



























2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

WARWICKSHIRE & SOLIHULL

CAVA

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION


WILLS

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WARWICKSHIRE & SOLIHULL CAVA
COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION

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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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Foreword from Our Chair



It is a privilege to introduce this report as Chair of the Board of Trustees of CAVA.

The past year has once again demonstrated the essential role that the voluntary and community sector plays in the lives of people across Warwickshire and Solihull. At a time when many communities are experiencing increasing financial pressure, growing inequality and greater demand for support our sector continues to respond with commitment, creativity and resilience.

The stories and achievements highlighted throughout this Report provide a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when people and organisations come together around a shared purpose. From tackling poverty and social isolation, to supporting people with learning difficulties, improving physical and mental wellbeing, protecting our environment and strengthening local communities, the breadth and impact of our sector is considerable.

Yet the context in which our members are operating remains challenging. The cost of living continues to affect individuals, families and communities, while pressures on public services and funding are placing additional demands on voluntary and community organisations. At the same time, organisations are having to navigate an increasingly complex environment, responding to changing needs while seeking to remain sustainable and effective.

Against this backdrop, collaboration has never been more important. CAVA has an important role to play in bringing people together, creating connections, sharing knowledge and ensuring that the voice of the voluntary and community sector is heard. Our strength comes from our members and from the relationships we build across the voluntary, public and private sectors.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

As I reflect on this past year, I am particularly proud of the way CAVA has continued to develop and respond to this changing landscape. We cannot predict everything that the coming year will bring but we can ensure that we remain connected to our communities, responsive to their needs and ambitious about the contribution our sector can make.

There is still much to do. The pressures facing our communities are real, and we must continue to challenge inequality, champion inclusion and make the case for the investment and recognition that our sector deserves.

CAVA will continue to be a strong voice, advocate and source of support for the voluntary and community sector across Warwickshire and Solihull. I would like to thank our members, staff, volunteers, trustees, partners and funders for their continued commitment and contribution. Together, we can ensure that the sector remains a vital force for positive change, both now and in the years ahead.



Clare Spiers
Chair of CAVA's Trustee Board

Warwickshire Infrastructure



CAVA continues to deliver infrastructure support to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector across Warwickshire on behalf of Warwickshire County Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Warwick District Council and the Integrated Care System.



We work in partnership with Coventry and Warwickshire Co-operative Development Agency (CWCDA) and Grapevine for our WCC commissioned services only.

We provide a comprehensive range of services designed to strengthen communities, develop organisations, increase volunteering opportunities and support social enterprise growth across the county.

Throughout 2025-26, the VCSE sector continued to face considerable pressures. Organisations reported increasing demand for services, rising operational and premises costs, difficulties recruiting staff and volunteers, reduced reserves, increased governance challenges and ongoing uncertainty surrounding future funding opportunities.



WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE

Despite these challenges, Warwickshire's voluntary and community groups demonstrated remarkable resilience, innovation and commitment to supporting local people and communities. CAVA and its partners remained responsive to these emerging needs, providing practical support, guidance, training and opportunities for collaboration across the county.

CAVA teams provided support to 661 unique groups and organisations working in partnership across all Boroughs and Districts, providing 1,843 incidents of support. Funding continued to be a challenge for many groups and CAVA assisted with funding applications with 375 applications supported amounting to £23,986,376.15 of which £21,946,004.73 came into Warwickshire within the financial year through funding applications and grant panels. CAVA teams held 248 events including webinars and workshops and contributed to 186 others, which enabled 17,897 people to contribute and for 1,712 organisations to be upskilled.

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 2025-2026 1,920 individuals interested in volunteering (Warwickshire) were supported by CAVA's volunteering team resulting in 1,646 being placed in a volunteering role of which 1,266 were placed within a service supporting community need. This includes 151 one off ESV (Employee Skilled Volunteering) and micro volunteering opportunities undertaken. The economic value of this volunteering equated to approximately £5,995,759 per annum.

Through our participation in strategic boards and partnerships, we ensured that the voice of the VCSE sector continued to influence decision-making and local priorities.

Building Stronger Partnerships and Sector Resilience

Collaboration remains central to our approach. Through countywide networking, meet-the-funder events, safeguarding training, governance support and strategic engagement, CAVA continued to strengthen relationships across the VCSE sector and between statutory, community and private sector partners.

Our State of the Sector work highlighted that organisations continue to identify funding, volunteering, organisational management, premises and increasing demand as their greatest challenges. In response, we have expanded support resources, delivered practical advice and facilitated opportunities for groups to connect, share learning and access funding opportunities.

The impact of partnership working can be seen through successful initiatives such as community warm hubs, funding advice programmes, crisis support to community groups and collaborative volunteer recruitment projects. These examples demonstrate the importance of bringing organisations together around shared challenges and opportunities, helping communities remain resilient during periods of increasing pressure.



Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026-2027, our focus will remain on strengthening the resilience, sustainability and influence of Warwickshire's VCSE sector. Planned priorities include delivering funding fairs across the county, launching the CAVA Support Charter, enhancing online resources and securing our Local Infrastructure Quality Accreditation through NAVCA. We will continue to champion volunteering, support community-led action, nurture social enterprises and ensure that the voices of local organisations and residents remain at the centre of service development and decision-making.

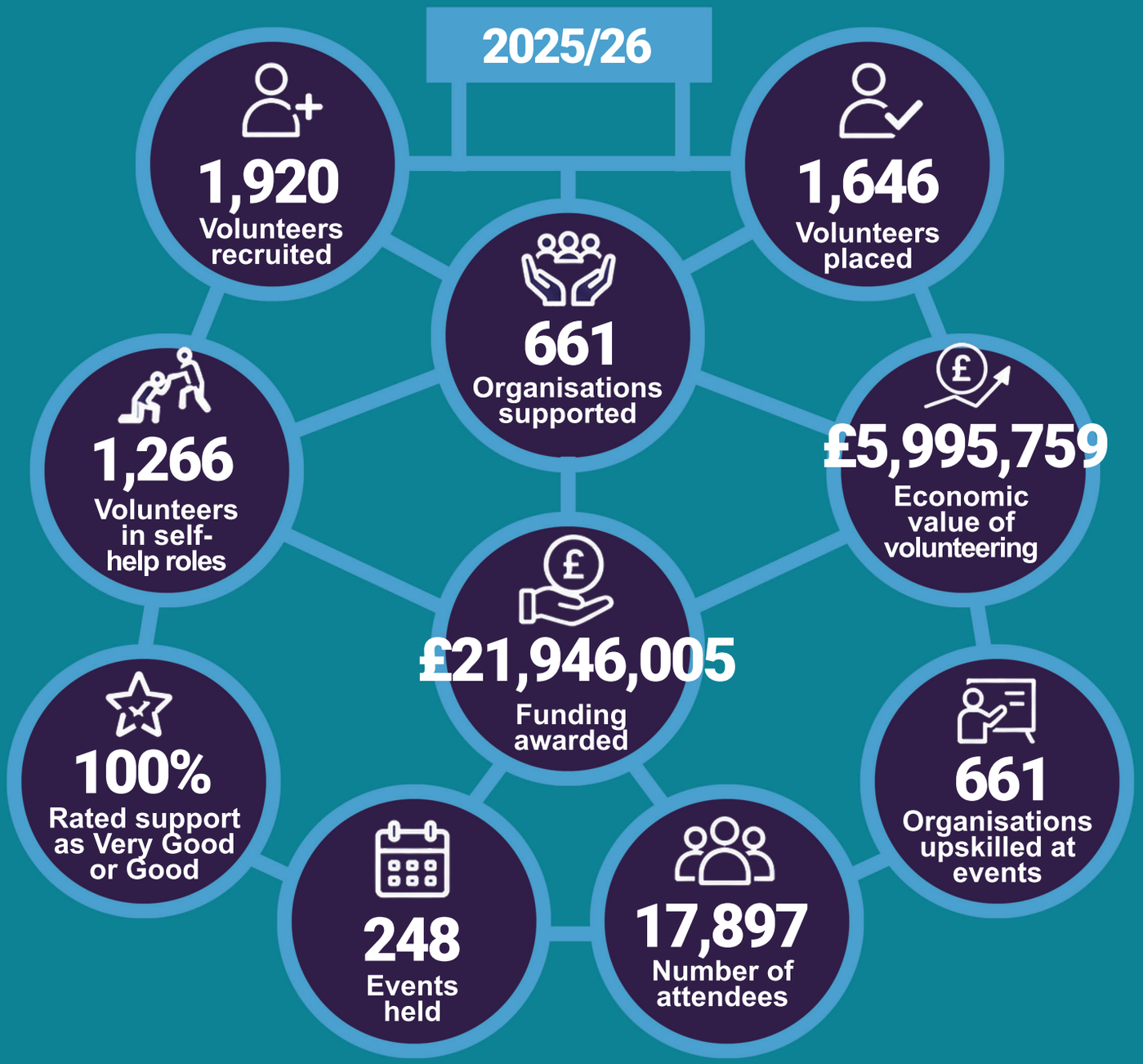
Together with our partners, volunteers and community organisations, we remain committed to building stronger, more connected and more resilient communities across Warwickshire.



