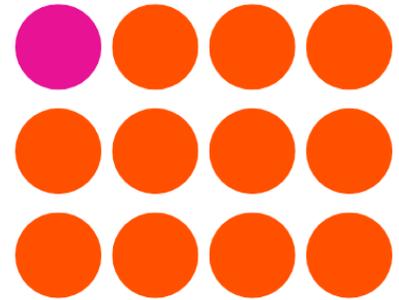


A celebration of the commitment  
and achievements of Medway's  
VCSEF Sector Leaders



Supporting Communities  
in Kent & Medway

VCSEF  
LEADERS  
AWARDS



*The 'Unsung-Everyday-Heroes' in Medway's VCSEF Sector*

## MVA VCSEF Sector Leaders Awards 2026 Award Nomination Guidance & Criteria Information

### 1 | Award Categories

- The James Williams Award for Pioneering Leadership
- Outstanding Collaboration within the VCSEF Sector
- Generous and Inspiring Leadership within the Sector
- Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, and Intersectionality
- Exceptional CEO/Director of Micro to Small Organisation (under £100k)
- Exceptional CEO/Director of Medium to Large Organisation (£100k - £1m)
- Exceptional Leader of a Volunteer Led Organisation
- Exceptional Most Dynamic Trustee
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- The People's Choice Award

### 2 | Eligibility & Criteria

To qualify as a valid entrant for MVA's new leadership awards, nominees must:

- Represent the VCSEF in Medway in a leadership role and be engaged with a registered charity, CIC, community group or other not-for-profit organisation.
- Have made a 'measurable' and outstanding contribution to communities across Medway and within their organisation.
- Have been operating in Medway in their leadership role for a minimum of 1 year.
- Be able to clearly demonstrate the impact of their services, any initiative taken, and inspire others to work collaboratively and creatively, whilst acting as an excellent role model.
- Promote a work environment that is respectful, collegial and supportive.

- Not have received an MVA Leaders Award in 2025.

### 3 | Nomination Process:

Complete the online nomination form and provide the requested supporting documentation. Key process and timeline details are below:

Task	Milestone
Invitations to nominate launched	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
All nominations submission deadline (to be at MVA)	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March before 12pm
All nominations go to an independent judging panel	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
Winning nominees and nominators will be informed of the panel's decision and advise on 'Next-Steps'	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March
All winners announced at the Leadership Award Event	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April at Gillingham Golf Club

### 3 | New Nomination Process for 'The People's Choice Award:

All awards are judged by an independent panel with winners, and finalists chosen based on the strength, merit and impact of their nomination.

The only exception to this is The People's Choice Award which will be decided on by the public, and on the total amount of nominations received.

When you get to the People's Choice Award section of the form you will find a list of the top nominations already made, then every Thursday, starting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, we will update this list online for people to vote on.

Alternatively, you can make a new nomination for this award using the same online form and in the same way as the rest of the awards.

**Click [HERE](#) to access the online nomination form for all awards.**

*\*Please note, you will need to complete all mandatory fields marked with an \* in each section before being able to move on to the next section of the nomination form.*

### Biography Statement Examples

Please find below examples of 3 biography statements. These are to be used only as a guide to give a bit more context of the type of information we need.

## Examples of Impact & Dedication:

This nomination recognises the nominees' unwavering dedication to fostering positive change within Medway. Their leadership stems from a deep personal commitment to making a difference, exemplified by their tireless efforts to support.

They consistently put the needs of the community and beneficiaries first, inspiring others to join the mission and creating a tangible impact on the lives of the people Medway's VCSEF serves.

This unwavering passion and effective leadership make them a truly deserving nominee.

### Some examples include:

- "Fuelled by an unwavering dedication, their work has had a profound impact, transforming the lives of vulnerable children."
- "Their dedicated approach to sustainability, coupled with strategic planning, has led to a charity that has a consistent and meaningful impact."
- "The tangible impact of the charity is a direct reflection of the dedication and passion of its volunteers."
- "Through both dedicated action and a strategic vision, the organization has created a legacy of impactful charitable work."

## Examples of Vision & Innovation:

The nominee has been nominated for their exceptional leadership in driving forward their organisation or groups mission. Their vision not only addresses critical needs within Medway but has also significantly increased positive outcomes in other ways, EG: Service delivery, community engagement, fundraising and so on.

They excel at fostering a collaborative and forward-thinking environment, empowering their team to achieve ambitious goals. Their innovative approach and commitment to positive outcomes make them an impactful leader deserving of this award.

### Some examples include:

- "By embracing innovation and maintaining a forward-thinking vision, this organisation is able to develop cutting-edge programs that effectively meet the needs of its beneficiaries."
- "This charity's innovative approach, driven by a clear vision, demonstrates how groundbreaking solutions can address pressing social needs and create lasting impact."

- "Inspired by a bold vision, this charity is leading the way with innovative solutions that are transforming lives and shaping a better future."

### **Examples of Collaborative Leadership:**

This award highlight's exemplary leadership characterised by empathy and collaboration. The nominee's commitment to community is deeply rooted in their understanding of the challenges faced by the sector. They lead with compassion, empowering volunteers and staff to contribute their best.

They actively encourage and build strong community partnerships, to amplify their organisations impact, thus ensuring that the needs of their service users remain at the heart of their work. Their ability to foster unity and inspire action makes them a truly remarkable leader.

### **Some examples include:**

- "By employing collaborative leadership techniques, the charity's leadership group fostered an inclusive conversation which led to drafting an emotionally impactful statement."
- "Driven by a collaborative leadership model, the charity's newly drafted statement clearly articulates its values and commitment, attracting greater support and engagement."
- "The successful fundraising drive showcased collaborative leadership, where diverse team members jointly shaped the charity's mission statement, resulting in a unified and impactful message."