

Adding values and value

Voluntary & Community Sector Organisations

Isle of Wight

Community Action Isle of Wight
at the Riverside

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Her Majesty's Lord- Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Susie Sheldon

Introduction

Whilst the on-going challenges of covid have far from gone away, the efforts of the Island's voluntary and community sector have hugely helped us get over what we hope is the worst of it.

I am therefore delighted to introduce this short paper designed to both highlight some of the crisis efforts of the last year as well as the contribution they make to the quality of life on the island year in and year out. As you will see the voluntary and community sector is in many ways the glue that holds our communities together.

The sector mobilises social and financial capital to make a massive contribution to the way this Island works. It is impossible to do justice to the depth and breadth of the work of these organisations in a few pages, but I hope you will agree that this information gives you just a flavor of the incredible services delivered that help to make the Isle of Wight a safer, stronger, friendlier, healthier and more fulfilled community.

Who are Community Action IW?

Community Action Isle of Wight (CAIW) is an Island charity that has been supporting Island life for over 25 years.

Community Action IW believes in the strength and ability of Island communities, in charitable endeavor, in voluntary action, in not for profit motives.

We exist to support the 1,500 or more voluntary and community organisations that work so hard for the benefit of the Island and its residents. We aim to support the existence and development of community amenities and services, to help the Island have thriving communities where people get involved, help each other, and have access to the services they need.

Whilst it has not been possible to mention every VCS group working on the Island in these few pages, we want to sincerely thank all the volunteers, staff and service users in the voluntary sector on the Isle of Wight for their incredible work and engagement that make our work something of which to be justifiably proud.



What is the Voluntary and Community Sector?

There are an estimated 1500+ voluntary, community, social enterprise, not for profit organisations serving the Island. This paper's intention is to identify the breadth and value of services delivered by the Voluntary and Community Sector on the Isle of Wight. It will highlight the huge volunteering effort we have seen in the last year as the Isle of Wight has faced up to the challenges of the covid crisis well as illustrating the diverse ways in which the sector brings benefit to our communities each and every year.

Up and down the country voluntary and community groups are helping older people feel less isolated, helping those with disabilities achieve their aspirations, helping younger people grow up in safety and provided with opportunities to develop. Across every part of our lives the voluntary and community sector is helping people and on the Island we have a vibrant and indeed award winning group of organisations.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local voluntary groups, recognising their outstanding work within communities and the Isle of Wight has had a wide range of winners over the years.

For the year 2020 four local groups were rewarded with this award and the variety of focus they provide, illustrates well how diverse the sector is and how much the sector is contributing to Island life.

The 2021 winner of the Queens Award is **The Isle of Wight Community Bus Partnership** which provides essential bus services to areas across the Isle of Wight - using vehicles from Southern Vectis and volunteer drivers.

The Royal Isle of Wight County Show promotes and celebrates everything that is good about the Isle of Wight. It is an important platform for Island businesses to trade and the last show injected £176k into the Island's rural economy. In 2019, the last show held, 290 individuals/business exhibited or competed, 103 businesses traded and 9,842 people attended. The net proceeds from the show are used to fund the Royal Isle of Wight Agricultural Society's Rural Careers Fund which provides scholarships and bursaries to young people. During the last 7 years the Fund has supported 34 young people.

The Isle of Wight Music, Dance & Drama Festival, was founded to encourage the study and practice of the arts of Music, Dancing, Elocution, Literature and Acting. It runs competitive classes in Music, both vocal and instrumental, Dance, and Speech & Drama, including classes for people with special needs. With performers from three years old to those in their eighties, many of whom have participated since they were children, the pleasure and opportunity and friendship that the festival has brought to so many Islanders is something to behold.

The purpose and aims of the **The IOW MS Society** group are to support, reduce isolation and improve the lives of those people living with, or affected by MS on the Island. It provides help and support to everyone that is affected by Multiple Sclerosis, and also importantly their wider family network offering various types of wellbeing, emotional and financial support, thus preventing the risk of isolation for the MS community.

