

Value of the Voluntary Sector



The direct economic value of volunteer efforts, to the county, is in excess of £600 million per annum*.

We support an estimated 186,000* volunteers throughout the county.

* Calculations based on A.G. Haidane: Chief Economist of the Bank of England. The Social Value of Volunteering. September 2014

There are approx. 7000 registered and unregistered voluntary and community groups in Dorset.

These groups are made up of a diverse range and size of organisations consisting of:

- Small, local community groups
- Registered charities
- County-wide advice and support agencies
- Trusts
- A growing number of community enterprises

All these organisations share a common commitment to the future of their communities and are wedded to and embedded in local life through deep-rooted relationships, built over time with individuals, groups and agencies.

Citizens Advice in Dorset

07770 808310
caroline@caidorset.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Dorset

01305 269214
info@volunteeringdorset.org.uk

Dorset Community Action

01305 250921
info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

The Dorset Voluntary and Community Sector

Transition Group

Working together at a time of change





What is the Transition Group?

Our group brings together **Citizens Advice in Dorset**, **Dorset Community Action** and the **Volunteer Centre, Dorset**. It has been formed in response to new challenges and opportunities for the Voluntary Sector, resulting from local government re-organisation in the county.

What is the Voluntary Sector?

- Charities, which are voluntary (trustee) led, regulated by the Charity Commission
- Community Organisations, which carry out grass roots action - often too small to register as charities and too numerous to count
- Social Enterprises – businesses regulated by company law but which invest their surpluses in social objectives

How will the Transition Group help?

The Transition Group aims to engage, negotiate and co-operate with statutory and non-statutory organisations, to ensure that:

- The Voluntary Sector is recognised, celebrated and valued for its cost-effectiveness, its diversity, its leadership role within communities and its supportive partnership potential. We strive for it to take its rightful place as a key partner, alongside the public sector and private businesses.
- The Voluntary Sector takes a strategic place in discussion and debate, contributing expertise and deep-rooted experience when working in partnership to achieve realistic, sustainable and innovative solutions.

Key Impacts of Voluntary Sector

Health and Well-Being

We encourage people to stay healthy and well through connections to local services and participation in a wide variety of leisure and cultural activities.

Employment and Skills

We provide opportunities to develop skills and contribute to a local economy, resulting in prospects for jobs that pay a living wage.

Older People

We give support and a voice to those willing to contribute skills and experience, as well as to those who may be feeling vulnerable, isolated and marginalised.

Young Persons

We recognise their needs and experiences whilst offering support, giving them a voice and enabling them to influence their communities.

Social Cohesion and Equalities

We prioritise active engagement with all community and social groups.

The Environment

We work with others to care for and safeguard our precious environment and wildlife.