be useful to society, an opportunity to say "*Thank you*" to the British people for the warm shelter for the Ukrainian people, a desire to share the best that I have, new acquaintances with interesting people, studying a new culture and traditions, an opportunity to experience life as it is: turbulent, rich, colourful, multifaceted.



Case Study: Warwick District

From Information to Impact: How CAVA's Newsletter Helps Local Groups Thrive

Along with our popular quarterly Coffee and Chat Networking events, CAVA in Warwick District produces a monthly newsletter for the VCFSE sector. This is a locality-based information tool for sharing up to date funding, volunteering and community news on a regular basis. This complements the main bi-weekly e-grapevine newsletter that CAVA produces.

CAVA receives regular news from the wider sector and from local organisations and stakeholders wanting their information to be promoted and shared with relevant groups. We also receive updates on funding opportunities which are important to share with non-profit organisations. Given the extremely challenging environment the charity sector is currently facing, groups need help to keep up to date with funding and other areas of support and help.

The monthly newsletter, with a specific focus on Warwick District activities, events and opportunities, is produced as a way for us to share this information on a regular basis within our locality. The role of the newsletter is also to promote good practice.

Individuals can sign up to our newsletters via our website. We currently have 689 people subscribed to our mailing list. The number of people subscribed a year ago was 634; an increase of approximately 8.5%.

Our open rates are consistently good, with an open rate of 52.6% for the New Year January newsletter and 41% open rate for our February edition. Over the last 6 months the open rate has averaged 42.5%.

We also have positive feedback from groups on the usefulness of our newsletters. Education4All CIC recently fed back verbally to us that they find our locality newsletter extremely helpful for identifying new funding sources, they wouldn't be able to find or source themselves.

WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE: WARWICK DISTRICT

The locality newsletter is also forwarded on to other networks, via other people. Warwick District Council's Community Wellbeing Team forward it to their own contacts 'Jam packed is the right word for yesterday's ezine from CAVA, including information on the latest funding opportunities, free training, sector news and events too! Have a read, there might be something that could be useful for you. If you don't get the CAVA communications and would like to, you can sign up by scanning the QR code below or via our website - www.wcava.org.uk.'

The Funding and Group Development Officer for Warwick District promotes around 5-10 different funding opportunities in each newsletter; there is a section on Volunteering News and a focus on forthcoming training and events. We also highlight specific community news, including relevant consultations, surveys, activities and events.

For instance, in the March 2025 issue, we featured:

- 8 grant opportunities (most not featured in the main e-grapevine but pertinent to different groups in Warwick District)
- News on a variety of free training around Safeguarding and Emergency First Aid
- The recording of a recent 'Meet the Funder' webinar with Severn Trent Community Fund webinar. We also flagged a date in May for some one-to-one surgeries with Severn Trent's Funding Officer, specifically for Warwick District groups.
- Promoted some low-cost/free community spaces that could be used by groups in Kenilworth, Warwick and Leamington.
- Highlighted the consultation deadline for the South Warwickshire Plan.

The consistently good open rates, growing number of subscribers, and the written and verbal feedback received, has confirmed the relevance and usefulness of a locality newsletter, to the sector in Warwick District. For as long as this continues, we will meet this need, by producing a monthly bulletin. We also hope to introduce in forthcoming issues, a '*Top Tips*' section, which will help groups with common issues.



SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE

Solihull Infrastructure: A Year of Growth and Partnership

Strengthening Solihull's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Sector.

This financial year marked a pivotal transition for CAVA in Solihull. Our previous contract was extended until September 2024, after which we successfully secured the new infrastructure contract, beginning October 1, 2024. CAVA has now been delivering consistent infrastructure support in Solihull since 2018.

Our Focus

1:1 Support and Organisational Development

Under the new contract, CAVA delivers tailored 1:1 support through business diagnostics and development planning. Common areas of support include:

- Starting new VCSE groups
- Grant funding and income diversification
- Governance and legal structures
- Community centre and asset development.



SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE: OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

2024/25



87

Organisations supported



£904,945

Funding awarded



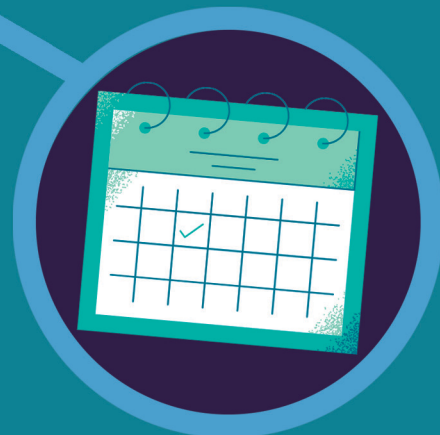
100%

of feedback rated
our support as Good
or Very Good



1,025

Attendees



22

Events held

SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE

Our Focus Cont'd.

Training & Skills Development

Our comprehensive training programme, delivered with national, regional and local providers, supported the sector's growth in key areas such as:

- Volunteer Recruitment
- Building Resilient Teams
- Financial Management.

Top Training Needs Identified (from our 2025 Training Needs Survey):

- Digital & IT (including AI)
- Funding and Income Generation
- Measuring Impact.

Supporting Priorities & Building Capacity

Top Organisational Priorities:

- Resources
- Growth
- Volunteers.

Network Priorities:

- Funding
- Youth Engagement
- EDI, Health & Social Care, Volunteering.

Challenges Identified

- Influencing local decision-making
- Recruiting and managing volunteers
- Securing sustainable funding.