Vectis Radio was recognised for its support of local charities and for their excellent 4Ps training programme. The 4Ps is an award winning free course which aims to help young people on the Island with communication challenges to build their confidence and improve their communication skills to in turn enable them to have greater life chances and over 250 young people have so far benefited from this support.

Responding to the covid crisis

The Voluntary and Community Sector has played a huge part in responding to the challenges of the last 15 months. When the Coronavirus pandemic swept across the county the Island's communities rallied to meet the need of providing essential food, medicine and support to the elderly, shielded, fearful and vulnerable. **Here are just a few examples of the work that has gone on…….**

Covid Support Hubs

26 community hubs were formed rapidly and spontaneously in the early spring to support their local residents. Some were initiated by local councils, others by community-based organisations or informal groups of residents. However, in all cases public and private organisations worked together with a spirit of cooperation seldom seen in 'normal' times.

The main focus of hub activity was on ensuring that vulnerable individuals had access to food and medication. However, some hubs also provided other services, including information on employment and housing issues, befriending service, telephone check-ins and mental health support. The provision of these services was highly dependent on local volunteers and the number of volunteers who came forward - and continue to do so - has been truly extraordinary.

The 26 hubs established each varied in size, structure and capacity but covered every town, village and hamlet had a local connection to provide supports.



West Wight Support Hub

As the country was about to go into lockdown, in West Wight a hastily convened meeting of local groups and faith organisations was held to agree a joint approach on supporting the community. All were in favour and a steering group for the West Wight area was formed using West Wight Sports and Community Centre as a physical base.

Leaflets were distributed door to door appealing for volunteers and offering help. There was an overwhelming response. The team matched volunteers with requestors and support was given 6 days a week offering shopping support, prescription collection/deliveries and emotional support over the telephone. As further needs were identified the support offered extended to hot meals (delivered to the doorstep) and sewing scrubs for care homes.

Over the course of the year the hub adapted to meet new challenges.

- Launching an IT project to help reduce social isolation.
- Providing volunteers to be Covid Marshals at the Freshwater Vaccination Centre.
- Being a distribution centre for Wight Mask Ask – volunteers delivering PPE to the local care homes.

As of May 2021 there are still around 90 volunteers as there are 60 Covid marshals, 10 on the hot meal delivery team, 4 prescription deliverers, 5 IT volunteers, and some individuals still helping their linked requestor with occasional shopping or chores.

During the first lockdown, the West Wight hub utilized **200 active volunteers.**

At the peak in mid-May 2020 they had:

102 volunteers linked with requestors

40 volunteers sewing scrubs

15 volunteers delivering prescriptions

6 volunteers delivering meals

10 giving telephone support

3 volunteers on the steering group alongside the Community Connector and Just Ask officer