The service CAVA offers is great and a must for the voluntary sector. It has enabled us to continue our work and to reach out to those who need our support most.

- CAVA Service User

WARWICKSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE: OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



Case Study: North Warwickshire

The Value of CAVA in North Warwickshire

Warwickshire & Solihull Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA) supports community groups across North Warwickshire through funding advice, governance guidance and partnership working.

Building partnerships and securing opportunities

Following a meeting with Water Orton Parish Council, CAVA's Funding and Group Development Officer (FGDO) was invited to meet Water Orton Bowling Club. Think Active was also invited to discuss the Sport England Movement Fund, leading to an agreed funding approach to increase physical activity, encourage sports participation and help the club become more environmentally friendly.

Supporting sustainable organisations

CAVA has advised Atherstone Football Club and other community groups on suitable legal structures and governance, helping them strengthen their foundations and plan for future sustainability. These organisations valued CAVA's knowledge and guidance.

Working together for stronger communities

CAVA also participates in networking meetings with partners including Warwickshire County Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, parish councils, Warwickshire Health Promotion, Think Active and Coleshill Partnership.

Sharing knowledge and building relationships helps improve collaboration and strengthen community support across North Warwickshire.

Case Study: Nuneaton & Bedworth

Nuneaton & Bedworth Funding Fair Leads to Grant Success

Warwickshire & Solihull Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA) partnered with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) to organise a funding fair, bringing together more than 60 people from community organisations and funding bodies.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet funders face-to-face, explore funding opportunities and network with other local groups. Funders included Heart of England Community Foundation, Arts Council, Warwickshire County Council, Sported, Think Active and The Borough Lottery. CAVA was also on hand to provide advice and support to help organisations identify suitable funding opportunities.

The event received positive feedback from both groups and funders, with early successes demonstrating the value of bringing everyone together.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Grow Baby applied for a Warwickshire County Council councillor grant, while Weddington Community Allotments successfully secured £5,000 from Heart of England Community Foundation's Net Zero Fund to expand its site.

The funding fair highlights how partnership working and access to expert advice can help community organisations secure funding, develop their projects and make a lasting difference locally.



Case Study: Rugby Borough

Supporting a New Women's Wellbeing Group in Rugby

A Rugby resident approached CAVA's Funding and Group Development Officer (FGDO) for advice on establishing a women's wellbeing group, with a particular focus on supporting immigrant communities and Polish women.

The group aims to help women overcome a range of challenges, including English language skills, employability, access to health and fitness activities, and social opportunities. Having already delivered workshops and established a regular group, the resident wanted advice on formalising the organisation, developing policies and procedures, and finding suitable venues.

Providing Advice and Support

CAVA explained the differences between a Community Interest Company (CIC) and a charity, helping the resident identify the most appropriate structure. A CIC was agreed as the best fit for her ambitions, including the potential to employ staff, take on property and generate income through workshops and merchandise.

The resident was referred to CWCDA for support with CIC registration and paperwork. CAVA also provided ongoing guidance on policies and procedures, sharing templates, reviewing draft documents and offering funding advice. A list of suitable community venues was also supplied.

Positive Progress

CWCDA has been supporting the group with its registration, while Rugby Borough Council has offered further support through its Community Development Team once the CIC is established.

This collaborative approach is helping the resident turn her idea into a sustainable organisation, creating opportunities to improve wellbeing, build connections and support women within the local community.

Case Study: Stratford District

Funding Advice Helps Stratford Charity Avoid Closure

Stepping Stones supports homeless and socially excluded people in Stratford-upon-Avon, providing a welcoming space where people can access a hot meal twice a week alongside additional support, including podiatry, benefits advice and life skills guidance.

The charity employs a Charity Manager, funded through grants from the National Lottery and Stratford Town Trust. However, difficulties securing continuation funding left the organisation facing the possibility of closure.

Finding a Way Forward

CAVA's Funding and Group Development Officer (FGDO) contacted the Chair of Trustees and Charity Manager to explore alternatives and provide ongoing advice and encouragement.

Recognising the urgency of the situation, CAVA alerted the Head of Communities at Stratford-on-Avon District Council, who was familiar with the charity. The Council entered discussions with Stepping Stones and agreed to provide funding to support a further year of operation.

Alongside this, CAVA identified a local funder interested in social welfare support, able to consider an interim funding application with a quick turnaround.

Securing Vital Funding

Stepping Stones successfully secured £5,000 in interim funding, covering the Charity Manager's salary until the Council's funding began. The additional funding from Stratford-on-Avon District Council secured a further year of operation, helping the charity continue its vital support for people experiencing homelessness and social exclusion.

CAVA continues to work with Stepping Stones to explore ways to improve its long-term sustainability and reduce reliance on a small number of funders.

Case Study: Warwick District

Funding Advice Surgeries Help Warwick District Groups

Severn Trent Community Fund (STCF) wanted to encourage more applications from community groups in Leamington. Working with CAVA's Warwick Funding and Group Development Officer (FGDO), it organised face-to-face advice surgeries to help groups explore whether their projects were suitable for funding.

Connecting Groups with Funders

Fourteen appointments were offered at CAVA's Leamington office and promoted through Eventbrite and CAVA's newsletters. Twelve groups signed up to receive tailored advice and ask questions directly to STCF.

Supporting Funding Applications

The surgeries were well received, with groups valuing the opportunity to discuss their projects and understand how to shape their applications.

Five groups planned to apply, with a further four considering it. Two groups submitted core cost bids shortly after their appointments, while others explored capital projects requiring longer lead-in times.

Some groups also requested further support from CAVA to review draft applications or explore other fundraising opportunities.

The initiative highlights the value of connecting community organisations directly with funders and providing practical guidance to help them make informed decisions and develop stronger applications.

Solihull Infrastructure: Annual Highlights, Impact & Outcomes



Supporting a Stronger VCFSE Sector in Solihull



During 2025-26, CAVA continued to strengthen the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector across Solihull through business development support, representation, partnership building and community engagement. Our work has helped organisations become more resilient, sustainable and influential, ensuring they can continue delivering vital services to local residents.

Key Achievements at a Glance

70 Organisations Supported

- 70 organisations received tailored one-to-one support
- 79% were new organisations, significantly exceeding the target of 25%
- Support covered governance, policies, funding, organisational structures, trustee support, business planning and partnership development.



SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE

Securing Funding and Sustainability

- Provided support to external organisations to access funding
- Blossomfield Sports Club secured £16,500 through successful grant applications
- Funding information was shared proactively every week, increasing access to opportunities and strengthening organisational sustainability.

