**Paper**  **Trustees report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

The trustees present their annual report for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**1 Objectives and activities**

The charitable company is a Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) with its main objects being:

a. to promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the Community, primarily but not exclusively, in the local government districts of Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden and its neighbourhood (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") and to enable the delivery of services across East Sussex, in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness;

b. to promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together in council representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities within the area of benefit.

**2 Vision, Mission, Strategic Objectives**

Better outcomes in society are achieved when local residents and communities are engaged in the design and delivery of community services. We know that services are more successful when they are designed and informed by those who use them. When this doesn’t happen or when communities are not listened to it can result in discrimination based on social class, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, sexuality, or faith.

Having shared goals between local public bodies, voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations and communities themselves ensures that the principles of co-design, co-production and community ownership can be embedded and implemented to achieve a fairer society.

We believe that the local VCSE is the key to tackling inequality and driving social change. We also believe our work in providing opportunities for all communities to have a greater voice is also crucial. This is why we have refreshed our vision, mission, and strategic objectives to give us greater focus over the next 3 years:

**3VA Vision**

Vibrant, active, inclusive communities that enable and support positive change in East Sussex

**3VA Mission**

To empower and enable diverse communities in East Sussex, supporting community groups and communities of interest and identity, VCSEs, charities, and volunteers in growing strong and dynamic neighbourhoods. To advocate for a thriving voluntary and community sector with local government, statutory authorities and the private sector

**3VA Strategic Objectives**

***1 Enable all voluntary community organisations to thrive***

*By 2027 taking an asset-based approach we will enhance and support the knowledge, skills, and experience within the voluntary and community sector to deliver successful projects, to make successful funding bids and demonstrate the value of the sector*

***2 Enable sustainable growth and development in the voluntary and community sector***

*By 2027 we will develop partnerships and networks to tackle issues and provide support for service delivery*

***3 Continue as the trusted and informed community voice for East Sussex***

*By 2027 we will be the voice for the voluntary and community sector in East Sussex, better able to influence public bodies and benefitting from working with others around common themes. The public, private and statutory sectors will increasingly value the co-designed work developed with 3VA*

***4 Become a sustainable, resilient organisation driven by our values***

*By 2027 we will be a sustainable agile organisation and our stakeholders and partners will increasingly value 3VA’s role as a leader committed to tackling inequalities and working in partnership to benefit the community and voluntary sector*

***5 Understand and promote the impacts of Climate Change on our communities***

*By 2027 we will be a prominent and respected voice in supporting UN Sustainable Development goals in East Sussex*

**3 Delivery of our strategic objectives in 2023/24**

We have continued to work closely with colleagues, partners and stakeholders across East Sussex, including

ACEVO East Sussex County Council

Eastbourne Borough Council Feeding Britain

Food Matters Good Food East Sussex

Lewes District Council NAVCA

NCVO NHS Sussex

Ouse Valley CARES OVESCO

Public Health England Sussex Community Foundation

Sussex Nature Recovery Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

UNA Climate and Oceans VCSE Alliance

Wealden District Council Wealden Volunteering

**4 Volunteering**

During the year, 3VA supported volunteering through

* the ‘Developing and Nurturing Volunteering’ fund from East Sussex County Council, by working with the team at ESCC and Tribe to develop and embed the volunteering digital platform
* hosting ‘Where Are We Now’, a collective discussion and review workshop for 50 of the county’s leading voluntary and community sector practitioners and stakeholders
* hosting ‘Celebrating Communities 2023’ where over 100 colleagues celebrated the achievements of voluntary and community organisations from Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden
* delivering quarterly Community Network Meetings, online training and extensive one-to-one support in the community
* continuing to provide information, advice and guidance to groups, many of whom faced specific and pressing issues around poverty, exclusion and the continuing Cost of Living Crisis. Some sought support from 3VA to undertake general policy updates and to review their financial sustainability.

**5 Project delivery**

3VA has continues to work successfully on these projects:

* Addressing Violence and Exploitation
* Devonshire West Big Local
* Homes for Ukraine
* Making it Happen
* Wealden Food Partnership

**6 2023 – 2024 in numbers**

Delivered **1,191** hours support to **240** community groups

**183,657** people’s lives positively impacted through supporting community groups

**114** groups attended Community Network meetings

**358** hours supporting Ukrainian Hubs, helping **1,354** people

**541** news alerts with **2,414** articles

**21,061** visitors to [www.3va.org.uk](http://www.3va.org.uk)

**26,093** Facebook page users

**10** news alerts every week

**6** Willingdon Trees Making it Happen groups awarded £21,500

**7** Shinewater Making it Happen groups awarded £6,500

**4** Hampden Park Making it Happen groups awarded £13,500

**2** Communities of Interest awarded £3,500

**7 Performance**

**Financial review**

3VA has ended the year with a balance on the general reserve of £137,142. No transfers have been made to the designated funds. Restricted funds represent financing for specific projects which represent a significant amount of 3VA’s activities during the year and account for income of £642,794 out of a total of £908,683.

**Reserves**

3VA continues to be dependent upon the financial support of its statutory funders to deliver the running of the organisation.

**Risk Management**

Trustees continue to review the Risk Register with the advice and support of the Chief Executive.

**8 Structure, Governance and Management**

The charitable company is a company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and Articles of Association.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of the signature of the financial statements were:

Mr G Walsh (chair)

Mr P G Dupont

Mr A Holter

Mr C Strutt

Mr A Wenham resigned 21 September 2023

Ms A Bicknell

Mr J Morton

Mr M Hussein appointed 6 March 2023

**Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee**

Trustees are elected by a majority member vote at the Annual General Meeting. Training and induction takes place. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All trustees are members of the company and with a limited guarantee of £1. All trustees gave their time voluntarily and did not receive any benefits from the charity. Trustees’ indemnity insurance was paid by the charity on behalf of the trustees as permitted by the memorandum and Articles of Association.

**Remuneration of employees**

All personnel are issues with clear job descriptions and contracts. Salaries are paid on National Joint Council scales.