CAVA continues to supplement local insight with national research from NCVO (The National Council for Voluntary Organisations) and the VCSE Barometer.



SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE

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Solihull Council is delighted to announce our continued partnership with CAVA. Together we aim to build a stronger, resilient foundation for Solihull's communities...

- Cllr Wazma Qais

SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE

Partnerships and Forums

Faiths Forum

CAVA has provided governance support to Solihull Faiths Forum for five years, including constitutional reviews, AGM support, and financial hosting.

At the 2024 AGM (focused on homelessness), Mayor Councillor Shahin Ashraf gave an inspirational opening, affirming interfaith collaboration. New faith groups attended for the first time - a testament to the forum's growing inclusivity and strength.

"Thank you for your help with the AGM preparation and for taking care of everything so well."

- Faiths Forum Chair

North Solihull Voluntary and Community Alliance (NSVCA)

CAVA organised an event on the theme 'Seldom Heard Communities and Loneliness', including a service marketplace with 20 local organisations. Administrative support has since transitioned to Colebridge Trust, the North Solihull Community Anchor.

Celebrating Volunteering: Volunteers Week 2024

CAVA hosted a special afternoon tea in partnership with Freemasons Coleshill and Seeds of Hope to mark 40 years of celebrating Volunteers Week.

- 70 attendees
- 15 organisations represented
- Mayor Shahin Ashraf MBE presented personalised 'Thank You' certificates and honoured the vital role of volunteers.



SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE

Volunteering and Social Value

- 379 potential volunteers registered
- 68 volunteer-involving organisations onboarded
- 66 volunteer roles advertised via our online portal.

CAVA also continues to facilitate the Volunteer Managers Forum, promoting peer learning, best practice, and visibility for volunteer-led initiatives.

Integrated Working & Representation

CAVA has embedded the VCFSE into local health partnerships and strategic forums, playing an active role within:

- BSOL Integrated Care System
- Solihull Place Partnership
- Locality Delivery Partnership
- Community Care Collaborative
- BSOL Voluntary Sector Leadership Alliance

We are proud to lead efforts ensuring the VCFSE has a stronger voice and greater influence across all levels of decision-making.

Looking Ahead

As we continue to deliver under our new contract, key priorities for 2025-26 include:

- Deepening our strategic networks and local influence
- Supporting organisations through SMBC's Social Value framework and the Match My Project platform
- Engaging in sustainability and inclusion initiatives
- Launching the State of the Sector Survey in Autumn 2025.

CAVA remains committed to building a resilient, collaborative, and empowered VCFSE sector in Solihull - supporting every organisation, big or small, to thrive.

BIG LOCAL

Big Local

Trusting Local People | Transforming & Improving Lives

Big Local has been an exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to create lasting change in their communities; each area has had at least £1m to use over 10 years. The national programme comes to an end in March 2026.

CAVA has been a part of the Big Local journey since 2012; in Warwickshire we have two areas, Ansley, Old Arley and New Arley in North Warwickshire and Hill Top and Caldwell in Nuneaton. CAVA has continued to act as the 'locally trusted organisation' to administer and account for the distribution of the funds and has employed 6 members of staff on behalf of the areas.

Arley and Ansley Big Local

Active delivery of the Arley and Ansley Big Local project came to an end in August 2024. We'd like to thank the 25+ residents who were part of the Partnership over the 10 years of the programme, the 15+ residents who volunteered as part of the youth club and of course the staff team who helped to make this happen. Your dedication to the area has been inspiring. Since 2021 alone, the economic value of volunteering was over £48,000!

We really do believe that the outcome of making the villages of Ansley, Old Arley and New Arley better places to live for all has been achieved.

The final year of delivery was all about legacy. We finally saw spades in the ground by Arley Parish Council, building a Sports Pavilion at Hill Top Playing Fields with the cranes lifting the modular buildings into place in March. We saw the community newsletter become incorporated and continue the development of its excellent regular local news circular.

BIG LOCAL: ARLEY AND ANSLEY



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*Young people are our future,
and they deserve the best
start we can give them.*

- local resident

BIG LOCAL: ARLEY AND ANSLEY

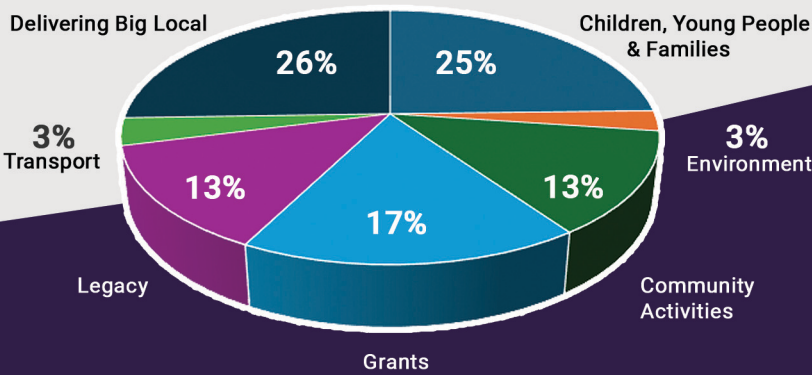
We donated many of the assets built up over the programme within the community; for example, the generator was gifted to a local small catering business so it could continue to support community events, lots of the play equipment went to Arley Primary School and the Parish Councils were pleased to receive lots of event and play equipment too. We also continued to support local consultations around the desire to create a 'community shed' and hope to see this come to fruition in the future.