10 on call for one-off tasks such as posting parcels


Aspire Ryde

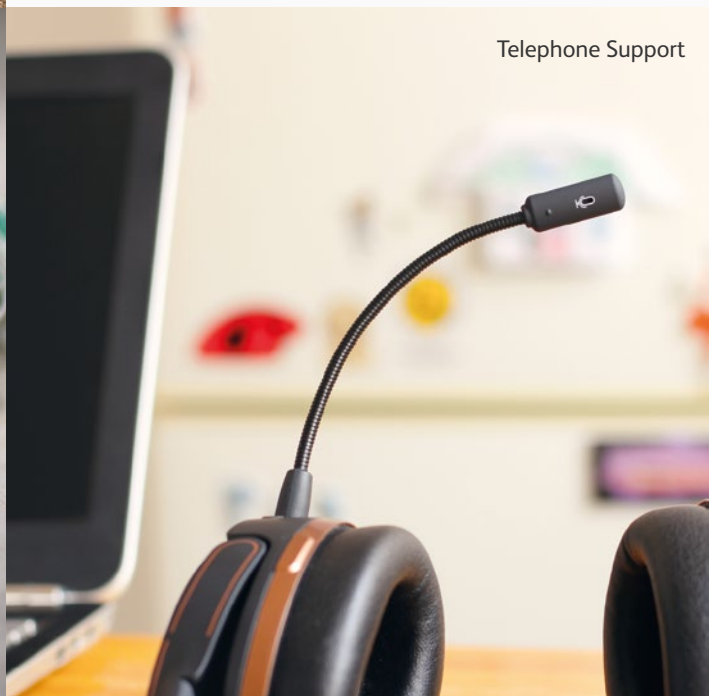

Vaccination Centres


Vaccination Centres

COVID-19 Information

for the Isle of Wight


Wight Mask Ask


Telephone Support

Volunteers and staff at **Pan Together** helped local residents in 3,962 different ways, in the 12 month period from March 2020.

They have:

Prepared and delivered **1,663** no-cost hot meals to local children and young people in real need

Dished up **1,602** lunches for adults, delivered to their doors

Undertook **203** separate rounds of essential shopping

Collected and delivered **166** prescriptions (many of which were on a multiple basis)

Aspire Ryde provided support to residents across Ryde during the pandemic. They provided more than 19,000 interventions.

Aspire Ryde – Support to the community March 2020 – March 2021	**1st Lockdown Mar - Jun 2020**	**2nd Lockdown Nov - Dec 2020**	**3rd Lockdown Jan - Apr 2021**	**Non lockdown stats**	**Totals**
	13 weeks	*4 weeks*	*14 weeks*	*Approx 20 weeks*	
Direct Aspire Volunteer Hours	1,560	480	1,680	2,400	**6,120**
Food parcels	910	20	168	100	**1,198**
Chef time	390	40	140	160	**730**
Cooked meals prepared	780	200	700	600	**2,280**
Phone and zoom welfare checks	5,000	450	1,820	600	**7,870**
Co-ordinated community volunteer hours	3,380	560	1,680	2,000	**7,620**
Individuals regularly supported	155	90	70	100	**415**
Individual shopping or prescriptions delivered	3,965	420	1,190	2,200	**7,775**
Total volunteer hours	5,330	1,080	3,500	4,560	**14,470**
Total interactions	10,655	1,090	3,878	3,500	**19,123**

Vaccination Centres

Community Action Isle of Wight (CAIW) were asked by Solent NHS Trust and the IW Clinical Commissioning Group to help with the supply and coordination of volunteers to assist with the roll out of the vaccine programme. More than 500 Islanders registered to help and working in partnership with West Wight Sports & Community Centre and Aspire Ryde, the huge challenge of co-ordinating volunteers to support the centres at Riverside, Westridge and West Wight. CAIW has worked closely with Solent NHS trust at Riverside and coordinated a team of 230 volunteer marshals greet and people arriving, directing them to the appropriate parking, queue management, encourage social distancing and assisting with the smooth flow of people through the building. Volunteers are on the frontline, supporting in all weathers and have been the cheerful, friendly first point of contact for people arriving for their vaccinations.

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

PPE has been a key issue during the crisis and Embracing Age, which normally delivers a care home friends service to bring companionship to care home residents, took on the challenge of raising funds and purchasing and distributing PPE to organisations working in the care and community sector. So far it has distributed 61,000 items of PPE to 68 organisations working in care settings and 12 individual carers.

Charitable Trusts financial support

The Island has a variety of trust organisations that work hard to secure and manage financial resources for distribution to voluntary and community groups to support the great work that they do.

The covid crisis clearly created even more need in our community and under the umbrella of the Lord Lieutenant a variety of charitable trusts, such as the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation, WightAID, the Daisie Rich Trust and others came together during the peak of the crisis to help pool and co-ordinate additional resources to help efforts to support local people impacted by the pandemic.

In addition the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation was able to access additional national funding coming down from Government with charitable organisations benefitting from almost £200,000 in emergency grants during 2020.