Building Skills and Capacity

- A comprehensive Training and Development Needs Analysis identified sector priorities including:
  - Digital Skills and AI
  - Measuring Impact
  - Cyber Security.
  - Marketing and Communications
  - Funding and Income Generation
  - SEND and Inclusion
  - Accessibility
- This work is shaping future investment in workforce and organisational development.

Connecting People and Organisations

- Four major networking and development events delivered in Q4 alone
- The Solihull Funding Roadshow attracted 48 attendees and connected local groups directly with funders
- Ongoing forums, including the VCFSE Leaders' Meeting and Volunteer Managers' Forum, created opportunities for collaboration, peer support and shared learning.

Ensuring the Sector's Voice is Heard

Strategic Representation

CAVA represented the VCFSE sector at more than 100 strategic meetings, boards and forums during the year, covering:

- Health & Neighbourhood Working
- Partnership Development
- Mental Health
- Children and Families
- Sustainability
- Community Safety
- Safeguarding

This representation ensured community voices informed local planning, commissioning and service development.

SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE

Influencing Local Decision Making

CAVA played a key role in:

- Development of the Solihull VCSE Covenant
- NHS Urgent Treatment Centre consultation activity
- Neighbourhood Health and Local Delivery Partnership programmes
- Supporting underrepresented communities to contribute to local decisions.

This work ensured that people with lived experience were included in shaping future services and policies.

Strengthening Partnerships

Throughout the year CAVA facilitated collaboration between community organisations, public sector partners and businesses.

Partnership activity included:

- Locality Hub at Solihull Hospital
- Sustainability Network
- VCSE Leaders' Network
- National Neighbourhood Health Programme
- Volunteer Managers' Forum
- Match My Project and Open4Community initiatives.

Open4Community engagement continued to grow, reaching:

- 210 active users
- 437 funding searches
- 301 platform logins.

Raising the Profile of the Sector

CAVA continued to act as a communications hub for the sector by promoting consultations, funding opportunities, events, volunteering and training.

Annual Reach

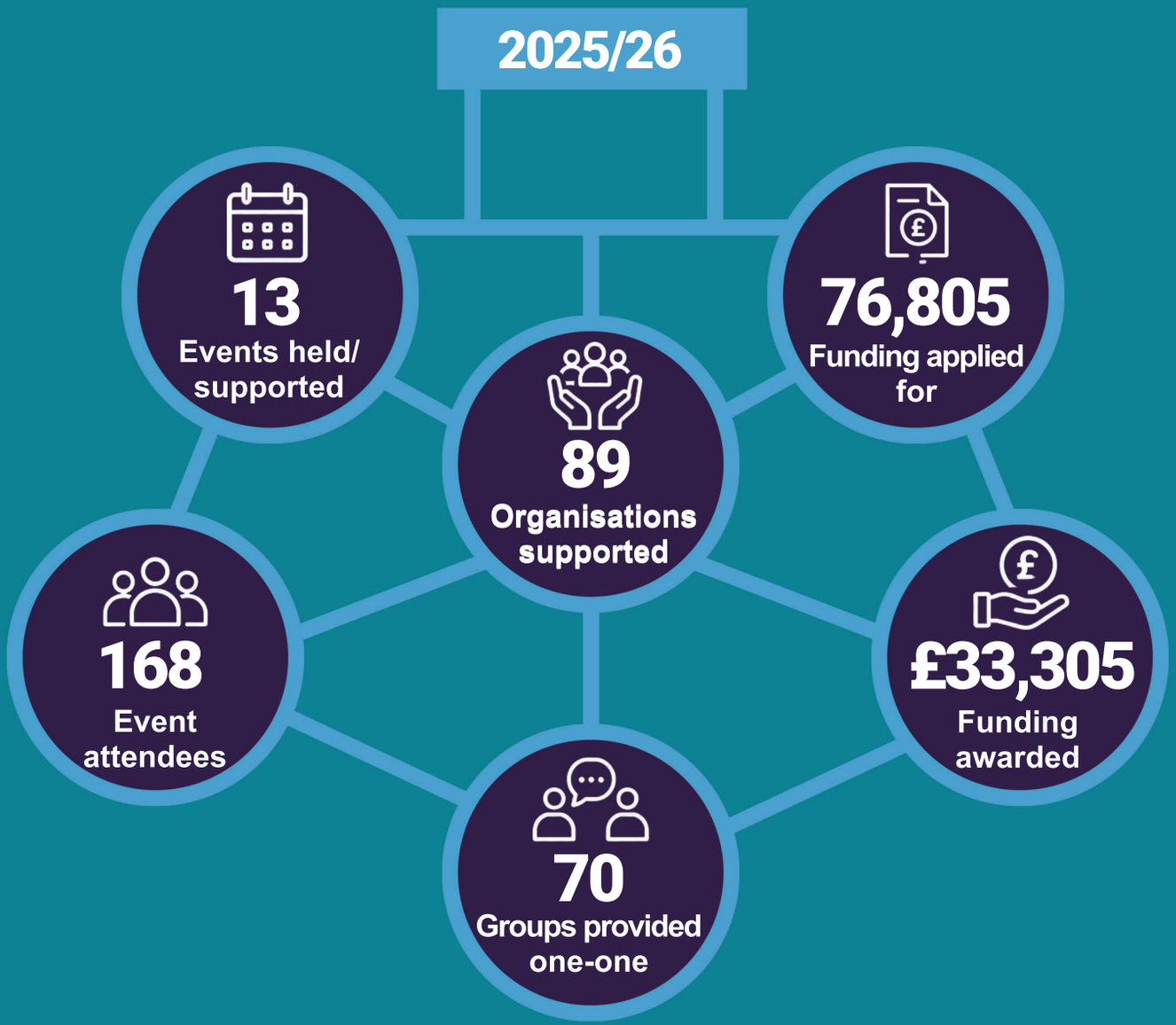
- Approximately 2,000 E-Grapevine recipients
- Nearly 600 Solihull Newsletter subscribers
- Dozens of consultations, campaigns and funding opportunities promoted
- Growing social media engagement and sector visibility.



I want to say a huge thank you for all the help and information I've received, for the time you've given me, the encouragement, and your invaluable advice in regard to my consideration of forming a CIC.

- CAVA Service User

SOLIHULL INFRASTRUCTURE: OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



Case Study: Solihull

Advising on Legal Set Up

A member of the Solihull MBC Community Development Team referred a client to CAVA's Business Development Advisor (BDA) service. The client was a Licensed Menopause Champion, working mainly as a self-employed Sole Trader, and was considering how to develop her role and increase income generation to potentially make it a full-time business. She was seeking advice on possible legal structures and set-up.

The BDAs met with the client via Teams to explore her current approach and discuss the pros and cons of becoming a Community Interest Company (CIC), Community Interest Organisation (CIO) or another form of constituted organisation. Further information and resources were provided to help her make an informed decision about whether to remain a Sole Trader or change her structure.

During the discussions, it emerged that the client knew a former CAVA colleague who is also a Licensed Menopause Champion and runs a CIC supporting women in and around Solihull. The BDAs suggested that making contact could be useful.

Following a productive discussion, the two women decided to join forces, recognising that their work and experience were closely aligned and that they could achieve more together. The client ultimately decided not to establish her own CIC, but said she was grateful for CAVA's "invaluable advice" and support in helping her reach an informed decision.

> *"Our support of women over recent years has been aligned, and we feel we can do so much more together. I'm excited by the prospect and looking forward to being part of, and supporting the cause for the benefit of many."*

This positive outcome demonstrates the value of collaborative working between Solihull MBC and CAVA, combining specialist advice, knowledge and local connections to help people explore options, make informed decisions and develop sustainable opportunities that benefit their communities.

