

Welcome from the chair of LCVS

“Thank you for your interest in becoming a trustee of LCVS.

For over a century, LCVS has been working to improve the wellbeing of individuals and communities in Liverpool through supporting and encouraging charitable giving and voluntary action and by bringing people, organisations and resources together.

We provide support, advice, training, networking and representation for the Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector (VCFS) across the Liverpool City Region and we help donors distribute over £4m every year to charitable organisations, both here in the UK and across the world, but with a focus on Liverpool.

Our four priority areas are education, health & wellbeing, poverty & justice and arts & culture.

With a new CEO having taken up post in September 2020, the board’s ambition is to build on LCVS’s past success to develop the organization into a robust and effective organisation that is the first port of call for the community and faith organisations in the city and city region.

2020 has shown just how important infrastructure organisations are to communities and voluntary sector organisations that they support. We have achieved so much but there is still much more to do and we are looking for committed, visionary and collaborative individuals to come on that journey with us.

Best wishes.”

Heather Akehurst, chair

Facilitating community outreach

LCVS has established networks at grass roots level across the City of VCFS organisations with whom we work in partnership to tackle issues facing their communities. We also work closely with our colleagues in the public sector and we represent the sector on a number of strategic bodies, from the Liverpool Strategic Partnership through to the Health Protection Board and others. We are a signatory to the One Liverpool Plan. We played a leading role in the community response to the Covid pandemic, establishing a system for referrals for those individuals who were shielding during lockdown. Through our network of local organisations we supported over 4,000 individuals with their weekly shopping and signposted and supported many more to a range of support services. Embedding this support in local organisations has proved to be a great success as during the current lockdown have been able to pick up these local residents again without them having to go back through the LCC referral system which has saved time (and resources) and meant that local people are able to deal with issues within their own communities.

LCVS supported this work by bringing in over £400k from funders to support the local VCFS.

Targeted engagement

Our VCFS partners are embedded in their communities, are trusted leaders and therefore able to dispel myths; reach those who do not engage with traditional media and with those who mistrust the public sector.

Most recently, we have supported the city's piloting of SMART testing by working with our VCFS partners to engage those who are in areas of high Covid incidence but low testing turnout, to change behavior and encourage attendance at testing centres. This activity began prior to Christmas and saw significant increase in turnout at targeted test centres. Our unique partnership enables LCVS to be the lead agency across the sector in delivery this type of project. We have an established model of bidding for, managing and distributing funding for such activity.

We facilitate a number of networks and Communities of Practice (CoPs) that bring together groups and individuals who have a specific interest in an issue. Currently we work with over 70 play providers across the city to ensure that children have access to food and activities during the school holidays. We have developed a CoP working with partners on men's suicide prevention through a partnership with Public Health.

Grant making

As a grant maker in our own right LCVS is well placed to support the VCFS and to target funding to meet current or emerging needs. Our current round of Community Impact Funding is a good example of this as we are working with the Race Equality Task Force in Liverpool to fund local BAME organisations that can help us to engage with members of the community who may not have their voices heard. More details can be found on our website <https://lcvs.org.uk/grants>

Capacity building

Through our Capacity Building Team, LCVS also supports the VCFS in Liverpool through providing strategy development, training, governance advice, assistance with funding applications, and monitoring and evaluation. We are well networked with the VCFS in Liverpool and able to signpost funders and philanthropists to organisations supporting specific needs or geographies. All of our teams work together so that organisations can be signposted to get the help they need, be it funding, support from our Community Accountancy Team, Finance Department or Partnership, Policy and Programmes Team.

151 Dale Street

Our city centre HQ at 151 Dale Street is also home to over 25 organisations from Talk Liverpool through to Irish Community Care and is a hub for the VCFS in Liverpool. As well as being home to LCVS and our partners it also houses a conference suite which can be used for training, meetings and events. For more information on 151 Dale Street and the work of LCVS visit our web site www.lcvs.org.uk

What community organisations say about LCVS

Merseyside Domestic Violence Service (MDVS) has been providing integrated support for families experiencing domestic violence for over a decade.

“We knew that the lockdown would affect our families, especially the females. Groups had to close, so we had no way to offer direct support. We applied for funding to help us stay connected to families.

“Our first application was to the Steve Morgan Foundation, to get tablets for the young people and for women who had no other available technology, so they could stay in touch with the world and with us. With that funding we also bought boxes of food for 32 families, every week for 12 weeks. Food was exchanged on doorsteps and families were able to come out and say ‘hello’, providing us with an important opportunity for safe contact.

“Through Covid, the support we've had from our funders has been amazing. And without John from LCVS we couldn't have got through most of the applications as successfully as we did. Support from LCVS has been critical to helping us reach so many families.”

Jacqui Nasuh, chief executive, MDVS

Netherley Youth and Community Initiative (NYCI) is a key community organisation within Belle Vale, offering youth provision, training courses, a foodbank and an on-site gym, to name but a few of the charity's services.

Evolving to meet the needs of the community is nothing new to NYCI but never has the organisation needed to pivot as quickly as it did during the Covid-19 crisis.

“In the first two weeks of lockdown we helped Liverpool City Council. While they worked out their procedures, referrals were passed on to organisations like ourselves with existing infrastructure.

“Those shielding may have had the financial means to purchase their own food but a lot of people, particularly the elderly, couldn't get out or get online to buy it, so we met that need.

“We provided the final Friday of after school provision, then on the Monday we opened up to provide food hampers. The change was as quick as that.”

As lockdown went on, NYCI was able to meet the needs of its sizeable community, with the support of funders and partner organisations.

“We got funding from the Steve Morgan Foundation, the Lottery and from LCVS. We were delivering roughly 200 hampers per week with the help of lots of volunteers. It was great team work. LCVS signposted us, supported us financially, supported us with manpower and even got us access to a man with a van to help us deliver the hampers three days a week.

“We’ve got strong links and partnerships with other local organisations. We meet with other groups regularly and stay up-to-date with the needs of the area, in order to meet those needs. It's part of our job; we do it every day. Because we already had those links, with the likes of the police, other public sector organisations and social housing providers, people were able to reach out to us during the pandemic as a central point of contact.

“We wouldn't be able to juggle everything we do if we didn't have the support of LCVS. We'd be diverted away from delivering. Without LCVS we probably wouldn't be here. During the coronavirus pandemic, LCVS has been our strength behind the scenes.”

Sharon Williams, project manager, NYCI