Adding Value – Financial

The voluntary sector is able to secure a significant amount of additional "new" financial resources to the local economy, through fundraising with the public, by securing grant funding only available to the charitable sector and through income from social enterprise trading activities.

Age UK has consistently secured significant additional resource from grant funders from national and regional bodies for the benefit of the Island community, £379,000 in 2020/21. In addition the work itself can secure additional resources such as through the Welfare Benefits Advice service, which secured over £1.5 million in extra money for Island residents.

Massive efforts are undertaken by Mountbatten Isle of Wight to ensure money is raised through a whole calendar of events, a weekly lottery, legacies and through the network of charity shops across the Island. Their annual Walk the Wight event is the largest sponsored walk of its kind in Europe.

On the children and families side Homestart secured £87,000 pounds of grant funding in 2020/2021 to provide much needed support to vulnerable families at an even more difficult time and have also secured over £200,000 of national lottery funding for the new financial year.

In 2020-2021 Citizens Advice Isle of Wight attracted £364,000 pounds of funding from off Island sources to enable them to deliver comprehensive advice services to Island people. Funders include the National Lottery, Macmillan, Department for Work and Pensions, the Money and Pension service and Citizens Advice also fund raises from the public and businesses.

Adding Value – Skills & Capacity

VCS organisations are not only focused on fixing problem and raising funds, they also help to build on the positive aspects of society. This includes offering training and coaching to build skills in the local community, providing advice and support, organising community events and activities such as creative arts projects and running sports and leisure clubs. Volunteers are the backbone of the VCS providing skills, knowledge, energy, commitment and time that are essential to help keep voluntary organisations running.

During the covid crisis Community Action IW secured funding from The National Lottery to deliver a community resilience project which worked with all the covid hubs and across a variety of communities and organisations. A key element of this was delivering a variety of training to staff and volunteers helping to build their skills and confidence in providing support to residents at this challenging and stressful time. Training included:

- Advice First Aid Volunteer training: 4 intakes, 51 learners in total;
- Introduction to Active Listening Skills training: 2 intakes, 26 learners in total;
- Mental Health Aware training: 3 intakes, 42 learners in total;
- Resilience during challenging times training: 5 intakes, 64 learners in total.

All training events received consistently positive feedback from learners who were able to put their learning into practice straight away.

What our learners said:

"I feel more confident in directing people to get the correct and appropriate support now."

"I have often found myself at a loss to help people who are suffering from mental illness. The course provided good insight and practical strategies and definitely raised my awareness.

"This training has been especially helpful in reiterating the importance of resilience of both us as individuals and our teams, it helped to reinforce good resilience practices during these very demanding times."

Community Action has now managed to secure a further 18 months of funding from The Natiuonal Lottery to focus on helping communities start to recover as the crisis eases.

It is estimated that every year each carer saves the UK economy **£18,473**

The 2011 census identified **4,104** IW carers, providing 50+ hours of care each week

This could be estimated to be saving the Island economy in excess of **£75m**

Adding Value



It costs **£5,700** a day to run Age UK IW

From Jan 2020 to March 2021 Age UK IW received **1,761** welfare benefit enquiries

the total funds raised were **£1,500,000** additional resources brought in for older people on the island

Age UK IW provided a total of **42,168** contacts with clients in 2020/21

Isle of Wight Volunteer Centre

The Isle of Wight Volunteer Centre promotes hundreds of opportunities across the Island on behalf of charities, statutory organisations and community groups.

323
The number of organisations registered on the Community Action IW Volunteer Centre matching volunteers to opportunities.

200
The number of emergency response volunteers recruited by Age UK in 3 months at the start of the covid crisis.

6,000
Age UK IW volunteers gave 6,000 hours of support annually to some of the Island's most vulnerable older people at a time of crisis.

183
The number of volunteers who increased their skills by attending training via Community Action IW's resilience project.

These national figures demonstrate the importance of volunteers and unpaid carers in the delivery of health and social care.

