

Lancaster District CVS... supporting you to support your communities



Photo caption: Volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic

We are Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions (LDCVS), and we have been supporting communities since 1972. Lancaster District CVS has always been led by the vision to **“To promote, develop and support, through partnership, a dynamic and diverse voluntary and community sector”**.

We believe that the voluntary community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector plays a critical role in tackling poverty and working with our communities. As the umbrella organization for the VCFSE sector, we strive to challenge oppression and prejudice, to promote diversity and to work towards a society where full equality of opportunities for all is a reality. Our passion drives us to strive towards ensuring the sector is visible, valued and heard. We understand how much work goes into improving the health and wellbeing of our communities and the current pandemic situation has highlighted this more than ever before - the importance of having a VCFSE sector that thrives.

This year we have helped groups to access funding opportunities, drive conversations around community development, health and wellbeing of our communities and support for our disadvantaged communities through our volunteer centre.

This year, we set up the Urgent Response Fund to help support groups helping to mitigate the impact of COVID. Working with local partners, including the NHS, the city and county councils, local businesses and the kind generosity from the public, we have supported groups with over £60,000 in funding to voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise sector groups, to offer a quick, simple way of supporting individuals and communities in need. We also continue to support communities through our regular bulletins that provide information on funding opportunities, health and wellbeing activities, job opportunities volunteer services to organisations. You can find out more about funding opportunities by visiting our [funding page](#) or to stay informed on these opportunities, you can [sign up here to become a member](#).

Lancaster District Support Line

In March 2020, in partnership with Hope Church, Lancaster Integrated Care Community & Lancaster City Council, we set up the Lancaster District Support Line. With the help of our amazing volunteers, we have helped over a couple of thousand people with shopping, medication, befriending and supporting families. As we head into Christmas and New Year, we know this period will be very difficult for many people. Many are experiencing grief from loss, loneliness and financial challenges.

If you are feeling alone this Christmas, the Lancaster District Support Line are on hand to call you on Christmas day or a couple of days over the holidays. Whatever you are feeling right now is normal. You are not alone. Please do get in touch with our team by visiting <https://www.hopelancaster.co.uk/coronavirus-support/> or by calling 01524 555900.

DO YOU NEED VOLUNTEERS OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR?

We have a large list of people who have registered to help where needed and so if you are planning activities over Christmas and New Year and if you feel that some additional volunteers might be of benefit to you during that time, our Volunteer Centre might be able to put some eager volunteers in touch with you very quickly.

We can still advertise and promote your roles in the usual sorts of ways - online, through social media, in our bulletin - but we can also send requests directly to over 800 registered people across the district and ask them to contact you directly should they be in a position to help. Many of these people have recent DBS certificates (issued within the last year or two), and DBS checks for COVID-19 related roles are being fast-tracked at the moment, should you need to get any done for your staff or volunteers.

If you would like to let potential volunteers know about your activities and encourage them to get involved, please send an email to Mark Waddington (markwaddington@lancastercvs.org.uk) and he can discuss this further with you.

Our Services

At LDCVS, we offer opportunities for communities to develop relationships, peer support and improve connectivity through forums and partnerships. We also provide a range of free and chargeable services to support the VCFSE sector across our district. These services help these organisations to recruit volunteers, develop their organisations and manage their finances.

Our services include:

- Our volunteer centre where we provide support for organisations by recruiting, training volunteers, and supporting the development of volunteer policies and strategies.
- Providing organisational development support on fundraising, governance, policies & procedures, DBS checks, monitoring and evaluation, business planning, media & marketing and setting up new community groups.
- Offering affordable paid for financial services such as payroll, bookkeeping and independent examination services.

If your organisation needs support, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our team by calling 01524 555900 or send an email to hello@lancastercvs.org.uk. You can also read more about our membership benefits here [Membership - Lancaster District CVS \(lancastercvs.org.uk\)](https://www.lancastercvs.org.uk/membership)