Whilst we were sad to have to end the weekly youth provision, we are excited to hear about some of the plans the School and Parish Councils have for building on this success and connections with local families. The youth clubs continued right into the Summer, with all the usual fun and games local young people had come to expect, finishing with celebration BBQs , a trip to Weston Super Mare, a visit to London which included a tour of the Houses of Parliament by the new MP and a trip to Blackwell Adventure activity centre.

Following grants earlier in the programme to the Ansley Gardeners Group and Re-treeing Ansley, we were chuffed to hear that the village had been given a Gold Award in September for its efforts in its first entry to Britain in Bloom, and an Outstanding Award for the re-treeing programme.

The Partnership unfortunately saw its final annual Festival of Flight cancelled due to bad weather, but was able to share with residents its success at its final Celebration event in August; there were over 50 people in attendance who watched the fantastic film premier of the Big Local journey.

Here's an overview of how Big Local funds were used in Arley and Ansley over the entire programme.



BIG LOCAL: HILL TOP AND CALDWELL BIG LOCAL

Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local

The final Big Local Plan will see activities delivered until September 2025. This year CAVA was asked by the national funder Local Trust to manage all elements of the programme in HTC. The Hub continued to be a key focal point to make the area a better place for residents, a welcoming place where residents can meet, get advice, share skills and learn new ones; with coffee mornings, warm hub sessions, yoga, wellbeing walks, holiday activities for children and young people and craft sessions.

Collaboration was the key to making the year a success. We funded a range of local organisations who could actively deliver with us. BRANCAB provided targeted advice sessions at Wembrook Community Centre; over the year they worked with over 130 clients, achieving a financial outcome of over £177,000. Alongside its existing weekly youth clubs, Positive Impact Foundation ran activities over the Summer holidays and launched a new girls-only club and monthly wellbeing sessions for our more mature residents. ThinkActive also run a monthly seated exercise group, with guided conversations about how residents can get more active; one outcome of this is that we now have Mason Mile trained walk leaders running a weekly walk and talk group. We embedded our work with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust who have led on community conversations about the environment and ran 'Nature Explorers' sessions throughout the school holidays. Aspire in Arts also ran weekly youth sessions from the Hub and took local young people on trips to Red Kangaroo and Woodlands Outdoor Adventure.

A particular proud achievement was, through external funding from the County Council's Holidays Activities Fund, HTC distributed a massive 615 meals to children and their families over the summer through our events. Also, with funding from the Household Support Fund, 32 'warm and well' packs were given out in December and January, benefiting 69 people.

2024 saw 'Imagine Bamboo' come to the Borough, and HTC funded dedicated bamboo crafting sessions for residents, which culminated in a massive bamboo art and music installation in the towns Riversley Park.

BIG LOCAL: HILL TOP AND CALDWELL BIG LOCAL

Over Christmas we had another very generous donation from Rhenus Logistics who gifted 100 presents for local children, and 11 families took part in a photoshoot with North Warwickshire South Leicestershire College, receiving some beautiful and professional quality photos in time for Christmas, including photos of some very photogenic pooches! Like last year, we made visiting the theatre accessible to 110 residents, with our Panto for a Pound; the performances of Robinson Crusoe were enjoyed by everyone, and also supported local school and community food projects to deliver some very special Christmas hampers.

March saw the culmination of nearly 10 years of discussing improving our local parks a reality. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council started on the complete refurbishment of Sorrell Road Park, matching our investment of £100,000 with a further £125,000 of UKSPF funds. We can't wait to see the final results and officially open this in Spring.



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to read the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local final report.



Bishopton and Clopton - Community Builder

The Bishopton and Clopton Community Builder role is commissioned by a partnership of organisations in Stratford comprising Stratford District Council, Stratford Town Trust and Stratford Town Council.

The funding enables the worker to support the communities of Bishopton and Clopton, working towards the following priorities:

- **Community Safety & Housing** - Residents feel safer in their neighbourhoods.
- **Environmental Action** - The areas are cleaner and greener, with more people enjoying their environment.
- **Community Activities** - There are more & varied activities available for residents of all ages to engage in.
- **Health** - Residents feel more able to help themselves to improve their health and wellbeing.
- **VCSE Resilience** - There is greater involvement of residents in local formal and informal community action.

Over the past year, the Community Builder role has continued to grow—strengthening existing provision, launching new initiatives, and supporting community-led projects across Bishopton and Clopton.

Key Achievements:

- **Bishopton Community Centre** - Revitalised the Monday hub through targeted promotion, including a dedicated Facebook page. Responded to community feedback with a new children's book-sharing initiative and summer Book Club. A puppet-making workshop, attended by 12 families, received excellent feedback.

BISHOPTON AND CLOPTON - COMMUNITY BUILDER

Key Achievements Cont'd.

- **Ken Kennett Centre** - The weekly Clopton Connect hub remains popular, with the seated exercise class enhanced through a partnership with Everyone Active. The Centre was further revitalised by a large-scale mural project and the successful Clopton Family Fun Day.
- **Net Zero Community Kitchen** - Continues to attract around 22 residents per session, providing valuable support and social connection.
- **Partnership Working** - Strong collaborations with Stratford Town Trust Community Hub delivered joint initiatives such as Big Lunch events and a Great British Spring Clean litter-pick. Engagement with local councils, policing teams, schools, and voluntary organisations has helped coordinate events and shape responses to community needs.
- **Early Years Provision** - Identified low engagement with under-5s support in Clopton. Convened a working group of providers to explore solutions, with plans for a best practice guide.
- **Recognition** - The Community Builder was invited to speak at the Stratford Town Trust Members' Event, highlighting the positive impact of the role.