(Naylor, Mundle, Weaks & Buck, 2013)





Maintaining the Infrastructure

The local VCS has always been at the heart of managing and maintaining a huge variety of community assets, amenities and key services.

The Isle of Wight Community Bus Partnership is a voluntary transport initiative serving the residents of Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood (No. 32); Newchurch, Lake, and Shanklin (No 22); and Lake, Sandown, Yaverland and Shanklin (No 24).

Working in partnership with Southern Vectis, the project has been serving rural communities for over 10 years, with volunteers trained to national standards and receiving ongoing training. The service operates over 6 days a week, and provides a much needed service to up to 100 passengers a day on each route.

Transport can often be an issue on the Island and another service that helps is the **Optio** Voluntary Car Service run by **Community Action IW** with a team of around 60 volunteer drivers helping around 400 members to overcome transport challenges. Trips are predominantly to medical appointments at the hospital, GP, dentist etc but also to visit friends and relatives in care homes, go to the hairdresser and much more.

The West Wight Sports and Community Centre is a story of real community spirit and has become an integral part of the West Wight way of life ever since the swimming pool and centre was built.

In addition to the huge importance of the physical facility in providing an amenity which support people's physical and mental health and well-being, a diverse range of varied services are offered to support the vulnerable and isolated, older people and young people alike. This strength provided a strong foundation on which to build the covid response in the West Wight.

There are over **40 Village Halls** on the Island run by volunteer committees, which provide very long standing amenities for their communities and used in many and varied ways. Taking **Bembridge Village Hall** as just one example, it hosts art, heritage and Horticultural Society meetings and exhibitions, the RNLI and Friendship Circle coffee mornings, line and ballroom dancing, amateur dramatics, Parish Council meetings, Wedding Breakfasts and wakes; film shows, art classes, IT and speech and drama training. Without someone managing these vital buildings community life would not be the same.

The Island's infrastructure also includes its natural infrastructure and a variety of not for profit organisations support and maintain our lovely Island. **Natural Enterprise** for example manages 30 sites from small woodlands to country parks across the Island through its Gift to Nature programme with over 2000 volunteer hours supporting its work. It also works with partners on the Island Rivers Partnership and Newport Rivers Group and through managing the Isle of Wight Rural Fund for the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership has enabled the support of a variety of key rural infrastructure such as trails and cycle paths.





Community Cohesion

Community cohesion lies at the heart of what makes a strong, vibrant and safe community. The services offered by the VCS help to build confidence in community members to reach out when needed and equally allow members of the community to offer that support to others.

Community Action IW has supported a number of refugee families who have been resettled to the Island via a UNHCR programme. (the UN Refugee agency) Support has included cultural orientation, English language lessons and help with studying and work.

Wight DASH (Domestic Abuse Support Hub) is a charity that exists to provide support and information to women and their children who are living with or have lived with disadvantage, adversity, trauma and abuse. Every week 63 women attended group sessions, Welfare calls reached an average of 60 women every month.

IW Pride celebrates the diversity of the LGBT (lesbian, gays, bisexual, trans+) communities. Their aim is to raise awareness through entertainment, and community engagement.

The Store Room enables disadvantaged families to affordably furnish their homes, all the furniture has been donated by Island residents

Wight DASH made welfare calls to
720
Women in 2020-21

Housing Associations play a key role in helping to support a wide range of residents, many of whom face disadvantage of one kind or another.

Soverign Housing has undertaken a wide range of projects in the last 18 months and working with partners from across the voluntary sector has delivered the following interventions on top of its core housing work;

1,500 young people benefited through Island Careers Partnership

330 residents have benefited from environmental projects

312 residents have benefited from the Living Well programme

103 residents attended Self-employment workshops

96 residents into training and 25 residents into employment.

90 IOW students benefited from extra exam tuition

Funded £26,000 to community groups that were supporting residents through the pandemic

Generated £3,762,134 of social value on the Isle of Wight



Prevention and Re-ablement

It is estimated that for every £1.00 that is spent on carer support there is a net £4.90 saving to Local Authority social care budgets.