Health Engagement

The Area Manager represented the VCFSE on the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme and Locality Delivery Partnership in Solihull.

CAVA was invited by NHS Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board to lead consultation activity with priority communities in Solihull in relation to a review of Urgent Treatment Centres in early 2026.

Close partnership working has started with the new Health Community Engagement Manager for BVSC (Birmingham Voluntary Service Council), looking at how Birmingham and Solihull can use community insight to improve service delivery, making support easier to access, better aligned to local needs, and more likely to increase uptake and improve outcomes.

Given the high level of activity around health, the need for ongoing consultation and coproduction and changes to ICBs, CAVA Solihull is planning the delivery of routine health sector online updates to VCFSE groups and organisations in 2026. These will also provide a platform to directly gather views and contributions from the sector to efficiently feed into key work programmes.

Overall, engagement with Health is taking pace and there are encouraging movements towards embedding VCFSE posts within health services and communities to broker strong co-production and engagement throughout programmes of work.

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 came to an end in March 2026.

CAVA has been a part of the Big Local journey since 2012 where we acted as the '*locally trusted organisation*' to administer and account for the distribution of the funds. In Warwickshire we have had two areas, Ansley, Old Arley and New Arley in North Warwickshire which closed out last financial year and Hill Top and Caldwell in Nuneaton which closed in September 2025.

The final HTC Big Local Plan saw activities delivered directly by CAVA as we were asked by the national funder Local Trust to manage all elements of the close out programme in HTC.

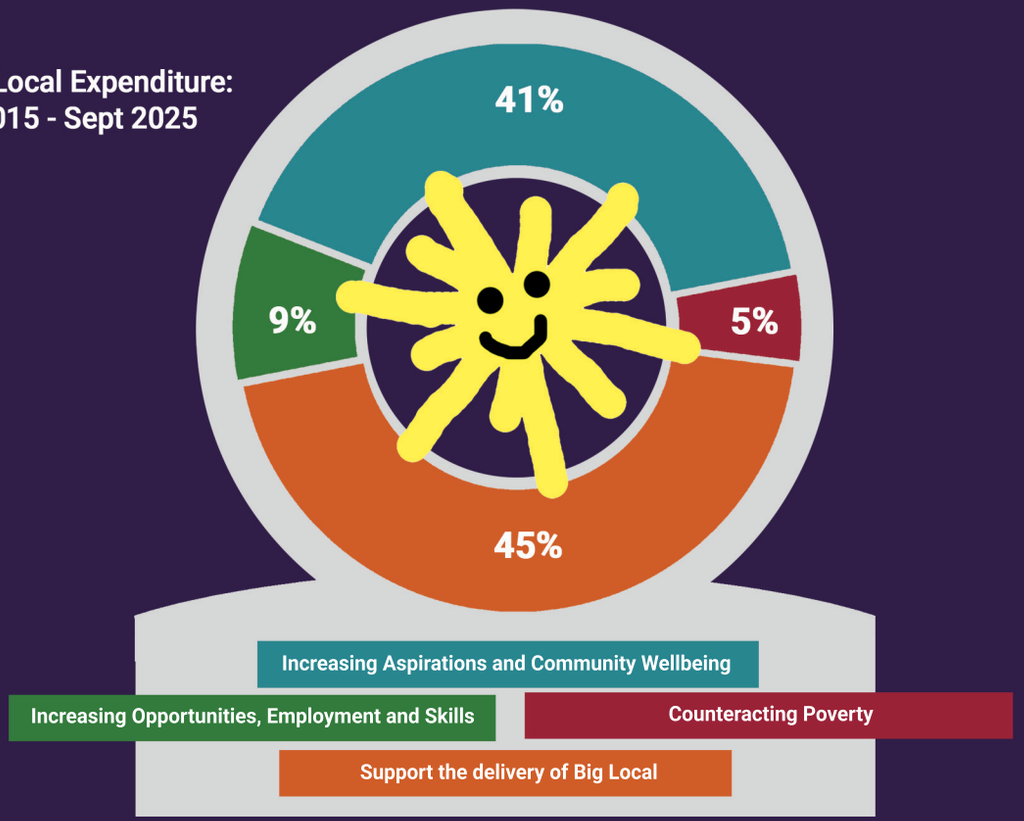
Collaboration was the key to making the final phase a success. We saw a successful transition of The Hub to our long-term partner The Positive Impact Foundation, who have continued the legacy of it being a key focal point to make the area a better place for residents, a welcoming place where residents of all ages can meet, get advice, share skills and learn new ones. We continued to arrange well attended community activities, including the weekly warm hubs and social brews, community coach trips, commissioning Aspire in Arts to take 18 young people on an outdoor adventure trip, commissioning work with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and working with ThinkActive on seated exercise sessions.

BIG LOCAL

Our last big event was a fun day celebrating 10 years of Big Local which took place in August, coinciding with the grand opening of Sorrell Road Park, the culmination of many years of discussing improving our local parks with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council; jointly we invested £225,000 into Sorrell Road's complete refurbishment.

We worked alongside Bedworth Rugby and Nuneaton's Citizens Advice, and since 2021 they provided direct support to 481 residents, with a net worth of these activities calculated at over £500,000 as the result of the reduction or removal of debt, through debt relief orders (DROs) or the increased amounts of benefits received.

HTC Big Local Expenditure: Aug 2015 - Sept 2025





It gave me a lifeline. I made new friends and found confidence I never knew I had...

- HTC Big Local Volunteer

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 in the communities of Bishopton and Clopton feel safer in their neighbourhoods.
- **Environmental Action** - Bishopton and Clopton are cleaner and greener areas, with more people enjoying their environment.
- **Community Activities** - There are more and varied activities available for residents of all ages to engage in.
- **Health and Wellbeing** - 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.

Looking back over the past year, I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved across Bishopton and Clopton. It has been a year defined by collaboration, innovation and, above all, the strength of our communities. Every success has been built on relationships—between residents, volunteers, community groups, statutory organisations and local partners—working together to create places where people feel connected, supported and empowered.

BISHOPTON AND CLOPTON - COMMUNITY BUILDER

Throughout the year, our focus has remained on listening to communities and responding to what matters most to local people. From launching the Bishopton Survey to creating opportunities for residents to shape improvements to Hodgson Green, community voices have influenced our priorities and helped guide future investment. These conversations continue to ensure our work is rooted in local need and driven by local ambition.

Our community hubs have gone from strength to strength. Bishopton Community Centre and the Ken Kennett Centre have become vibrant spaces where people of all ages come together to learn, exercise, create, seek support and simply enjoy each other's company. New initiatives - including children's book clubs, creative workshops, bingo sessions, wellbeing activities and expanded volunteering opportunities - have welcomed new faces while strengthening existing networks. The growing engagement with our centres demonstrates the important role that accessible, inclusive community spaces play in reducing isolation and improving wellbeing.

Partnership working has continued to be one of our greatest strengths. Working alongside Stratford Town Trust, Stratford District Council, South Warwickshire Foundation Trust, Everyone Active, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Orbit, Stratford Foodbank and many other organisations has enabled us to deliver more than any one organisation could achieve alone. Together we have secured funding, developed new services, strengthened community networks and created opportunities that will continue to benefit residents for years to come.



BISHOPTON AND CLOPTON - COMMUNITY BUILDER

This has also been a year of investing in people. Through volunteer recruitment, safeguarding training, professional development and the continued growth of community networks, we have strengthened the capacity of local people and organisations to support one another. It has been particularly rewarding to see volunteers step forward, residents become more involved in shaping their communities, and new partnerships emerge from conversations that began around a cup of tea at one of our community hubs.

The year has also demonstrated the value of bringing communities together through shared experiences. Events such as Feel Good Fest, The Big Lunch, Kind Communities Kind Food and the Clopton Family Fun Day have celebrated everything that makes our communities special while improving access to health information, wellbeing support and local services. Alongside these larger events, countless smaller activities have quietly transformed lives by creating friendships, building confidence and helping people feel they belong.