Impact

The Community Builder has helped strengthen community hubs, increase participation, and deliver new opportunities shaped by local voices. Through collaboration and creative initiatives, the role continues to build stronger, more connected, and more resilient communities in Bishopton and Clopton.



Case Study: Community Builder

Ken Kennett Centre Clopton Connect

Sarah* moved to Stratford in August 2024, with no connection to the area and moved into a flat on her own. Through word of mouth she learned of the warm hub offer at the Ken Kennett Centre in Clopton and came along. She was hoping to meet people and become part of the community.

When she initially came, she felt welcome. Through relationships formed, she has gained confidence. She is very shy so to be able to come into the centre took bravery. She feels the group has helped bring her out of her shell. She enjoys the social aspect of the group. It is somewhere to go and interact with others, as she says *"It is nice to have company"*

"It's given me a sense of belonging, helped me form friendships" With the support of the new group of friends, she felt able to apply for a job for the first time, which she was successful in getting. The group encouraged her and helped her through the process, offering reassurance and encouragement.

There has been a visible change in Sarah in the time she has been coming to the group. The welcoming, friendly atmosphere encouraged her to grow in her self-confidence. Building relationships with an eclectic array of people has brought enrichment. The impact of this group on this person has been immense. *"I look forward to Fridays"*, she told me with a big smile. She is also looking at volunteering opportunities to further her involvement in the community.

*Not her real name.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Health and Wellbeing

Better Health & Wellbeing for the CAVA team

At CAVA, we are committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of our team through a combination of leadership, policy, and practical initiatives.

Wellbeing in Practice

- **Quarterly Team Meetings:** In-person gatherings that include a dedicated wellbeing agenda item to support engagement and connection.
- **Employee Assistance Programme (EAP):** A new provider offers 24/7 access to services including:
 - Remote GP appointments
 - Financial and legal advice
 - Discounts on shopping, travel and fitness.
 - Mental health and physiotherapy support
 - Lifestyle coaching and wellbeing assessments

CAVA Inform Newsletter

- Quarterly wellbeing editions shared with staff and volunteers
- Topics include mental health, healthy eating, sleep, exercise, and seasonal self-care tips.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Make a Difference Day

Each year, CAVA staff volunteer with local causes to give back to the community and boost team morale. In 2024, activities included:

- **Rugby:** Decorating for Christmas with Harvest Fellowship Day
- **Warwick:** Supporting Chase Meadow's toy drive for families in need
- **Stratford:** Assisting Stratford Men's Shed AGM and volunteering with Escape Arts
- **North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth:** Helping Aspire in Arts restore a tiled banister areas.

These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to creating a supportive, healthy, and connected workplace.

Disability Confident Standard

CAVA is a Disability Confident Employer (Level 2 Accredited).

Equal Opportunities Employer

CAVA is an equal opportunities employer - *'Putting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion into Practice'*.

Armed Forces Covenant

CAVA is signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant and is an armed forces friendly employer.



Health Representation for the VCFSE

As a local infrastructure organisation, we frequently participate in a variety of health and wellbeing forums, boards, and networks to gather pertinent information to share with our members, to influence decision makers, and to raise the voice of the VCFSE sector at a local neighbourhood, place, regional and national level. This has included the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action's (NAVCA) health and wellbeing forums and focus groups around topics such as Hospital Discharge, the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership, the West Midlands Evidence Synthesis Group, Active Warwickshire, The Place Partnerships for Warwickshire.

CAVA has undertaken a variety of representation roles within the Integrated Care System Coventry and Warwickshire. Its CEO, Karen Winchcombe attends the Integrated Care Partnership, Warwickshire Care Collaborative and attends the Integrated Care Board as an 'observer'. This enables the voice of the sector to enable the evolving ICS to develop and move towards a framework in which the wider VCFSE can become engaged and work collaboratively. Area Managers, Tracy Southam and Alison Thompson represent the sector at the Warwickshire North, South Warwickshire Place and Rugby Place based Partnerships.

The ICS VCFSE Collaborative at a System level of the Integrated Care System commenced on April 1, 2024. CAVA have appointed an ICS VCFSE Collaborative Programme Manager to lead forward on and implement this vital work. The VCFSE play a key role in prevention and are more often better placed to support those less likely to follow traditional pathways to health and social care services. The System recognises its presence within and across all communities and is keen to ensure it works with the VCFSE sector to reduce health inequality collaboratively and through equitable opportunity.

Our Health and Wellbeing Manager and CEO have also been working in partnership with Health Research Partners across the system to form the ICS Coventry and Warwickshire Research Engagement Network. The Network is focussed on engaging communities and the wider VCFSE to help inform research priorities for the future.

HEALTH REPRESENTATION FOR THE VCFSE

The CEO chairs the system-wide Community Involvement Network which brings together insights and intelligence from across all partners which highlight patient and community voice to identify the needs of patients and population aligned to service provision and impact.

We have been part of the development of integrated working around health - as part of the Birmingham and Solihull (BSOL) Integrated Care System with CAVA representing the VCSE on the BSOL Voluntary and Community Sector Leadership Alliance, Solihull Place, the Community Care Collaborative and the Locality Delivery Partnership, with a particular emphasis on developing the role of the VCSE in prevention work.



