

# WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING IN MEDWAY'S VCSEF

WHY YOU WILL WANT  
TO JOIN OUR TEAMS



Created by the VCS  
Transformation  
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# Welcome

If you are reading this, then you are considering whether to work or volunteer with a Medway charity (or, to give us our full title, Medway's Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise and Faith Sector – VCSEF).

We'd like to start by saying you've made a great choice – Medway's VCSEF is a fabulous place to work. Nowhere else will you find fulfilling opportunities, great opportunities to develop and exciting opportunities to collaborate within a thriving and supportive environment.

But we're not just asking you to take our word for it; we've created this pack to tell you more about working or volunteering with the VCSEF, particularly here in Medway!

## Why working or volunteering in Medway's VCSEF is unique



Medway's voluntary (or charitable) sector offers a huge range of opportunities for any voluntary opportunities.

Medway's unique blend of geography, deep history and hugely diverse communities is mirrored by its thriving voluntary, community, social enterprise and faith (VCSEF) sector.

In Medway you'll find a VCSEF sector that is ahead of the curve and forming a vanguard of 'what excellence looks like' for local organisations and the sector as a whole.

With over 1,000 separate charities and community groups championing separate causes, you are guaranteed to find a role that will offer you personal fulfilment as well as make a positive contribution to the communities you want to live and grow within.

The VCSEF's history in Medway has encouraged us, through shared challenges and experiences, to break down the barriers that often exist between organisations; encouraging us to work together, in formal and informal ways, to support each other and celebrate our individual and collective successes. 2015 saw the formation of the VCS Leaders Network; a formal step was taken by the sector to recognise the value in working collaboratively and in true partnership. What has followed is a continued evolution of change, growth, mutual support, shared resources, shared learning and, most recently, a Transformation Academy and Alliance – all proving that 'Together we can harness the full power of our network to achieve something quite remarkable.'

Working in the Medway VCS provides the opportunity of cross working, shared roles, deepening experiences, and

# Why work in the VCSEF?

- You get to make a difference to a cause you care about
- You get to work with like-minded people
- There are a variety of opportunities as well as career development
- Good benefits such as flexibility in working hours and hybrid working
- If you are looking to work more locally in Medway, there is a over 1000 potential local organisations to work for

For more information  
on these points scan  
this QR code or visit:  
[6 Reasons Why Working  
for a Charity is so  
Rewarding](#)



# Potential VCSEF Employee Benefits Schemes

There are a range of ways that the VCSEF can improve your benefits beyond just salary – some of the ways that Medway's local VCSEF are exploring to do this include:

- Discount schemes for charity workers (for example, schemes like: [www.charityworkerdiscounts.com](http://www.charityworkerdiscounts.com))
- Additional leave days could be granted, such as 'duvet days' and leave on your birthday.
- Offer more flexibility around home-working if possible.
- Annual salary reviews committed to at Trustee Boards.
- Local partnerships that can offer discounted schemes, such as discounted Gym memberships.
- Career development – training opportunities available through corporate partnerships / internally.
- Support with health – access to free eye test and contribution towards glasses.

So why not ask about these potential benefits if you are considering working within the VCSEF.



## Meet some of Medway's VCSEF

Need more convincing that Medway's VCSEF is an amazing place to work or volunteer? Here are a few of our VCSEF peers to tell you more...



*"One of our volunteers says to us, the biggest gift you can give, is the gift of time. So if you have the time to give to someone else, you will be supporting your local community as well as gaining valuable experience yourself"*  
*Raz Goodred, CEO, Home-Start Medway*



*"Medway's VCS is a great place to work and volunteer, the sector's diversity reflects that of the geographical diversity the Medway has. Medway VCS is driving towards making Medway as a whole, a better place to live."*  
*John Norley, CEO, Age UK Medway*



*"Medway is quite a large area but feels more like being part of a family, and the more we support our family, the more we support our community which is why volunteering for the VCS is so important"*  
*Martyn Reeves, Chief Executive, Friends of Wisdom Hospice*



*"You get to meet like minded people and it is very satisfying to give something back to the community"*  
*Rupa Sen, Executive Manager, Medway Diversity Forum*

# Acknowledgments and Thanks

This pack was developed by the VCS Transformation Academy (another exciting initiative that operates in Medway on the foundation of 'generous leadership').

In particular, we thank the Members of the Task & Finish Group that worked collaboratively and contributed to the creation of this pack: David Stokes (Nucleus Arts), Michelle Trumper (wHoo Cares), John Norley (Age UK Medway) and Richard Giles (North Kent Mind).

***Want to learn more about the Transformation Academy? Would you like to get more involved?*** Contact [transformation@mva.org.uk](mailto:transformation@mva.org.uk) or visit: [www.mva.org.uk/vcs-transformation-academy-alliance](http://www.mva.org.uk/vcs-transformation-academy-alliance)