Visible improvements to our local environment have reinforced this growing sense of community pride. From the colourful mural at the Ken Kennett Centre to community bulb planting, tree planting and plans for sustainable improvements, residents have not only seen positive change but have actively helped to create it. These projects remind us that thriving communities are shaped not just by buildings and spaces, but by the people who care enough to improve them together.

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck not by any single project or event, but by the momentum that has been created. There is a growing confidence within our communities—a belief that by working together we can tackle challenges, seize opportunities and create lasting change. That confidence is perhaps our greatest achievement.

Every conversation, every hour volunteered, every partnership formed and every act of kindness has helped build stronger, more connected communities. The relationships we have built, the foundations we have laid and the shared ambition that has emerged over the past year leave us well placed to continue growing resilient, inclusive communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Case Study: Community Builder

Bringing Children and Families Together in Bishopton

During the 2025 summer holidays, the CAVA Community Builder delivered a programme of free activities at Bishopton Community Centre, bringing children and families together while supporting literacy, creativity, wellbeing and community connection.

The Bishopton Children's Book Club created a relaxed and welcoming environment where children and families could share and swap books, enjoy refreshments and take part in activities. The Big Gob Puppets Workshop encouraged children to design and create their own puppets before bringing them to life through storytelling and imaginative play. The session supported creativity, confidence and self-expression, with 100% of respondents reporting that they enjoyed the activity.

The impact extended beyond the activities themselves. By providing free, locally based opportunities, the programme removed financial barriers and enabled families to access positive experiences within their own community. Children developed confidence, communication, creativity and social skills, while parents and carers had opportunities to meet others and build new relationships, helping to reduce isolation.

The sessions also introduced families to Bishopton Community Centre and the wider opportunities available locally, strengthening its role as a welcoming and accessible community hub. The book swap further demonstrated the value of community sharing and sustainability, giving unwanted books a new lease of life and making them available to other local families.

Overall, the programme strengthened family and community connections, supported children's wellbeing and development, and encouraged greater participation in local activities. It demonstrated how simple, free and community-led opportunities can create meaningful social impact, while helping to build a stronger, more connected and inclusive community.

Community Integrator/Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) are being developed within Warwickshire under the national NHS '10-year plan.' They are envisaged as the development of multi-disciplinary groups of health and social care professionals, including voluntary sector partners, working together at a local community level to provide joined-up, preventative, and personalised care.

The people involved in developing the INTs include GPs, district nurses and AHPs (physiotherapists, dietitians, etc.), mental health professionals, social workers, voluntary and community sector organisations (VCFSE) and other council services.

The aims are to:

- keep people healthy
- reduce hospital visits
- support communities by coordinating services for a neighbourhood.

CAVA's role within the development throughout Warwickshire

This year CAVA employed a part-time Programme Officer for the county after receiving funding from South Place, and South Warwickshire University Hospital Foundation Trust (SWFT). SWFT is the lead provider identified by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to deliver the programme in Warwickshire. The role commenced in November 2025 and the core focus of the Programme Officer is to support VCSE groups to effectively engage with the development of the INTs.

Key Activity - November 2025 to March 2026

- Supporting the co-production of the geographical footprints within Warwickshire that were being developed through engaging with system partners, informed by population need, service mapping, local insight and natural communities

COMMUNITY INTEGRATOR/INTEGRATED NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

Key Activity - November 2025 to March 2026 cont'd

- Attending and co-leading development sessions in four out of the eight geographical neighbourhoods
- Working with SWFT colleagues to ensure that there is regular appropriately worded communication to the sector
- Mapping key VCFSE current services and directories thematically, by types of need and by geography in Warwickshire
- Engaging with Health, Public Health, Social Care and VCFSE partners throughout Warwickshire on an individual, and small group basis to:
    - Support Digital Skills and use of AI
    - gain an understanding of needs and current services in the sector
    - understand some of the current pathways between Health and VCFSE organisations locally taking place
    - inform local organisations of the developments in Warwickshire and their neighbourhood
    - advocate for the VCFSE sector and the sustainability/ financial issues.



Development and Consultation

Well Connected in Our Communities

Strong relationships are at the heart of everything we do. As a voluntary sector infrastructure organisation, our role is to connect people, organisations and partners so that communities can thrive.

Our established relationships with charities, community groups, volunteers, businesses, funders and public sector partners give us a unique understanding of the communities we serve. By listening to local organisations and maintaining an active presence, we are able to identify emerging needs, share opportunities and respond quickly to changing circumstances.

We bring organisations together to collaborate, learn from one another and develop solutions to local challenges. Through networking, partnership development and strategic representation, we ensure that the knowledge, experience and voices of the voluntary sector help shape local decisions and influence the services that affect our communities. By connecting communities with decision-makers, volunteers with opportunities and organisations with the resources they need, we help create stronger partnerships and greater impact for local people.

A prime example of this is our leadership of a consortium application to Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme. CPP invests money in areas where creative and cultural participation is low, empowering residents to choose, create and lead their own grassroots artistic experiences. In October we were delighted to hear that our application was successful, being awarded £750,000 to deliver 'Rooted in Nuneaton and Bedworth'. We've worked hard with partners to launch this programme fully next year.

Supporting Social Enterprise Growth

CAVA was commissioned by Rugby Borough Council (RBC) to undertake an initial needs assessment to review the requirement for a community centre in the Coton Park area of Rugby.

This needs assessment was produced based on desk research, correspondence with local key contacts, CAVA experience of community centres and a short resident survey approved by RBC.

We identified that a community building at Coton Park presents a strong opportunity to create a social and practical hub for a residential area that is physically and socially distant from the town centre. This is reinforced by the Coton Park plan and the emerging plan for Newton Parish Council. The RBC Cabinet paper of 3 February 2025 - Council Tax Base 2025/26, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025-2035 refers to £100,000 as a potential use of reserves for a Coton Park Community Centre feasibility study. If funding for a feasibility study is required in future, it would need to go through the Council's approval process"

This consultation fell at the same time as a consultation on business development at the site which based on social media feedback presents a number of concerns for the residents aligned to noise, loss of green space and traffic issues.

Based on our experience supporting VCSFE organisations including community centres,we are aware of the challenges of running these venues and having enough income to keep them sustainable. We would advocate for provision of employed staff alongside any volunteer input to the centres operation should it proceed.

Development of a new centre would enhance local space but may also have a negative impact on income for facilities in Newton and Brownsover.

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

The Coventry and Warwickshire VCFSE Collaborative

CAVA continues to act as the Lead Organisation for the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System (ICS) Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Collaborative, working in partnership with Voluntary Action Coventry and organisations from across the sector.

The VCFSE Collaborative provides the primary route through which the Integrated Care System engages with the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector. It represents both the sector's role as a trusted link to local communities and its contribution as a provider of services that improve health and wellbeing.

As place-based organisations with strong community connections, VCFSE organisations play a vital role in reducing health inequalities, supporting prevention, and delivering person-centred approaches that complement traditional health and social care services. The Collaborative ensures that the expertise, insight and reach of the sector are embedded within the planning, design and delivery of integrated care across Coventry and Warwickshire.

The Collaborative is underpinned by three core principles:

1. Collaborative working
2. Equitable opportunity
3. Reducing duplication and maximising impact.

Established in April 2024, the Collaborative's first year focused on development and governance arrangements. During 2025-2026, the Collaborative has moved into a mobilisation and delivery phase, strengthening sector representation across the ICS and supporting greater involvement in system priorities, place-based working and the development of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams.





> *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.*

INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM (ICS)

The VCFSE Collaborative Terms of Reference, adopted in May 2025, form part of the wider VCFSE Collaborative Information Pack. Together, these documents ensure the Collaborative remains accountable to the wider sector, with decisions informed by evidence, community insights and engagement pathways that reflect the diverse voices of Coventry and Warwickshire's communities.