CAVA's Work as part of Integrated Care Systems (ICS)

The ICS VCFSE Collaborative (Coventry and Warwickshire)

CAVA was appointed as the Lead Organisation for the ICS VCFSE Collaborative for Coventry and Warwickshire, working in partnership with Voluntary Action Coventry and colleagues from across the sector.

The Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Collaborative forms the main interface for the Integrated Care System to engage with the sector as a community conduit and a provider of services to patients, public and communities. The position of the sector within communities and as an alternative source of holistic support to traditional health and social care pathways, makes it an important partner in supporting NHS Integrated Care Boards to reduce health inequalities and provide services and support through prevention.

The Collaborative is underpinned and developed around three key principles:

- 1). Collaborative working
- 2). Equitable opportunity
- 3). Reducing risk of duplication.

The Collaborative was established in April 2024. Year 1 priorities focussed on setting up its arrangements, with Year 2 focused on Mobilisation.

The Terms of Reference for the VCFSE Collaborative were adopted in May 2025. These form part of one overall document referred to as the VCFSE Collaborative Information Pack to ensure the Collaborative remains focussed on ensuring the wider sector remains at the centre of decisions and voice, informed by evidence-based intelligence provided via its involvement pathways.

CAVA'S WORK AS PART OF INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEMS (ICS)



We're working with partners across Coventry and Warwickshire to gather ideas and feedback that will shape upcoming projects, including plans for health and wellbeing services.

CAVA'S WORK AS PART OF INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEMS (ICS)

Any VCFSE organisation can join the collaborative and get involved. The work of the Collaborative joins up with Place areas, and will align with the formation of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams.

The VCFSE Collaborative is responsible for:

- Providing the ICS with a **single point of entry route of contact and engagement** with the sector for representation and links to communities, reducing risk of duplication and conflict of interest
- Complement and **join up with the wider ICS structure** across Geographical Care Collaboratives and at Place in both Coventry and Warwickshire
- Facilitate an **equitable and fair process** for the whole sector to gain access to funding and opportunities to integrate and participate in collaborative working, encouraging and enabling the sector to operate in a coordinated way
- Enable the VCFSE in Coventry and Warwickshire to have a **representative voice at system and collaborative** level – both as a provider and as a link to local communities
- Better positions the VCFSE sector within the ICS to enable it to **contribute to the design and delivery of integrated care**.

VCFSE Integration in Birmingham and Solihull (BSol)

CAVA is a partner within the Birmingham and Solihull (BSol) Integrated Care System, providing representation at the system level Community Care Collaborative, Solihull Place & Local Delivery Partnership and the SMBC Health and Wellbeing Board on behalf of the VCFSE sector across Solihull.

As the local CVS for Solihull, CAVA works in partnership with BVSC, the lead organisation for the VCFSE Leaders Alliance across BSol and local CVS, to support representation and integration of the VCFSE alongside our partners in Solihull.

CAVA'S WORK AS PART OF INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEMS (ICS)

A key part of the health integration work in Solihull has been focussed on the role of the VCFSE in reducing winter pressures at a community level. This approach helps set foundations to build on and move towards collaborative working and delivery in the future.

CAVA also provides representation, alongside Colebridge Trust (North Solihull Community Anchor) to the VCFSE Alliance which is focussed on VCFSE integration at a strategic level. The Alliance brings together around 25 VCFSE Leaders to help support and shape partnership working and integration across the geographical landscape.

CAVA's role extends to supporting the Fairer Future Funding Panel, providing representation through both the small and large grant schemes. The funding was allocated through Birmingham and Solihull ICB and awarded projects where there was a clear approach to integrated working, especially through prevention and early intervention to people and communities within the Borough.



NEWTOWN CENTRE

Newtown Centre: A Year of Community Impact

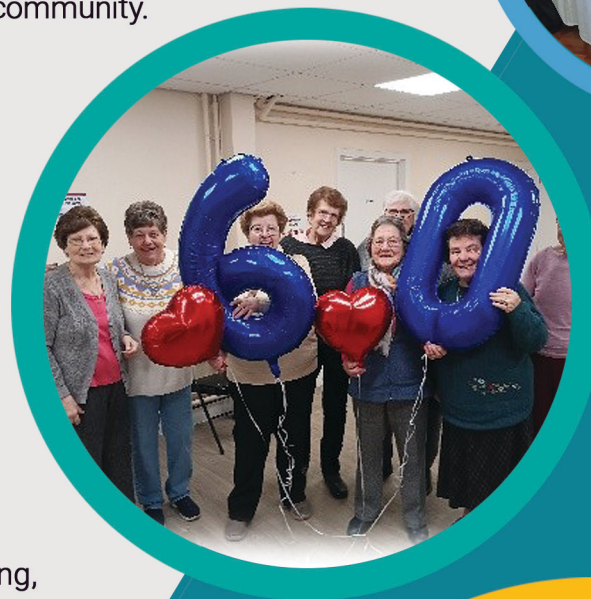
The Newtown Centre remains a vital hub in Nuneaton, offering essential services and a welcoming space for the community.

Health Services

- **NHS Phlebotomy Clinic:** Open 4.5 days a week, serving nearly 2,000 patients weekly
- **Retinal Screening:** Over 250 patients seen each week
- **Chiropody Clinic:** 12 appointments weekly, fully booked weeks in advance
- **Annual Health Checks:** For people with Severe Mental Illness, delivered by Coventry and Rugby GP Alliance.

