



ANNUAL REVIEW 2024 / 2025

*Building a happier, healthier
and more connected city.*

10 HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024/25

COMMUNITY WELLBEING ALLIANCE UNITES THE SECTOR



LAUNCH OF NORTH HUB - A SPACE FOR THE SECTOR TO CONNECT



PORTSMOUTH IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT -107 VOLUNTEERS MOBILISED FOR D DAY 80 COMMEMORATION



COMMUNITY VOICES -WORK BEGINS GATHERING FEEDBACK ABOUT PORTSMOUTH MENTAL HEALTH HUB



**STRENGTHENING THE
SECTOR - PORTSMOUTH
COMMUNITY LOTTERY
GIVES £28,755.50 TO
CITY'S GOOD CAUSES**

**HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES
-1,345 CHILDREN HANDED
FREE SCHOOL UNIFORMS**



**HERE WHEN YOU
NEED US - HELPDESK
SUPPORTS 13,131**



**KEEPING
PORTSMOUTH
CONNECTED
-FREE DATA &
IT SUPPORT**

**TACKLING HEALTH
INEQUALITIES - FIVE
YEARS OF FUNDING FOR
HEALTH DETERMINANTS
RESEARCH
COLLABORATIVE**



**PEOPLE POWER FOR
PORTSMOUTH - 870
VOLUNTEERS PLACED IN
ROLES ACROSS CITY**



The world around us continues to shift.

Our city is navigating continuing pressures around the cost of living that affects local people, businesses and voluntary organisations every day.

Amid that change, the values, relationships and purpose that underpin HIVE Portsmouth remain constant.

We exist to relieve poverty, advance education, reduce social inequality, and empower people facing disadvantage to support themselves.

Through initiatives such as our Helpdesk, School Uniform ShareStore and the Wellbeing Collective, we directly support thousands of people each year. Our work sustaining food pantries, tackling health inequalities and connecting volunteers through our Volunteer Centre reaches and benefits many more across the city.

None of this happens without the collective effort of our volunteers, trustees, supporters, staff and partners. The sector is fragile and, like many charities, we are navigating challenging conditions. That makes the commitment of those who stand with us all the more inspiring.

As we look back on the past year, we want to recognise how far we've come. Our focus remains firmly on the future, and on how we can make Portsmouth happier, healthier and more connected.



OUR 3 STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

We work with people

We work with the VCSE sector

We work in partnership



COST OF LIVING SUPPORT



UNIFORM SHARE STORE

This much-loved initiative provides families with high-quality pre-loved school uniforms completely free of charge. In 2024, the Schoolwear Association reported that the average cost of a full school uniform was £92.35.

Thanks to this project, we were able to support 1,345 primary and secondary school children with the items they needed - equivalent to clothing all the pupils in five average-sized primary schools. This not only represents a significant financial saving for families but also delivers clear environmental benefits by extending the life of schoolwear that would otherwise go to waste.



PANTRIES

Food pantries are all about dignity, choice and hope. There are currently seven pantries across the city where people can do a weekly shop for a small fee, typically, £5, for which they can select food items of their choice. Pantries reduce food waste and create a sustainable solution to food poverty contributing to a happier, healthier city. Based in the community, pantries can respond to neighbourhood needs fostering a sense of belonging. HIVE Portsmouth supports the setting up of these pantries and offers ongoing support and guidance, and there are three further pantries in the pipeline.



DIGITAL INCLUSION



Though the provision of data, devices and IT assistance HIVE supports the people of Portsmouth to access resources that improve health, reduce loneliness and isolation, and relieve poverty, which promotes wellbeing.

Our 19 Digital Champions facilitated 88 1:1 sessions supporting people with a range of IT issues. We also addressed data poverty through the provision of data sims through our Helpdesk and working in partnership with the Society of St James.

HELPDESK

Our Helpdesks are a first point of contact for anyone in need. In the last year, we supported 13,131 people which equates to an average of 52 people every day - through face-to-face, telephone and email support. This equates to 6% of the population of Portsmouth or a single decker bus full of people a day.

The Helpdesk was able to assist a gentleman with a hearing impairment and who was recovering from a stroke to successfully claim the benefits to which he was entitled. He was delighted and said 'The service is excellent. The staff are excellent. HIVE have helped me in more ways than other charities can. The information and help I received was really good and helpful.'



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



1,345 children received uniform



£28,755.50 given to local organisations through the Community Lottery



1,478 interactions with VCSE organisations



VCSE SUPPORT

PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY LOTTERY

27 local VCSE organisations received grants totalling £28,755.50 which enabled them to deliver more services to the people of Portsmouth.

Among the organisations who were awarded funding were Freedom Fighters CIC UK who work with young people around digital arts and media. Their Director explained the difference this funding will make to them "The items we brought bring joy, connection, the sound of music, wisdom and a soundtrack to a safe space for us.

Thank you so much
HIVE Portsmouth!"



COMMUNITY WELLBEING ALLIANCE

Following consultation and a workshop with the VCSE and strategic partners, we launched the Community Wellbeing Alliance, with the strapline *Thriving together*.