The Isle of Wight Youth Trust works to empower young people to face life's challenges by providing youth-led emotional and therapeutic support. They support over 1,000 young Islanders between the ages of 4-25 each year and are the leading independent provider of youth mental health services on the Isle of Wight.

Key services include: One-to-one & family counselling, mental health support in schools. Training, including accredited Youth Mental Health First Aid and Aware courses, targeted group counselling including art therapy, outdoor therapy, and group programs to address anxiety, low mood, self-harm and to improve resilience and aspirations.

Isorropia Foundation is a mental health and wellbeing organisation delivering a wide range of programmes designed to facilitate empowerment and develop resilience. Qualified health professionals work alongside wellbeing coaches running workshops ranging from managing anxiety and depression, emotional resilience, building confidence and self-esteem and many more.

They work closely with primary care and secondary mental health to help reduce the demand on their services. Nearly 700 individuals were referred to Isorropia in the last 12 months and offered face to face, phone and online support.

The Footprint Trust is a fuel poverty charity on the Isle who specialise in helping people to keep warm, well and reduce their home energy and water use. The Trust has delivered 353 phone visits from Apr- Mar 2020-21 helping a total of 1417 people to identify annual energy savings of £133,000. This year they have funded £24,000 worth of goods to people struggling with bills.

The Isle of Wight Law Centre specialises in homeless prevention, and covers all areas of social welfare law including housing, debt, welfare benefits, and employment. They give both individuals and communities free legal advice and support, and also represent people in Court and tribunals.

In 2020 The Footprint Trust provided advice to over

1,417

People helping them to identify savings of

£133,000

1,000+

Children and young people supported by The Isle of Wight Youth Trust

700

Referrals received by Isorropia Foundation

Mental health is a key priority for the Island now and moving forwards



Meeting Specific Needs & Long term Conditions

Voluntary and community sector organisations are well placed to support vulnerable and special interest groups in the community. The number of people living with long term health conditions is increasing significantly as the population ages and health technologies develop that improve treatment options.

Sight for Wight is the local independent charity dedicated to providing information & support to visually impaired Islanders, their families, friends & careers. They represent 617 people with varying sight loss on the Isle of Wight.

96 volunteers provide one to one and group support. Regular calls are made to 283 people. A weekly talking newspaper reaches 174 people, and a free accessible audio library is enjoyed by 69 people.

The Stroke Association offers patients and families impacted by stroke, emotional & communication support, practical advice, stroke awareness signposting/referrals and prevention information. Support can be offered at any time after stroke and every stroke patient is offered support on hospital discharge. The service offered support to 269 people in 2020-2021.

The Isle of Wight Prostate Cancer Support Group is a charity set up to support men and their families who are going through the process of diagnosis, treatment and living with prostate cancer. Raising awareness of the need for PSA blood testing is also a priority. Testing has been provided to over 1000 men resulting in 10 % who had abnormal PSA results.

IW ASBAH - The Isle of Wight Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus offers practical advice and support for members and their families to help cope with this lifelong condition. The association is in its 52nd year and its efforts make a huge difference to the quality of life of its members.

Mountbatten Isle of Wight provides expert medical, nursing, and domiciliary end of life care and bereavement support every day to over 1600 Island people within their own homes. Mountbatten also works with people with a range of illnesses and conditions, including dementia, Motor Neurone disease, old age, frailty, and cancer.

Care includes frequent home visits to make sure individuals who are at the end of their life, their family and carers are supported physically, psychologically, socially, and spiritually. Work in the community is backed up by a 16-bed inpatient unit based at the hospice site in Newport.

Their annual Walk the Wight event is the largest sponsored walk of its kind in Europe.

RIND - The Isle of Wight Sensory Service provides free information and support to people who have hearing loss, sight loss, dual sensory loss, and their family and friends.

The team supported 1,526 people with information and advice regarding sensory impairment, maintained 2,509 hearing aids and Supported another 2084 hearing aids with their postal battery service.