Community Activities

- **Adult Community Learning:** Courses in cooking, drama, and life skills
- **Turning Point:** Support for individuals with learning disabilities
- **Change Grow Live:** Addiction support sessions
- **Sahil:** Weekly sessions for South Asian women
- **Warwickshire Vision:** Support for people with sight loss
- **Sky Blues in the Community:** Healthy living and fitness sessions
- **Chater Dance Academy:** 45 years at the Centre, running 4 days a week.



NEWTOWN CENTRE

Events & Celebrations

- **Macmillan Coffee Morning:** Raised over £300
- **Volunteer Afternoon Tea:** Celebrated 60 volunteers from across the borough
- **Farewell to Sheila:** Honoured a beloved volunteer of 19 years
- **Christmas Lunch:** Served a 3-course meal to 79 vulnerable residents, with music, dancing, and a visit from Santa

Improvements

- **Main Hall Floor Renovation:** Repaired, re-stained, and varnished
- **Annual Maintenance Plan:** To keep the space in top condition

New Year, New You Event

- Partnered with **DWP** to host a jobs and volunteering fair
- Over **1,000 visitors** attended
- Celebrated the **60th Anniversary** of the Newtown Centre which opened in 1965 (see photos below).



RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT NETWORK (REN)

Research Engagement Network (REN)

Increasing diversity in research participation

Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care System (ICS), CAVA and others are working together to increase the diversity of participants in health and care research. Research that better reflects the needs and interests of all areas, groups and communities, leads to improvements in health and social care treatment, diagnoses and prevention.

Our Goals

- Build **trusting, mutually beneficial relationships** with local communities
- Understand how people **view and experience research**
- Work with community members to make research more **inclusive and representative**
- Identify and remove **barriers to participation**
- Co-create with communities research which reflects **community priorities**
- Share **opportunities** to get involved in research in different ways.

What we've been doing so far...

- Embedding a **REN Working Group** within the ICS
- Used existing networks to find engagement opportunities
- Co-created engagement resources and trained **Community Research Champions** with Coventry University
- Worked with local **rural, waterways, and Veteran communities** to gain insights and explore ways to increase engagement with research
- **Helped people with lived experience get involved** in all parts of research including as co-applicants of studies, co-developers of research priorities, and co-designers of research questions
- Brought together members of the public interested in research and research professionals for **Principles and Ethics of Community Research** training.

Case Study: Research Engagement Network (REN)

Engaging Rural Voices around Health Inequalities

WALC (Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils) have supported the REN with engagement with rural communities about health and care research. They are engaging with rural voices around health inequalities, and barriers to engaging with health and social care research. WALC focussed on *"searching out the seldom heard: ensuring that marginalised voices, such as the elderly, digitally excluded individuals, and low-income families, were included in the conversation"*. WALC developed a replicable strategy to continue engaging with people, increasing awareness of research and fostering community-led solutions. WALC recognises that *"this...initiative underscores the importance of collaboration with trusted partners with deep local knowledge in community settings..."*

WALC trusts the findings will inform future strategies to improve access, reduce health inequalities, and foster community-led solutions for Warwickshire's rural population."

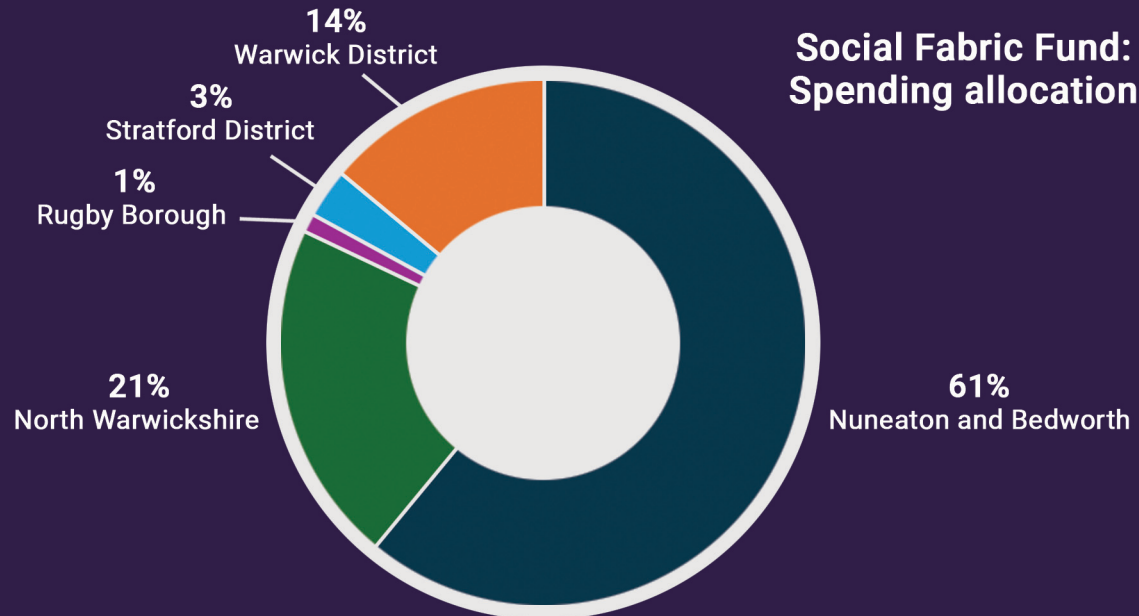
Ja'Neen Day, CEO WALC, 2025



Social Fabric Fund

Investing in “social infrastructure” to develop and strengthen Warwickshire’s most deprived communities.

