

Voluntary Action Angus Annual Report 2022





Growth - Bill Muir, Chairperson

The last year has seen a vast amount of further realignment and change due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the majority of third sector organisations including VAA had to look at radical redesign of services within a very short time scale to ensure communities received the support they required. VAA are as well as partner agencies are now working in a new and in my opinion improved way. One of the more significant changes for our organisation this year is VAA becoming a fund manager, this has been a pivotal role for the organisation and has made huge difference in us moving from service delivery to strategic. VAA has secured and distributed over £1.5million to a number of different Third Sector and especially grass root voluntary organisations, we have carried this role out so successfully that funders such as Lottery, Scottish Government and our local statutory partners are really keen on this becoming one of VAA's main roles. This is having a really positive impact on our organisation.

We have definitely moved into a much more strategic focused organisation and this is recognised locally and nationally. We have been personally commended on our work over the course of the pandemic with our CEO being invited to meet the queen and recognised as a local hero at Scottish Parliament. This is a fantastic recognition not just for VAA but for the wider Third Sector across the county, as although it was our CEO in attendance, she was there to represent the work of all Third Sector colleagues and volunteers. During a time that was so unprecedented what we managed to achieve was radical change within the communities in which we support.

Our main focus this year was growth within our own organisation and within our wider partnerships. I believe this year's annual report will highlight just how far we've come but also open people up to the possibility of our own potential and the pivotal role our wider Third Sector and statutory partners will have in the future to achieve even more in the coming years.

I'd like to personally thank all VAA staff, volunteers and trustees in supporting our organisation in achieving where we are so far!

CEO Report Hayley Mearns

I wish to thank our fantastic board members, Voluntary Action Angus staff and volunteers in supporting and helping to steer the organisation through what has been another challenging but rewarding year. I would also like to thank our colleagues in the Third Sector, and across all sectors including Angus Council and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership. I appreciate that despite the challenges they face (as does the third sector face challenges), their desire for doing the best possible for Angus people and communities continues to drive their passion and inspires leadership.



I feel very fortunate to work within the third sector and provide leadership within a forward-thinking strategic organisation such as VAA. As well as providing support to the Third Sector, VAA also has the role of strategic partner within HSCP and CPP. Much of my work requires a balance between the many strategic partnership meetings I attend and in supporting organisations on the ground, building their strategic planning business plans and often helping them to survive, realign and grow. At partnership level, the concepts and initiatives I propose are much welcomed by our partners as an important contributor to both preventative approaches and building an asset-based approach in Health and social care. As you can see my role is very varied and rewarding so it would be difficult to pinpoint the most rewarding parts. I think it's a huge privilege to be involved in an organisation which works within the HSCP, CPP and other partnerships across Angus and to know that we are contributing to a much larger picture than just our own remits. I feel very grateful to have the opportunity to be part of this.

I end my report by paying tribute to third sector colleagues who come together through the collaborative and in other settings. They are very talented hard-working people, who as well as managing the demands of their own organisations, demonstrate their passion, graft and values through a belief in our sector and a collective desire to do their best for communities.

Locality Team – Annual Growth

Locality Workers – **684** Third Sector Organisations Supported.

Breast Buddies – **160** Referrals since new coordinator recruited Dec 21

Locality Workers– **136** Drop ins Facilitated

Locality Workers – **216** Volunteers Registered

Breast Buddies – Volunteer led groups running in **6** localities

Locality Workers – **416** Third Sector Organisations Promoted

Locality Team – Annual Growth

Youth Development Worker – **116** New Young People Volunteers

Intergenerational Befriending Coordinator – **32** Interested Partners

Locality Workers – **224** Volunteer Opportunities from Third Sector

Locality Workers – **164** Introductory meetings to Third Sector Organisations

Full Locality Team - Supported over **500** Children and Families across Holiday Programs

Locality Workers – **148** Volunteer Opportunities Matched

Locality Team – Annual Growth

As you can see from the statistics there has been a significant amount of growth across the whole Locality Team. This hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed especially during a time of recovery. We anticipate that further growth will occur as we continue to navigate through this journey. Some figures are not as high as they would be had all partners been open and functioning for a full year, this leads me on to introduce our Kirrie Friday Night Project, we reopened in March 2022 and have seen numbers double week on week.