The aim of the Alliance is to build the collective strength and voice of the VCSE, thrive together as allies and work together to benefit the communities we serve in Portsmouth. The first meeting in January was attended by 15 VCSE organisations.



Team highlights

The team engaged in more than 1,400 interactions with VCSE organisations, helping organisations set up, bid for funding, recruit trustees and gain recognition. Among the highlights were:

- The launch of our second coworking space in the north of the city where small and larger meeting rooms available alongside dedicated desks. This compliments our Hub in the south of the city offering affordable desk and meeting room space to the VCSE sector .
- Supporting groups with funding applications and governance enquiries including start ups such as the Freedom Fighters who described the amazing support they received and the difference it made to them: *"To have an organisation giving me the sort of consultation they have given is life changing"*
- The Sector Impact & Insight Report 2024 was published and highlighted that, despite a plethora of challenges, the sector in our city remains passionate, resilient and committed to improving the lives of those who live in Portsmouth.
- Developing a Trustee pack to support charities and organisations with recruitment in collaboration with Shaping Portsmouth which resulted in four successful matches made between organisations and new trustees.



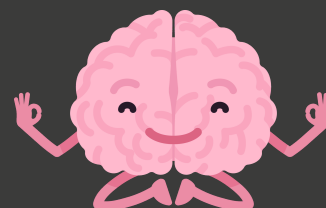
TEAM SUCCESS

Sea Salt. a new day service for people with a disability in the Portsmouth area, reflected on the support they received from the VCSE team:

We were extremely impressed with Alison's knowledge, experience, and enduring passion for helping others. You don't have to know her for very long to realise that you will receive absolutely the best response you could ever wish for, and probably more than you thought possible



HEALTH & WELLBEING



COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

As part of the work around community mental health in we:

- Continued to lead the evaluation of the Portsmouth Mental Health Hubs. Working with partners and people with lived experience, we designed and shared a citywide survey and spoke directly with residents about their experiences of mental health support. The response was strong, and the feedback we received is already helping to shape ongoing improvements to the service.
- Delivered two Food, Feelings & Facts sessions, bringing together young people, parents and carers, and professionals and tackling common questions and myths about food and mood. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants reporting a clearer understanding, useful take-away tips, and greater confidence to make everyday choices.



Health Determinants Research Collaborative

Alongside Portsmouth City Council and the University of Portsmouth, HIVE Portsmouth is a co-partner in the Portsmouth HDRC, a five-year programme to develop a thriving culture of community-focused research in the city that is actively translated into decisions, policy and actions for the benefit of local residents.

We were delighted to receive confirmation that Portsmouth had been awarded the funding for the full five-year programme that officially launched in January with the team establishing their base in our South Hub.



DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

The group works to ensure that the voices of disabled people are heard, and their concerns acted upon, in the city of Portsmouth.

In 24/25 the work to make the city a more accessible place continued and in November the group were joined by Stephen Morgan MP to travel by train, bus, taxi and wheeled all across the city, to highlight barriers preventing disabled people from making the journeys they want. Subsequently, Stephen Morgan held discussions with local transport providers to consider how to address the barriers disabled people experience and how accessibility can be improved.

WELLBEING COLLECTIVE

The Wellbeing Collective project helps avoid unnecessary hospital admissions and additional pressures on health services.



471 Referrals received



946 people supported



Over 1,400 hours of support

VOLUNTEERING



WHAT I GET OUT OF VOLUNTEERING

When we asked volunteers about their experiences, the answers revealed something that anyone who has volunteered will recognise: you often get back more than you put in.

The research, published in December 2024, captured 26 volunteers talking honestly about what their work means to them. The themes were consistent - a sense of purpose, genuine friendships, confidence rebuilt, and structure restored after retirement or a difficult period in life. For some, it changed things in ways they hadn't anticipated at all.

What came through most clearly is that volunteering in Portsmouth is not a one-way exchange. Volunteers give their time generously, but they come away with something real: connection, a feeling of belonging, and the knowledge that what they do genuinely matters to someone else.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The eyes of the nation were on Portsmouth in June, with the city at the centre of the UK's D Day 80 commemorations. HIVE Portsmouth was involved in the planning of the event, working with the BBC, Ministry of Defence, the city council and other partners. The team recruited and trained 107 volunteers to provide vital support at the event.



VOLUNTEER AWARDS



STATS FOR THE YEAR



1,056 volunteers placed with organisations - enough people to fill 11 double decker buses!



3,650 volunteer enquiries - enough people to fill 41 double decker buses!



4,620 volunteers available - enough people to fill 51 double decker buses!



The dedication and kindness of special volunteers from across the city was celebrated at the **Portsmouth Inspiring Volunteer Awards** with more than 200 people attending the ceremony at the Victory Suite, Fratton Park, organised by Together in Hive Portsmouth. The annual awards recognise the incredible contribution of those who give up their time to make the city a better place, expecting nothing in return.



LOOKING FORWARD



- **BUILDING ALLIANCES**
- **ESTABLISHING
DISABILITY HUB**
- **NEIGHBOURHOOD
HEALTH DEVELOPMENT**
- **EMBEDDING COMMUNITY
LED RESEARCH**
- **DEVELOPING FOOD
SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