Warwickshire County Council’s £2.5 million Social Fabric Fund wrapped up in March, with final awards announced and the end of CAVA’s support programme.



Key Highlights

- Funding was prioritised to communities in the **top 20% most deprived areas** (LSOAs), especially in Nuneaton and Bedworth
- **74 applications** were submitted, requesting nearly **£9.5 million** in total
- Projects ranged from **domestic abuse support** and **youth programmes** to **community spaces**, **ecological initiatives**, and **healthy lifestyle activities**.

WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE: SOCIAL FABRIC FUND

CAVA's Role

- Supported all applicants - successful or not - with guidance on:
 - Meeting fund criteria
 - Project planning and budgeting
 - Sustainability and community need
 - Completing application forms.

Lasting Impact

- Launched a **Community Spaces Forum** in Nuneaton and Bedworth
- Delivered training and support including:
 - **2 First Aid courses**
 - **2 Safeguarding sessions** (82 participants)
 - **100 Food Hygiene training places**
 - **Branding support packages.**

This project not only brought vital funding to Warwickshire's most in-need areas but also strengthened community ties and reinforced CAVA's role as a trusted, supportive partner.



STRATFORD SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP (SIP)

Stratford Social Inclusion Partnership

Increasing community resilience

The Stratford Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) works to reduce social exclusion within Stratford District. With funding from Stratford District Council, CAVA employs a Development Officer role to support the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) to more effectively support the priorities of the SIP. The core focus of the Development Officer is to support VCSE groups to more effectively secure funding and support their development needs.

Key achievements in 2024/25

- Supported groups to apply for **£1,976,716**
- **£597,863 of funding secured** by groups for social inclusion priorities
- **25% increase in funding** compared to 23/24
- **74** organisations supported
- **£1,903,410 secured** since start of project in 2020
- 5th annual year on year **increase in funding**

Alongside a very busy year certain success stories stood out:

Health and Wellbeing - Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP) faced growing pressures by 2023 due to heavy reliance on a small team of dedicated volunteers. With the development of the Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub offering a major opportunity, SHWP needed to expand its capacity to continue delivering impact and avoid volunteer burnout.

STRATFORD SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP (SIP)



STRATFORD SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP (SIP)

In response, SHWP's Chair and the CAVA Development Officer devised the '*Growing the Future*' project to recruit paid staff, adopt an asset-based community development approach, and enhance SHWP's role in the new Hub. The Development Officer played a key role in launching the initiative, drafting the framework, facilitating strategic workshops, and contributing learning from other successful community programmes.

A successful Stage 1 bid to the National Lottery led to further funding success from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Access Fund. The Development Officer maintained project momentum during leadership gaps, guided the consultant recruitment process, and supported preparations for employing staff.

Outcomes include a £186,708 National Lottery grant, £126,000 from local partners, a strengthened operational model, and SHWP's expanded role in reducing health inequalities - positioning it as a replicable model for community-led wellbeing.

Empowering and strengthening local communities

The Stratford Centres Together group was instigated in 2025, and has met twice.

As a result of Stratford Centres Together and support from Stratford Town Trust, a workshop was delivered by Stratford Town Trust's building manager who advised on good practice on health and safety and compliance for community facilities. A central database of contractors was also developed.

The Development Officer collaborated with the Bishopton Community Centre and the Ken Kennett Centre to co-develop a proposal to further enhance these vital community hubs. The 'Stratford Community Anchor Project' identifies key barriers preventing these centres from maximising their impact and proposed solutions to address these challenges. This has benefited from the links developed with other Stratford centres developed through the '*Stratford Centres Together*' group.

Residents Associations on new housing estates were supported in Shipston, Meon Vale and Southam in this quarter. Upper Lighthorne Support Partnership continued to be supported.

STRATFORD SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP (SIP)

Advice was also given to Upper Lighthorne Parish Council and the local Community Champion on groups governance, legal status of groups and facility development/funding.

Meon Vale Residents Association were supported via a funding search and were introduced to Paint Stratford as they were looking for a graffiti artist to do some work with local young people on the estate.

Bishopton Community Centre and the Ken Kennett Centre were supported to apply for a Councillor Grant for their graffiti art installations.



2024/25

Annual Report

WARWICKSHIRE & SOLIHULL
CAVA
COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION

Growing Opportunities
Stratford-on-Avon
2023-25

STRATFORD-ON-AVON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Stratford Social
Inclusion Partnership
Development Officer

Author: Chris Freeman

Please scan this code with your
smartphone QR reader to read the
full 2024/25 SIP Annual Report.



VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering

As part of our funded infrastructure work in Warwickshire, CAVA delivers a vibrant volunteering brokerage service designed to make every volunteering experience meaningful and impactful. Our goal is to connect people, purpose and potential - ensuring that volunteers' skills and energy create the greatest possible difference in communities across the county.

Our support includes:

- **Connecting volunteers** with local organisations
- Promoting a wide range of volunteering opportunities
- Supporting **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** and **Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV)** initiatives
- **Offering good practice** guidance and resources
- Hosting volunteering **events, forums and training**
- **Celebrating volunteers** through awards and recognition events.

Each year, we help people (see page 6) find volunteering roles that suit their interests and abilities - matching them with opportunities across the voluntary, community and public sectors.

Alongside this, CAVA continues to collaborate with local and national employers who contribute their time and expertise through volunteering, strengthening connections between business and community.



Membership

What does being a Member involve?

CAVA is a registered charity but it is also a limited company and so being a member is a bit like being a shareholder in a company anywhere. Like a shareholder, you will not run the Company on a day-to-day basis.