Membership of the Collaborative is open to all VCFSE organisations operating across Coventry and Warwickshire, enabling organisations of all sizes to contribute to, influence and benefit from collaborative opportunities.

The VCFSE Collaborative is responsible for:

- Providing the ICS with a single point of entry for engagement and collaboration with the VCFSE sector, creating a coordinated approach to representation, community engagement and partnership working
- Connecting with wider ICS structures, including Place arrangements, Geographical Care Collaboratives and Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, to ensure the sector's contribution is recognised and aligned across the system
- Facilitating a fair, transparent and equitable approach to funding, partnership opportunities and collaborative programmes, enabling VCFSE organisations to participate and deliver system priorities
- Ensuring the VCFSE sector has a strong and representative voice at system, collaborative and place levels, both as a provider of services and as a conduit for community insight and lived experience
- Strengthening the position of the sector within the ICS so that it can shape, co-design and deliver integrated care, helping to improve outcomes for local people and communities
- Supporting collaboration between organisations to reduce duplication, share learning and maximise collective impact across Coventry and Warwickshire
- Helping the ICS understand and respond to the needs of communities by bringing together community intelligence, lived experience and sector expertise to inform decision-making.

VCFSE Integration in Birmingham and Solihull (BSol)

CAVA continues to play an active role within the Birmingham and Solihull (BSol) Integrated Care System (ICS), representing the interests and contribution of the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector across Solihull. This includes representation at key strategic forums, including the Community Care Collaborative, Solihull Place Partnership, Local Delivery Partnership and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Health and Wellbeing Board.

As Solihull's local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), CAVA works closely with Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC), the lead organisation for the BSol VCFSE Leaders Alliance, alongside CVS partners across Birmingham and Solihull. Together, we support meaningful VCFSE engagement, sector representation and integration within health and care systems, ensuring community voices help shape strategic priorities and service development.

The role of the VCFSE sector within Birmingham and Solihull continues to evolve, with increasing recognition of its contribution to prevention, early intervention, community resilience and tackling health inequalities. Building on previous initiatives focused on reducing winter pressures, CAVA has supported the development of more sustainable, community-based approaches that help people access support earlier and reduce demand on statutory services.

Birmingham and Solihull
Integrated Care System
Caring about healthier lives



VCFSE INTEGRATION IN BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL (BSOL)

A growing focus across the system has been the integration of VCFSE organisations within neighbourhood and place-based working. Through participation in partnership forums and collaborative programmes, CAVA helps ensure that local community insight, lived experience and grassroots expertise inform the design and delivery of services across Solihull.

CAVA also represents the Solihull VCFSE sector within the BSol VCFSE Alliance, alongside Colebridge Trust as North Solihull's Community Anchor Organisation. The Alliance brings together VCFSE leaders from across Birmingham and Solihull to strengthen collaboration, influence strategic decision-making and promote the role of the sector as a key partner in delivering improved health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities.

In addition, CAVA continues to support funding and investment opportunities that strengthen integration between health, care and community services. This includes contributing to funding panels and partnership initiatives that champion collaborative delivery models, particularly those focused on prevention, early intervention, reducing health inequalities and improving outcomes for residents. Through this work, CAVA helps ensure that VCFSE organisations are well positioned to access opportunities, demonstrate impact and play a full role in the future development of integrated care services across Birmingham and Solihull.

Kind Food Kind Communities

In 2024/25 we were asked to undertake research to identify food projects in Warwickshire that are led by voluntary and community organisations. As part of this work, we were asked to map these projects onto a database to include specific details such as prices, opening times and contact details.

This was then followed up by a report to demonstrate the finding of the research, summarising the picture of activity across the county. Initial research was undertaken with an online survey to gather as much information as possible. We received 19 responses from this. We also undertook online research, including reviewing websites and social media sites. We also reached out directly to groups to confirm details regarding the community projects taking place. In some instances, we undertook group visits to see the projects firsthand.

After this research a report and spreadsheet were compiled placing the projects under various categories including ‘Food banks, Pantries, Community Cafes, Community Food Provision, Growing food projects and Meals on Wheels’. 107 projects were identified in total across Warwickshire, but this is no way an exhaustive list and is ever changing.

The research highlights the importance of food projects for communities. Individuals can access, predominantly, home cooked, low cost/free food in a safe warm space. Alongside this, attending these projects also creates a sense of community, friendship and social network building. Social isolation is a real issue, especially among the elderly population and accessing provision such as this can be a lifeline for many.

Despite the many successes, the report identifies key challenges moving forward. Through the research undertaken it has demonstrated the issue of sustainability for many groups looking towards the future. Many of these groups are grant reliant to ensure they can keep the meals/ food at an affordable price for individuals to access. This is also demonstrated in the increasing the need for core funding, the capacity of groups to fundraise and the demand on the funding available.

KIND FOOD KIND COMMUNITIES

There is an issue not only in terms of the cost of the continuation of these projects but also the reliance on volunteers and capacity issues. Volunteer capacity and retention remain crucial as the demand for support continues to rise.

We saw the emergence of community food growing projects including orchards and community gardens. There is a growth of interest in sustainability and community ownership developing in these areas. There are many gaps of provision across Warwickshire and work to be identified but I hope what this report does show is the invaluable and important work of staff, volunteers and individuals in their community that want to help and make a difference to people's lives. This research was completed in April 2025 and the information was presented at the Warwickshire Food Strategy Conference in March of 2026.

Through the Warwickshire Food Strategy CAVA have supported the administration of the first and second round of the Kind Food Kind Communities VCSE grants programme, from promotion to completion of end of grant monitoring by VCSE organisations. CAVA have also had a presence on both of the funding panels and in 2025/26 we supported projects across Warwickshire to receive over £25,000 worth of funding.



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. We continue to host a range of healthcare services, as well as general access community services.



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



NEWTOWN CENTRE

Community Activities cont'd

- **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.

2025 sadly saw the final Nuneaton Community Christmas Lunch run from the centre. After 20 years of dedicated service, the volunteers prepared, cooked and served their last 3 course Christmas Lunch for 72 lonely and vulnerable people. The day was topped off with Santa visiting with a present for everyone, music, dance and celebration.

Place Universal Project Officer - South Warwickshire

The Sport England Place Universal Offer is a place-based investment designed to increase physical activity and reduce health inequalities by creating healthier, more active communities. Through Think Active, Active Warwickshire has secured over £500,000 of investment, with 10% allocated to South Warwickshire to support collaboration, innovation and leadership development.

As Place Universal Project Officer, I have worked alongside Think Active to coordinate the delivery of the programme across South Warwickshire, building strong partnerships with the NHS, local authorities, voluntary and community organisations, and wider strategic stakeholders. By acting as a connector, I have strengthened collaboration across sectors to embed physical activity within local systems and communities.

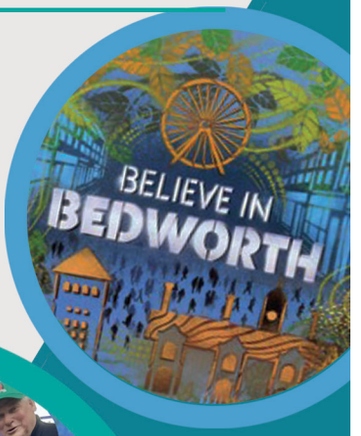
A key focus of the role has been supporting organisations and residents to co-design and deliver sustainable, community-led solutions that make being active part of everyday life. This has included developing local capacity by mentoring organisations, supporting volunteers and creating opportunities that build confidence, skills and community leadership.

The programme prioritises neighbourhoods experiencing the greatest inequalities and supports children and young people, people living with long-term health conditions or disabilities, and older adults. Through networking and collaboration, test-and-learn projects and leadership development, the work aims to create lasting system change by encouraging partners to adopt a Physical Activity in All Policies approach, ensuring movement and wellbeing are considered across services, policies and decision-making.

