



A Network Reborn

Enhancing, validating
and empowering the
Voluntary Community
Sector in Medway



Providing Voluntary
Sector Leaders with a
stronger voice, through their
own platform of collaborative
working, effective networking,
sharing good practice and peer-
to-peer support.

Join the VCS Leaders Network and work
through the challenges Medway charities
face, together - achieving real progress.



Introduction

2015

The Medway VCS Network was created in 2015, and gathered Leaders from across the Voluntary Sector to pool ideas, provide peer-to-peer support and channel a single voice, to speak to power about the challenges and opportunities which could be met with the inclusion of our vibrant Sector.

2018

Over subsequent years, the Network gathered for workshops and to hear inspiring speakers. By 2018, the Network was a recognised voice for Voluntary organisations of all sizes, with regular opportunities to speak to statutory officers and Leaders on a range of issues affecting Medway and our Sector.

2020

During the pandemic of 2020, the VCS Leaders Network took a back seat to the emergent community update meetings, which saw organisations band together in a time of crisis and display an impressive amount of unrestricted collaboration to support each other through the most difficult of times.

2025

In the background of this regular meeting, key Leaders from within the VCS Leaders Network bid to launch two streams of work to further enhance, validate and empower the VCS Sector in Medway, including the Transformation Academy and the Alliance.

Both of these workstreams have run for a three-year funded period and are now preparing to fold back into the VCS Leaders Network from whence they came, in order to bolster the VCS Leaders Network offer, and set foundations for a re-born Network - fit for the challenges of the future.



A reborn Network

Key to the success of the Network moving forward is sustainability.

The value and impact is undisputed.

In a world where nothing is certain, and funding is more restricted than ever, the Network needs to re-establish itself in a more sustainable way, to ensure its future - its future value to its members and its future impact with and for the Sector as a whole.

Members of the VCS Steering Group have met to re-design the VCS Network offer and will re-launch this at a forthcoming spring 2025 event.

The Steering Group recognise that the Network holds value in different ways for different organisations, according to size, resource and the topic of the day, and so has structured the membership entry points accordingly, which incorporate a range of services accessible to VCS Leaders*.

*Leaders is a collective term for eligible members, and includes people who hold the role CEO, COO, Executive Director, Manager or Trustee. The defining criteria is that members should be the Leaders of their respective organisation and be in decision making positions at the head of their organisations.



Membership defined

Membership type	Annual cost	Membership benefits
Bronze	Free	VCS Leaders networking events, training courses, access to speakers and workshops, Network voice, peer-to-peer support opportunities.
Silver	£70 per annum	All of the above, plus; Access to the alliance support services list, access to vacancy sharing platform, coaching programme (limited spaces annually).
Gold	£150 per annum	All of the above, plus; Access to the <i>Unlocking Your Potential</i> Academy and Academy Alumni (limited spaces annually), 4 hours of peer mentoring, VCS Leaders Gold Membership icon to share on your webpages, quarterly e-bulletin, access to the Gold Member LinkedIn group.
Sponsored	1 year sponsored fee	Smaller and micro charities can access the VCS Leaders Network at zero or subsidised costs by partnering with a larger charity who would like to sponsor another organisation. A list of potential sponsors is available on request.

Membership is charged annually by invoice from MVA, who hold and administrate the VCS Leaders' account and provide the permanent secretariat to the VCS Leaders Network and Steering Group.

Why join?



The value

The value our members tell us about, in terms of the peer-to-peer support, has guided them through tough challenges, developed them as more effective Leaders, and strengthened their voices in the Sector.

The transformation

The Transformation Academy and the work achieved has led to a strong group action approach to some of the bigger challenges we all face as charities in Medway.

The alliance

The Alliance Support Service has been of immense value to Leaders, even increasing their potential for income. The friendships and alliances made have been inspiring and lasting.

The coaching

Provided by local VCS Leaders, all of whom hold accredited coaching qualifications, our coaching support can help members with organisational and personal development goals, overcoming challenges and income.



Speak to a VCS Leader in the Network to better understand the benefits – they will be pleased to talk to you about it.



One of the most useful things I learned through these coaching sessions was the importance of adapting my approach to meet the unique needs and preferences of the coachee.

VCS Leadership Coach

Being a member of the VCS Leaders Network has opened doors, started collaborative work, and has been a huge boost to my own confidence, realising we are all in this together.

VCS Leaders Network Member

The work on exploring the emotions and vocabulary of emotional words was so insightful. The Network allows me to develop my management skills to achieve better outcomes.

VCS Leaders Network Member





How do I join?

Just scan the QR code to fill out our Membership Application Form:



Or for more information, please email:



vcsleaders@mva.org.uk



Note from the Chair

I'm very proud to be chosen as Chair to represent Medway's VCS Leaders Network. The Leaders Network has the ability to create strong partnerships between the Voluntary and Statutory Sectors. Our strength lies in the diverse membership voice enabling us to share our experience and expertise to continue to support our communities in Medway. It's an honour to work closely with other Leaders in Medway.

Eithne Rynne, Chair of VCS Network Leaders (Kent Association for the Blind)

Together we can harness the full power of our Network to achieve something quite remarkable.

John Norley, Former Chair of VCS Network Leaders (Age UK Kent Rivers)