Mountbatten Hospice supports over
1,600
People per day



Older People

Over a quarter of Island residents are aged 65+ and 1 in 6 households on the Isle of Wight are occupied by a single person over 65 and a wide range of voluntary and community organisations respond to their needs to help maximize their quality of life.

Age UK Isle of Wight is an independent, local charity dedicated to meeting the needs of older people (those 50+) with a range of services which join up and provide a web of support.

These services seek to address, and respond to, isolation, inclusion and resilience, staying independent and enabling people to make informed choices through information, advice and support planning.

It provided over support/advice/services to over 42,000 people aged 50+ in 2020/21.

Independent Arts are an arts for wellbeing charity. Through their work with older people, they seek to address the main issues faced by our ageing community. Delivering hundreds of creative arts workshops to more than 40 care homes, including a wonderful intergenerational programme linking primary school children with severe social skills issues to learn communication techniques through art, crafts and singing with residents.

Community based singing, dancing, photography and craft sessions for people to improve a sense of wellbeing and to reduce anxiety and loneliness are also hosted. An online art gallery called the Festival of Islesolation reached more than 8000 people.

There are an estimated 16,000 carers on the Island, about 10% of the population. **Carers IW** provide a holistic information, support and advocacy service to adults who look after another adult on the IW.

Services include emotional support, drop in sessions, a newsletter, support groups, including for male carers, respite weekends and training in issues such as dementia and carer resilience. Referrals into the service saw an increase of over 254% over the last year, staff have a caseload of 90+. They are running more groups and training to enable more support to carers. Evidence has shown that the best intervention for carers is to offer support at an early stage as this can often reduce or delay the need for residential care.

Age UK engaged with
42,168
Across all its services in 2020-21

Including
6,074
enquiries on subjects ranging from benefits to housing

4,931
Referrals to its Living Well Programme

1,761
Welfare calls awarding

1.5 Million
Through Welfare Benefits

Independent Arts made
400
Calls each month providing support

Carers IW made first contact with over
1,000
Carers during 2020



Children, Young People and Families

Barnardo's are commissioned to deliver the Early Help Family Centre services on the Island. Family Centres provide information advice and guidance to families from our 3 Hub sites in Newport, Ryde and Sandown. Families can also access a range of services such as health visiting, midwifery, speech and language from the various centres across the Island. Family Centres aim to provide support to families to prevent their issues or problems from getting worse. Family Centres are not just for young children but for any family with a child aged 0-19 and offer a range of parenting programmes and services to cover all age ranges including online courses and workshops. Barnardo's are also commissioned by the CCG to provide parenting support for families with children on the autistic spectrum and diagnosed with ADHD.

Baby Box IOW are a local community project, helping hundreds of families serving the whole Island. Families in need can have free access to baby, toddler and older sibling's essential items. Their last 'open door session' hosted 32 families in a 2 hour slot. Pre-pandemic, a weekly busy 'indoor market where everything is free' was well attended, this had become a local meeting point for families with young babies.

The **YMCA** on the Island provide a range of services for children, young people and families. With facilities in Shanklin and Newport, the organisation provides 151 nursery spaces, 119 beds for schools parties and other groups and over 50 day camp places. YMCA also provide a safe place to live and personalised support for 9 single parent families experiencing homelessness and affordable rent for family homes. YMCA offer support and respite for the Island's young carers, helping over 300 children and young people who look after a loved one at home.

Home-Start IOW is a family support charity supporting families across the Island, Practical and emotional support is provided for parents and children in their own homes. Volunteers visit families on a weekly basis, and family groups sessions run providing a range of support and access to services and activities in their community.

During 20-21 **Home-Start** supported 117 families with 262 children

83 identified as struggling with mental health difficulties.