Pride in Place

Launched in 2025, the UK Government's Pride in Place Strategy is a £5 billion 10-year regeneration initiative. It empowers local Neighbourhood Boards across 284 disadvantaged communities to take control of high streets, improve public spaces, and drive hyper-local renewal. June saw the formation of the first 'Believe in Bedworth' Board of which CAVA was asked to be a member.

In order to submit a costed regeneration plan and investment strategy by the end of November, which had strong evidence of community consultation, we were further asked by the Board and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council as the accountable body to undertake a broad process of engagement to gather community views and host a launch event in October. A confident estimate is that nearly 1,500 residents were reached through our consultation, which was an engagement rate of around 5% of Bedworth's population. The research demonstrates the need for an early focus to be on the Town Centre which could initially give greatest community impact.







PRIDE IN PLACE

The top 4 areas of feedback were:

· Community Safety and Anti-social Behaviour;
· Youth Programmes, and access to positive opportunities for children, young people and families;
· Community Activities that bring people together; and
· Town Centre Assets and Aesthetics.

We worked hard as a smaller Board subgroup to create the submission to MHLG and were delighted to be informed in March that the Government had approved Bedworth's plan for £20m over the next 10 years. Simultaneously, CAVA was asked to host a coordination team that would work alongside the Board to deliver the plans vision. In February we were privileged to be invited to Downing Street to be part of reception for the first phase of Pride in Place areas.

Research Engagement Network (REN)

Increasing diversity in research participation

2025/26: Key Headlines

Expanding Research Opportunities Across Diverse Communities
The Coventry and Warwickshire REN continued to widen access to health and care research, working across the whole ICS geography and engaging communities that have traditionally been underrepresented in research. Activities included community events, trusted conversations, co-created materials, and partnerships with local voluntary and community organisations.

£86k Invested in Community-Led Engagement
Almost £86,000 was transferred to voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations and individuals, including £67,026 in small grants supporting community-led projects designed to raise awareness and understanding of research.

17 Community Projects Reaching More Than 5,000 People
Seventeen VCFSE grant-funded projects delivered innovative engagement activities across Coventry and Warwickshire, collectively reaching more than 5,278 people and generating 346+ structured conversations about research, helping communities better understand opportunities to get involved.

Participated in over 180 Public Engagement Events
REN partners delivered or participated in 182 public-facing events, working with 19 community organisations and meaningfully engaging approximately 1,849 people directly through outreach, workshops, community conversations and awareness activities.





Being part of the ICS REN has provided new opportunities to engage with individuals, communities and VCFSE organisations.

RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT NETWORK (REN)

Supporting Underrepresented Voices in Research

REN initiatives engaged a broad range of communities, including veterans, ethnic minority communities, asylum seekers and refugees, LGBTQ+ communities, people living with disabilities, people experiencing mental ill health, rural communities, and groups affected by health inequalities. Research opportunities were promoted through culturally appropriate and co-produced approaches.

Growing Community Research Capacity

Training and support included:

- Principles and Ethics of Community Research training.
- Co-creation training for all 17 VCFSE grant holders.
- Ongoing support for Community Research Champions.
- A network of 35 REN team members, including 9 voluntary Community Research Champions.

Generating Lasting System Impact

Insights gathered through community engagement have informed future research design and highlighted key enablers for participation, including trusted relationships, clear communication, flexibility, inclusion, and culturally appropriate engagement. Local NHS Trusts have also joined the Department of Health and Social Care's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Health and Care Research Pilot, helping embed diversity and inclusion within research systems.

At a Glance

- 182 public engagement events delivered
- 19 community organisations partnered with
- 17 VCFSE grant-funded projects
- £67k awarded in community grants
- £86k invested in VCFSE-led activity overall
- 5,278+ people reached through grant-funded projects
- 1,849 people directly engaged at REN events
- 9,000+ people signposted to research opportunities
- 35 members in the REN team, representing multiple organisations and system partners
- 310 QR code visits to Be Part of Research.

Stratford Social Inclusion Partnership

Increasing community reslilience

The Stratford Social Inclusion Partnership Development Officer continues to have a positive role in strengthening the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector across Stratford-on-Avon District.

Funded by Stratford District Council and hosted by Warwickshire and Solihull CAVA, the role provides strategic support to organisations facing increasing pressures from the cost-of-living crisis, growing demand for services and funding challenges.

The year delivered some of the strongest results since the role began in 2020. Support was provided to a record **120 organisations**, with funding applications totalling **£1.63 million**, the second highest annual amount submitted. Organisations secured **£286,268** in funding during the year, bringing the cumulative total secured through the project to over **£2.18 million** since 2020.

Supporting organisations to access funding remained a key priority. A successful **Funding Roadshow** held at Venture House brought together eight major funders and 49 local organisations,enabling groups to receive face-to-face advice, develop stronger funding applications and build relationships with potential funders. The event received excellent feedback and was followed by ongoing one-to-one support, funding searches and governance advice.

The Development Officer also worked extensively with organisations seeking to employ staff and strengthen their long-term sustainability, including WRAP, Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Escape Arts, Stepping Stones and Arts Rising Collective.

STRATFORD SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP (SIP)

A major focus of the year was supporting rural communities. Dozens of village halls, community centres, parish councils and local charities received advice on governance, constitutions, legal structures, incorporation, property issues and funding opportunities. Community Group and Volunteer Advice Drop-in Sessions were delivered across six rural locations in conjunction with CAVA'S Volunteer Coordinator, helping groups access support closer to where they operate and encouraging greater volunteer involvement.

Improving health and wellbeing remained central to the role. Practical support helped organisations continue delivering essential services despite financial pressures. Notable successes included securing funding for WRAP, supporting Young Minds Matter to identify new funding , assisting Stratford Men Shed with running costs, and providing continued strategic support to the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

One of the year's most significant achievements was supporting Stepping Stones, the local homelessness charity, during a period when closure appeared inevitable following an unsuccessful funding bid. Through proactive intervention, partnership working and identifying emergency funding opportunities, interim funding was secured, allowing services to continue while longer-term funding was developed. This support enabled vulnerable residents to continue receiving vital assistance and helped place the charity on a more sustainable footing.

The Development Officer also continued to strengthen community infrastructure through the Stratford Community Anchor Project, working alongside Bishopton Community Centre, the Ken Kennett Centre and Rosebird Community Association to develop proposals that would enhance the sustainability and impact of these important community hubs. Although the National Lottery application was unsuccessful, the work strengthened collaboration and generated further volunteer interest, particularly through a volunteer recruitment campaign.

Further community development work included supporting the establishment of the Shackleton Residents Association, advising organisations on appropriate legal structures, assisting Arts Rising Collective with the development of the Brook Arts Hub, and supporting numerous organisations through Stratford District Council's Community Grant Scheme.





An amazing service providing help and advice to groups on funding, organisational structure and policies. I genuinely can't speak highly enough of the service they provide.

- Upper Lighthorne Group

STRATFORD SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP (SIP)

Beyond funding support, the role maintained strong partnerships with well over 100 organisations across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors. This extensive network has enabled organisations to collaborate more effectively, share expertise and respond collectively to local challenges.

Feedback from organisations consistently highlighted the value of the Development Officer's support, particularly in identifying funding opportunities, strengthening governance, providing strategic advice and acting as a trusted source of guidance during periods of uncertainty.

Overall, the report demonstrates that the Development Officer continues to make a substantial contribution to building stronger, more resilient and sustainable voluntary organisations across Stratford-on-Avon District. By combining funding expertise, governance advice, partnership development and practical support, the role has helped local organisations secure significant investment, improve their capacity and continue delivering essential services to some of the district's most vulnerable residents.