As a member, you delegate this role to a Board of Trustees who will be responsible for running the Charity. The Board will be expected to keep you up-to-date with its decision-making.

The Board of Directors has an obligation to call a General Meeting at least once a year, involving all the members. At this meeting members will be asked to decide on things like voting on resolutions put by the board, electing the directors to the board, electing the auditors, and approving the accounts.

Membership Benefits

- Support around HR, IT, Accounting, Telecoms and Payroll needs through our BOSS (Back Office Support Services)
- Discounted rates and priority bookings for training and events
- Have voting rights at our Annual General Meeting
- Access our Resource Library
- And best of all, membership is FREE!

To find out more about becoming a member, or to see if your organisation has already registered, please visit: www.wcava.org.uk/membership



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to register as a member online.

Equality Statement

If you require this publication in a different format or language, please contact us on 01926 477512, email: information@wcava.org.uk or write to the address below:

Warwickshire CAVA, 4&6 Clemens Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 2DL

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
	<u>2024/25</u> £	<u>2023/24</u> £
Income	1,001,999	738,703
Expenditure	(839,643)	(874,611)
Transfer between funds	<u>(17,164)</u>	<u>23,228</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>145,192</u>	<u>(112,680)</u>
DESIGNATED FUNDS		
	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Income	0	-
Expenditure	0	(1,320)
Transfer between funds	<u>0</u>	<u>(23,228)</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Income	959,444	800,344
Expenditure	999,150	(740,005)
Transfer between funds	<u>17,164</u>	<u>-</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(22,542)</u>	<u>60,339</u>
ENDOWMENT FUNDS		
	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Income	0	-
Expenditure	(4,700)	-
Gains/(Losses) on investment	1,003	-
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(3,697)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds for year	<u>118,953</u>	

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 2025

	<u>2024/25</u> £	<u>2023/24</u> £
FIXED ASSETS		
Property	354,584	518,057
Other	<u>17,217</u>	<u>16,214</u>
	371,801	534,271
Current Assets less Liabilities	<u>729,089</u>	<u>447,666</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>1,100,890</u>	<u>981,937</u>
Unrestricted Funds - General	427,431	282,239
Restricted Funds	491,742	514,284
Endowment Funds	<u>181,717</u>	<u>185,414</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,100,890</u>	<u>981,937</u>

The financial Summary figures in this review have been extracted from the full audited accounts. A copy of the full audited accounts are available from www.wcava.org.uk/reports-publications/

To obtain a printed copy, please email **Stephanie Tompkins**, CAVA Finance Manager at stephtompkins@wcava.org.uk



Scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to read this report online.

THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you...

We are extremely grateful to all those local communities, individuals and funders who have pledged their support and given generously. We would especially like to thank the following for their kind support:

Funders

- Birmingham and Solihull ICS
- Birmingham and Voluntary Services Council
- Bishopton Community Centre
- Coventry and Warwickshire ICS
- Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust
- 3 Villages Ex Mining Villages Partnership
- Local Trust
- NAVCA
- NEC Group
- NHS Coventry and Warwickshire ICB
- NHS England / Department of Health & Social Care
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Orbit
- Rugby Borough Council
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Warwickshire Place Partnership
- Stratford District Council
- Stratford Town Council
- Stratford Town Trust
- The Ken Kennett Community Centre
- Warwick District Council
- Warwickshire County Council

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© Andrew Moore - Imagine Bamboo (Page 26)
@ WALC (Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils) (Page 41) WALC Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/wwmcalc>
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Message from our Chief Executive

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of 2024-2025, this Annual Report highlights just a fraction of the impactful support, activity and engagement delivered by CAVA. We remain deeply grateful to our funders, whose continued backing enables us to champion the passionate, diverse and resilient VCSE sector we are privileged to work alongside.



Our dedicated staff and volunteers across Solihull and Warwickshire are the beating heart of CAVA. Their unwavering commitment, expertise and compassion have ensured the delivery of high-quality support, even amidst the complexities of today's working environment. Alongside CAVA's Chair, Clare Spiers, we remain in awe of them and what they achieve in communities and across the sector.

In my third year as Chief Executive, I've had the pleasure of deepening relationships with partners and groups, particularly through the launch of the VCFSE Collaborative across Coventry and Warwickshire. This has strengthened our engagement with sector leaders, and broadened our collective impact as a sector within the health and social care space. The principles of equity showcase the contribution the sector can bring to collaborative approaches in supporting people, irrelevant of whether you are one volunteer in a very localised community setting, or a larger organisation delivering more specialist services.

The sector continues to face significant pressures; from rising community needs and an ageing population to the growing demand for volunteers and support with core costs. CAVA's work remains vital in ensuring the voice of the sector is heard and responded to.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Looking ahead, we will build on our current priorities, remain responsive to emerging needs, and continue to foster support, develop skills and co-create solutions. While we bid farewell to some valued programmes and colleagues in 2024–2025, we also welcome new faces and fresh opportunities in 2025–2026, as the VCFSE sector continues to evolve.

In a world that is changing at such a fast pace, the troubles in the world continue and we can feel like we have little power to change that. However, CAVA is committed to doing our little bit within local communities and, alongside our partners and VCFSE sector colleagues, we can still make a BIG DIFFERENCE.

CAVA is proud to continue its offer to the sector as well as keep advocating on its behalf locally and nationally. We look forward to working with you into the future and whatever it brings.



Karen Winchcombe
Chief Executive



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