



Community Credits Scheme

The **Community Credits Scheme** is a project which has been rolled out throughout **Bridport, Dorchester, Portland and Weymouth.**

Community Credits are a tool for building communities. They support individuals to build more connections with each other, their local services, and their community. Community Credits encourage and celebrate the time that people give to their communities.

Why do we need a Community Credits system in Dorset?

- *To enable people with Learning Disabilities to share their skills
- *To encourage the growth of alternative ways of meeting people's social care & managing their health outcomes.
- *To give businesses/organisations a mutually beneficial way of empowering volunteers.
- *To support organisations in developing their experience in disability and diversity.
- *To strengthen and grow community connections between people across Dorset.
- *To better engage with - and motivate - isolated social groups and individuals.
- *To improve individual and community health and wellbeing

How Are Community Credits Earned?

- *By offering a skill; e.g. conservation work, care of the elderly, retail.
- *Through helping with national events, e.g. **The Big Tidy Up**
- *Through helping other organisations, like **The First Dorset Credit Union, Dorset Wildlife Trust**, or at local community events.

Who can earn Community Credits?

*People with Learning Disabilities and their Volunteer Mentors who support them in their choice of Voluntary work can earn one credit each for each hour of volunteering, once they are registered on the Community Credits Scheme.

How are credits exchanged?

*There are a growing number of exchange organisations throughout Dorset. Please see the list in the centre of this leaflet, or visit www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk/where+can+i+exchange+my+credits

Who can be a Credit Partner?

*Public and private sector businesses & organisations can be a partner as a Placement Organisation by offering a volunteer placement, or as an Exchange Organisation by offering Community Credits exchange options in your quieter periods.

Wyvern Savings and Loans

*Manage the distribution and collection of credits across Dorset.

Community Credits Benefits

- Enhanced social care.
- A focus on promoting independence and life skills.
- Developing a culture of mutual community support.
- Coordinated volunteers delivering community projects.

Credit Partner Benefits

- * Deliver corporate and social responsibility.
- * Attract a new type of customer.
- * Publicise your business.
- * Help develop real communities.
- * Increase customer footfall during traditionally quiet periods.
- * Increase indirect sales.
- * Raise your community profile.
- * Offer a **thank you** to volunteers and community-minded people.

Health & Wellbeing

- * Engaging the socially isolated.
- * Bringing together older and younger people.
- * Encouraging healthier, more active, lifestyles.
- * Happiness is linked to giving.
- * Connecting with new people.
- * Developing a better sense of community.

Who are we?

The Community Credits Scheme is delivered by Volunteer Centre Dorset.

We are responsible for the administration of the project, and for strategic leadership to ensure that the project meets local needs.

The **Health & Social Care Volunteering Fund**, along with **Dorset Community Foundation** and **Dorset County Council** have provided funding for the CCS.

Siobhan Davis, the Project Coordinator for the scheme, is based in the Volunteer Centre in Dorchester.

Please contact Siobhan Davis at the Volunteer Centre Dorset 01305 269214 or 07918639014



COMMUNITY CREDITS SCHEME

SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
IN VOLUNTEERING

Business Pack

April 2016

Welcome to Community Credits.

Hello, and welcome, to
Volunteer Centre Dorset's
Community Credits Scheme.

Community Credits are all about building community spirit and empowering individuals: enabling everyone to share their skills, and improving health and wellbeing across Dorset.

Each credit is earned when a volunteer offers a skill they have for an hour.

Credits can be exchanged all over Dorset.



Siobhan Davis



Wyvern-
01305 268444
Credit Notes
can be
ordered for
collection at

Wyvern's various service points.

Useful Contact Information

Volunteer Centre:-

Phone; 01305 269214

Email: s.davis@volunteeringdorset.org.uk

Website: www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DorsetCCS/>

Twitter: @DorsetCCS

**Address: Volunteer Centre Dorset
The Coach House, Acland Road,
Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1EF**



Inside;
More information about

- * Where to exchange Credits
- The Community Credits Scheme
- Community Benefits

The Community Credits Scheme Partnership Agreement Form

This agreement is between The Volunteer Centre and _____
(company name)

How Community Credits Work.

Community Credits are distributed by Wyvern and the Community Credits Ambassadors Group.

Step 1)	A Volunteer with Learning Difficulties (and perhaps their mentor) each do an hour of volunteering. For this, they earn One Credit.		
Step 2)	The Volunteer takes their credits to a spending place, and presents the credit and their Community Credit Photo ID.		
Step 3)	The spending place takes the credit, and records the ID number and number of credits spent on the spending form.		
Step 4)	The Credits are kept in a secure place, and monthly, the completed spending form and any credits accrued, are sent to Wyvern.	 Wyvern Savings & Loans 40 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1HN	
	Alternatively, it may be possible to arrange a pick-up of credits by our Ambassador Team		

Useful Contacts;	Volunteer Centre Dorset, Acland Road, Dorchester	01305 263590
	Siobhan Davis, Co-ordinator	s.davis@volunteeringdorset.org.uk
Your local ambassador is;		
@DorsetCCS	www.facebook.com/DorsetCCS	info@volunteeringdorset.org.uk

What are we agreeing to?

The Community Credits Scheme is built on a set of strong values. As a Community Network member, we are agreeing with the values and the practical outcomes of these values, as contained in the Community Credits leaflet.

Your commitments and administration

*To provide training to your staff about the Community Credits Scheme. (We are happy to provide support with this training event.)

*Identify a key member of staff who will be responsible for the day-to-day running and administration of the Community Credits Scheme

*To complete the administration requirements according to the guidance provided by the Volunteer Centre

*To keep the Community Credit Notes in a secure location.

*To contact the Volunteer Centre in the event that you think your current involvement needs review.

Safeguarding and liability

All organisations are responsible for all their own activities and processes, and need to follow their own policies and procedures in all Community Credit activities. The Volunteer Centre is not liable for any damages that occur in the course of activities run by your organisation or and members that are using Community Credits.

Publicity

Community Credits are a great way of highlighting the work of your organisation, and as a network member, it is important that you communicate your participation so that your customers and community members know of your involvement. As such, we ask that you;

* Display relevant publicity material to promote Community Credits; e.g. in your organisation, or on your website.

* If you are a placement organisation, provide people with details of where they can spend their community credits.

* Give permission to the Volunteer Centre to use your logo in relevant publicity materials.

* Help us to collect case stories so that we can celebrate your successes.

* Where applicable, we suggest that you follow Community Credits on Facebook and on Twitter, in order to keep up with the latest news and also to help you communicate your success stories, or publicise any events that you have.

What support can you expect from the Volunteer Centre?

* The Volunteer Centre can provide support and training for you and your staff regarding the implementation of Community Credits, and we can also offer Learning Disabilities Awareness training.

* The Volunteer Centre will publicise the scheme, and with input from yourselves, can help raise the profile of your organisation, through press releases, published materials, social media, and events.

* We organise periodic events to celebrate the Community Credits Scheme, and attendance at these is a great way to network and publicise your business.

* The Volunteer Centre will develop earning and spending opportunities.

* We will display your organisation information on our website.

* We will present you with a certificate to display in a public space.

* We will be usually be available for contact, during normal office hours, to answer questions about the Community Credits Scheme