- Kirrie Friday Nite Project – **390** Attendees since March 2022
- Locality Workers – **292** Local Events Attended
- Telephone Befriending Coordinator – **167** Volunteers supporting **245** Befriendees



Admin Team – Annual Growth

1,476 Visitors to The Third Sector Centre

361,432 VAA Facebook Views

40 External Meetings held at The Third Sector Centre


355 Organisations Registered and Listed on the Locality Locator

50 Events Hosted at the Third Sector Centre

24 VAA Meetings Held within The Third Sector Centre

124,920 VAA Website Hits

45 External Payrolls processed each month and **40** Independent Examinations



Social prescribing Team – Annual Growth

Our Social Prescribing Team have also experienced significant growth since they've been established in September 2020. I can confirm that the number of referrals across Angus in 2020 were 270, this is of course taking into consideration this being a new service and the pandemic which had a huge impact on how this service was running. However since the roll out, referrals have increased by 2,978. We expect further growth in the coming year!

One of the main objectives of the service is to ensure people have access to an appointment within a maximum of 14 days, I am delighted to confirm that all appointments across each cluster have been accessed within the current time frame. Another benefit of Social Prescribing being within Voluntary Action Angus is the links we have as a Third Sector Interface and also with our locality workers, this allows our social prescribers an opportunity to have real time information of what's available in the local area for individuals to be referred onto. The data shows that most social prescribers have been able to refer onto either community groups or other Third Sector organisations which is a huge benefit to all involved. Although there are still some limitations to how they see referees at the moment it is comforting to know that the average initial appointments are still lasting up to 60 minutes which is allowing the social prescribers to get a full image of what the individual is dealing with at the time.

- **3,248** Individuals Referred to Social Prescribers across Angus!



VAA - Annual Growth

As you can see from the individual growth within VAA teams there has been a tremendous amount of partnership work at an operational level. VAA CEO is very much regarded as a strategic partner within statutory and Third Sector platforms. This work would not be possible without the support of both senior managers.

Keeping with the theme of growth I feel we have highlighted how much we have grown however reflecting a bit deeper, I as the CEO can see growth within all members of VAA staff. Concentrating on the management team VAA's two senior managers have grown dramatically within their roles over the past year.

I would like to highlight some of the achievements made by these individuals below:

Full rent review across all organisations holding a license to occupy within The Third Sector Centre at The Cross. Helen our Admin and Building manager lead on this piece of work as well as many others however the impact this will have on our organisation moving forward is significant.

Our Community Development and Third Sector Manager Lenny, has stepped out her comfort zone and really embraced her own development this year from being a key member within the Columba 1400 cohort and also taken on a more leadership role within certain meetings.

I would like to commend all VAA staff for their resilience hard work and of course growth over the year this includes new members of staff who have joined the team and hit the ground running, well done all - this organisation would not be where it is without our strong team pushing forward!

Partnership Working



- Partnership working across Angus is strong VAA have fantastic links with both Third Sector and our public sector partners.
- There have been a number of partnership initiative's this year from VAA funding management to new concepts being created, I have listed below some initiatives VAA and others have been at the forefront of:
- CAT Research VAA lead on a joint funding bid with 4 other Third Sector partners to carry out community led research, VAA brought in £100,000 funding to support this work. The group decided the best way to carry out the initial research was to hire consultants who are expertise in this field. We have secured a contract with "The Collective" who are a number of skilled women who have worked for many different agencies in the past including Scottish Government and The Corra foundation.
- This project will take a holistic, person centered approach to identify:
 - what the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been on communities in Angus,
 - What can be learned from how communities and organisations responded to the pandemic
 - How this can be used to inform the development of services and support to help tackle issues which have arisen as a result of the pandemic and those which have been exacerbated as a result of Covid-19.

The research took a co-design approach working with communities and individuals to develop the research questions, gather survey responses and support the analysis and write up of the data gathered. This project will therefore build the capacity of communities and individuals through the provision of training and support to a group of Community Researchers, and will work with communities to co-design solutions to the issues identified through this research.