Please scan this code with your smartphone QR reader to read the full 2025/26 SIP Annual Report.

Warwickshire Smokefree Generation Grant Programme

Between April 2025 and March 2026, CAVA worked with Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations across Warwickshire to strengthen community engagement with the Warwickshire Smokefree Generation Programme. Following programme underspends, CAVA was awarded £6,000 to support local activity aimed at increasing awareness of smoking cessation services and encouraging more smokers living and working in Warwickshire to access support to quit smoking.

The programme's overall aim was to contribute to reducing smoking prevalence across Warwickshire by increasing awareness of available support and improving access to smoking cessation services, particularly through trusted community settings.

To achieve this, CAVA coordinated a community grant programme that enabled local organisations to promote the Warwickshire Smokefree campaign, engage residents through community events and activities, and encourage frontline staff and volunteers to undertake Very Brief Advice (VBA) and Making Every Contact Count (MECC) training. This helped build the confidence of community-based organisations to have supportive conversations about smoking cessation and signpost individuals to appropriate services.

Small grants were awarded to ten community organisations across the county:

- Bedworth Heath Community Centre
- Brunswick Healthy Living Centre
- Chase Meadow Community Centre
- Cohort 4
- Fred Winter Centre
- Hill Street Community Centre.
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Healthy Living Network
- Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership
- SYDNI Centre
- Transforming Communities Together
- White Hart Centre

WARWICKSHIRE SMOKEFREE GENERATION GRANT PROGRAMME

Through these grants, organisations delivered a range of local activities designed to increase awareness of the Smokefree campaign and the support available to residents wishing to quit smoking.

In addition to administering the grant programme, CAVA delivered a coordinated communications campaign, distributing promotional resources and raising awareness through a range of community-facing events across Warwickshire. By working through trusted local organisations and existing community networks, the programme helped extend the reach of public health messaging and strengthened links between communities and smoking cessation support services.

This work demonstrated the value of partnering with the VCFSE sector to deliver preventative health initiatives, engage priority communities and support improved health outcomes across Warwickshire.

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.

Volunteering remains at the heart of thriving communities and our volunteering service continues to play a vital role in connecting people with meaningful opportunities. Through the Warwickshire Simply Connect volunteering portal and our locally based Volunteering Coordinators, individuals and organisations were able to access support both in person and online.



VOLUNTEERING

The service promoted volunteering opportunities, supported organisations with volunteer management and good practice, delivered training and forums, and helped coordinate corporate social responsibility and employee supported volunteering initiatives.

A significant achievement during the year was the successful renewal of the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation for a further three years, exceeding requirements across all assessed areas. The service also organised five volunteer celebration events across Warwickshire, recognising and thanking the thousands of individuals who dedicate their time, skills and experience to supporting communities.

While recruitment and retention of volunteers continues to be challenging, particularly for trustee positions, our teams have worked closely with organisations to develop innovative approaches to volunteering and support individuals with increasingly complex needs to find suitable volunteer opportunities. This work has not only strengthened organisations but has also improved wellbeing, social inclusion and community resilience.

Each year, we help people (see page 8) find volunteering roles that suit their interests, skills and availability, matching them with opportunities across the voluntary, community and public sectors. Through volunteering, individuals can build confidence, develop new skills and make a lasting contribution to their local communities.

Alongside this, CAVA continues to work with local and national employers who contribute their time, expertise and resources through volunteering initiatives. These partnerships help strengthen the relationship between businesses and communities, while supporting voluntary organisations to meet local needs and maximise their impact. By encouraging and enabling volunteering in all its forms, CAVA plays a key role in building stronger, more connected and resilient communities across Warwickshire.

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!

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

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

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

Financial Summary

Year ended 31st March 2026

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	2025/26	2024/25 restated	2024/25
Income	767,867	1,001,999	1,001,999
Expenditure	(890,048)	(666,174)	(839,643)
Transfer between funds	12,333	(17,164)	(17,164)
Surplus (Deficit)	**(109,848)**	**318,661**	**145,192**

DESIGNATED FUNDS

	2025/26	2024/25	2024/25
Income	0	0	0
Expenditure	0	0	0
Transfer between funds	0	0	0
Surplus (Deficit)	**0**	**0**	**0**

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2025/26	2024/25	2024/25
Income	528,273	959,444	959,444
Expenditure	(519,813)	(1,172,619)	999,150
Transfer between funds	(12,333)	17,164	17,164
Surplus (Deficit)	**(3,873)**	**(196,011)**	**(22,542)**

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	2025/26	2024/25	2024/25
Income	0		0
Expenditure	(4,704)	(4,700)	(4,700)
Gains/(Losses) on investment	1,836	1,003	1,003
Surplus (Deficit)	**(2,868)**	**(3,697)**	**(3,697)**
Net movement in funds for year	**(116,589)**	**118,953**	**118,953**

Financial Summary

Year ended 31st March 2026

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 2026

	2025/26	2024/25 restated	2024/25
FIXED ASSETS			
Property	342,596	354,584	354,584
Other	19,053	17,217	17,217
	361,649	371,801	371,801
Current Assets less Liabilities	622,652	729,089	729,089
NET ASSETS	**984,301**	**1,100,890**	**1,100,890**
Unrestricted Funds - General	491,052	600,900	427,431
Restricted Funds	314,400	318,273	491,742
Endowment Funds	178,849	181,717	181,717
TOTAL FUNDS	**984,301**	**1,100,890**	**1,100,890**

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...

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 ICB
- Birmingham and Voluntary Services Council
- Bishopton Community Centre
- Coventry and Warwickshire ICB
- Local Trust
- National Health Service England and Department of Health and Social Care
- National Institute of Health and Care Research
- NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research)
- NHS Coventry and Warwickshire ICB
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Rugby Borough Council
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Warwickshire Foundation Trust
- 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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Acknowledgements

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@ Community engagement event (Page 19) Solihull West Community Development Team https://www.facebook.com/Solihullcdtwest
© South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust (Page 31) Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/nhsswft/

Message from our Chief Executive



The Annual Report for 2025-2026 highlights the breadth of activity, impact and engagement delivered by CAVA throughout the year. None of this would be possible without the continued support of our funders and the passionate, diverse and resilient VCSE organisations that we are privileged to work alongside. A huge thank you also goes to our dedicated staff and volunteers, whose commitment, expertise and hard work enable us to deliver dedicated and meaningful support across our communities.

As I move into my fourth year as Chief Executive, I continue to be inspired by the commitment and innovation of our partners, community groups and volunteers across Warwickshire and Solihull. Over the past year, we have strengthened existing relationships, developed new partnerships and continued to expand collaborative ways of working through our VCSE networks and collaborative initiatives.

Our sector continues to navigate a challenging landscape. Rising costs, increased demand for services, ongoing recruitment and retention challenges, and the growing need for volunteers continue to place significant pressure on many organisations. At the same time, communities are facing increasingly complex issues, particularly as we respond to the needs of an ageing population, health inequality and the ongoing cost of living pressures. The work we undertake across Warwickshire and Solihull remains vital in ensuring that the voice of the VCSE sector is heard and recognised by decision makers and service shapers.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Throughout 2025-2026, CAVA has continued to build on its strategic priorities while remaining responsive to emerging needs and opportunities. We have focused on strengthening organisations, supporting volunteering, developing skills and leadership, enabled community action and fostered partnerships that help create sustainable solutions for the future.

Whilst we have seen some programmes come to an end, this has been a natural end as projects often are within the VCFSE. We have also welcomed new opportunities and initiatives that will enable us to continue supporting and championing the sector. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to working alongside our staff team, volunteers, partners and stakeholders over the coming year to support a thriving, resilient and innovative VCSE sector across Solihull and Warwickshire.



Karen Winchcombe
Chief Executive



















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Warwickshire & Solihull Community And Voluntary Action (CAVA)

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