23 had been affected by domestic abuse

47 were lone parents

15 had issues with substance misuse

16 were affected by a disability in the family

In 2020-21, **Barnardo's Family Centres** delivered services to:

2386 parents and carers

1051 children under 5

184 children aged 5-19

Other **Barnardo's** services included:

The ADHD service supported **64** families

The ASC service supported **89** families

Intensive family support supported **1058** individuals.



Faith Based Sector

Faith based projects are delivering a wide range of varied and valued services to Island communities.

Isle of Wight foodbank is run under its national body, The Trussell Trust.

Using a network of Churches, people at crisis point can apply for a food voucher which they can then exchange for a minimum of three days of emergency food at their nearest Foodbank Centre.

Long term support is also provided if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for a crisis. The foodbank works with a number of different agencies including children's centres, health visitors and doctor's surgeries.

Aspire Ryde is a popular community hub based in a redundant Ryde Church and a large high street store.

The buildings host a community softplay, wood workshop, training facilities, accessible IT suite, cafe, kitchens, recording studios, information point, space for events, classes and meetings, free community food and gardening.

Welcoming all, Aspire Ryde work particularly with those experiencing isolation and loneliness and low level mental health issues. Aspire is embedded in the Ryde community and a first point of contact for many people seeking support.

All Saints Church Gurnard supports people with dementia and their carers through the provision of the Elephant memory club and seated circle dancing, which have regular attendance of 25 people. Regular coffee and chat mornings attract around 40 people.

Brading Methodist Church is a great example of how a church reaches out to its local community to reduce isolation and improves the strength of its intergenerational ties.

The weekly café takes place after school and has an attendance of about 25 adults plus children and brings families and older people together. The monthly lunch club serves meals to 20 older people and the outreach youth work takes place twice a week with activities taking place in the local park or in various locations around the town. The challenges of the pandemic saw some activities paused but as restrictions permit they are resuming once again.

During lockdown engagement with the community continued with door stop visits made to households, gifts of plants and cakes and 70 children received activity packs twice a week delivered to their homes to ensure that people still felt connected and cared for by their community.

Aspire Ryde Interacted with **19,123** People using its services

including **7,870** Welfare Checks

The IW Food Banks fed **7112** people in 2020

2990 of these were children

Looking Forward

The last year has seen huge challenges and change…

One thing that has been even more evident in the last year, VOLUNTEERING MATTERS.

The sheer numbers of people coming forward to volunteer and the range of support and services they have helped provide has been impressive to see. Volunteers don't just appear for a crisis though. So many are there year in, year out helping in so many different ways to make the Island a better place to live.

Another key element in the response to covid has been the increased partnership working, COLLABORATION MATTERS.

An on-going challenge is to build on the goodwill we've seen everywhere. If people want to make a difference, of course they can do it on their own. However as we've seen, by working together a greater sense of community is developed and an even greater difference can be achieved and this is where the knowledge and skills of the voluntary and community sector can play a huge role.

Many people are now well used to their Zoom meetings and a great many new on-line support services evolved in the last year. INNOVATION MATTERS and the voluntary and community sector has always been able to evolve quickly and charities have demonstrated remarkable resilience through the crisis. Many have adapted incredibly quickly to changing circumstances, developing innovative ways to stay connected with their service users and public, finding new ways to fundraise, adopting remote working practices and digital solutions.

Despite these efforts and the desire to stay positive in the face of huge challenges, there can be no doubt that the covid crisis has had and will continue to have a big impact on voluntary and community groups. Three-quarters of charities expect to see even higher levels of demand this year. At the same time, 83% believe their income will decline over the next 12 months compared to pre-COVID expectations. Indeed, charities have seen a number of different strains on their income streams: lockdown has significantly curbed (or completely halted) fundraising efforts, struggling businesses have had to reduce their charitable donations, and charities' retail outlets have been closed for most of the past year. You can't get away from the fact that FUNDING MATTERS.

There are clearly many further challenges ahead but we are fortunate on the Island to have such a strong and supportive network of voluntary organisations and people prepared to give up their own time and provide their own skills and energies into making the Island the best it can be.



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