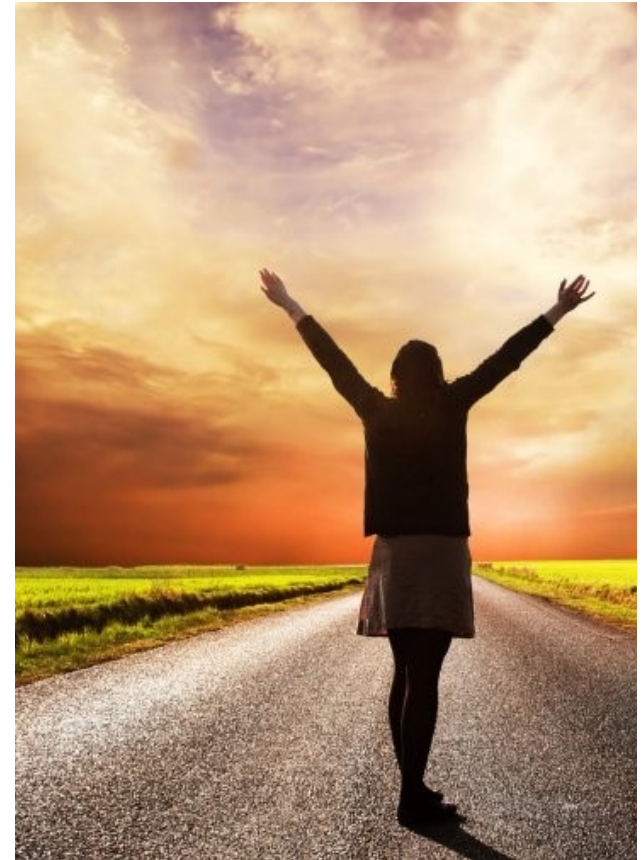
Partnership Working

- Within the field of Health and Social Care VAA invested in a strategic leadership team, which had more capacity to lead on third sector philosophy, helping to influence the direction of strategic planning and to connect better to Third Sector delivery. Our CEO took leadership roles on the HSC Strategic partnership and leadership groups and The Integrated Joint Board.
- VAA is very much seen as a strategic partner across HSCP and CPP with many opportunities arising through both partners. Some of which are listed below:
- Angus Women's Centre was established between VAA, other Third sector organisations and the CPP. We now have a one stop shop online service for all women in Angus soon to be a physical safe space where women can attend for support.
- Improving the Cancer Journey is a new initiative within the HSCP. VAA has been working very closely with HSCP to establish this new role within the Social Prescribing Team.
- Neuro Hub is another HSCP initiative which has been growing over the past year soon to be launched within the Third Sector Centre. This is a full partnership initiative giving individuals with a neurological condition support when they require it.
- Lastly VAA is still very much a member of many high level strategic meetings, this year will be the last year our CEO is the vice Chair of the CPP soon to be Chair which is a fantastic achievement for Third Sector.
- Our CEO was also recently appointed to the IJB Audit Committee being the first Third Sector partner to be added to this group.



Partnership Working

- Partnership working is a vital role of VAA, we have over been commended on our partnership work. We have been much more involved in being a fund manager and rely on both our Third Sector and public sector partners to support us with this. We have to date secured £1.5 million funding for Third Sector and grass root community groups across Angus and we expect this role to grow in the future.
- We also as can be seen from previous inputs continue to support all Third Sector forums such as Angus Third Sector Collaborative and Children's Services Forum.
- We've played a significant role within Service design in Angus and have been commend for our work from both Angus Council and Angus Health and Social Care.
- We were lucky enough to be recognised for our work and asked to host a Royal Visit with key Third Sector agencies within the Third Sector Centre. I am delighted to confirm that we had the opportunity to showcase the work of all VAA staff and volunteers and the wider Third Sector to the Earl and Countess of Forfar. This was a fantastic opportunity for our organisation and the wider Third Sector.



VAA- Future Growth

As an organisation we have taken the decision to develop a one year plan from April 2022 - April 2023, this will allow us to align with our strategic partners. We feel we have focused on strategic development within the Third Sector and with our statutory partners over the past 18 months. To ensure we are using this next year as effectively as possible we believe we now must focus on reflecting on the growth and development of Voluntary Action Angus. This will be evidenced within the strategic objectives of this one year plan and will prepare the organisation for the creation of the five year strategic plan.

The vision for VAA is: Resilient and empowered communities creating a stronger, fairer Angus – We are committed to tackling poverty and health inequalities to enable the people of Angus to flourish. So what does this mean for the future of the organisation? Our main focus is as follows:

- **To be the central source of knowledge about:**
 - Local Third Sector
 - Local and national policy and how it might affect local Third Sector, communities, citizens and how the Third Sector can contribute to these agendas.
- **Voice**
 - Ensuring a strong Third Sector voice at a strategic level within local and national planning structures.
 - Strategic partner within Health and Social Care Partnership and Community Planning Partnership.
- **Building Capacity**
 - Developing the capacity of volunteering, community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprise to achieve positive change.
- **Connect**
 - Providing leadership, vision and coordination to the local Third Sector to better respond to local priorities, including through partnerships and collaboration creating skills and opportunities.

We know what we have to do in order to support the communities of Angus to ease ourselves into this new way of working, we have already done this without hesitation and without really thinking about it. We all participated in things that have come most natural to us and why we are in the jobs we're in and that was caring, so let's not lose the caring aspect of our work as we enter this new normal. Let's build on an Angus that actively cares.







**The Scottish
Government**



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Third Sector Interface