



West Lancs CVS Membership pack



Membership of West Lancs CVS is free.

Benefits of membership include receiving regular information bulletins, access to local sector networking, inclusion in the CVS Directory, as well as access to funding advice, local funding pots, and volunteer recruitment.

Have a look at the full list of 10 Benefits of CVS Membership:



FREE access to:

01

Regular information bulletins, including:

- monthly CVS members only newsletter
- twice monthly Funding Bulletin
- monthly Volunteering Bulletin

02

Support from **CVS Funding Advice** team including:

- undertaking bespoke grant searches for your group
- advice and guidance on bidding for funding
- checking funding bids before submission

03

Advice and guidance from CVS team on **governance and publicity**

- choosing the best formal structure for your group
- support with developing policies such as safeguarding
- advice on other issues relating to running a voluntary organisation, community group or charity
- support with promoting your project or group

04

Access to **apply for local funding pots** administered by WLCVS – eg Eric Wright grants

05

Help and **support with finding volunteers** for your group:

- advertising your volunteer opportunities
- recruiting volunteers
- ongoing support and advice on volunteering issues

06

Membership of local **Third Sector networking opportunities**:

- regular gatherings of groups from across the Borough for mutual support, information exchange and planning
- West Lancs Consortium - an alliance of local voluntary sector organisations working to bring more resources into West Lancs

07

Inclusion in **West Lancs Buzz Directory** – showcase of local support and activity

08

Access to **training courses** organised by WLCVS

09

Access to **members-only Resource Library** on CVS website

10

Representation of local voluntary sector issues with statutory bodies eg Borough and County Councils and local NHS bodies



Types of membership

The CVS has two types of membership:

- **Full membership:** open to all voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise groups who are based in West Lancashire.
- **Associate membership:** open to all voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise groups who may cover West Lancashire, but have their base elsewhere.

Membership is open to all organisations and individuals who share West Lancs CVS's aims and objectives.

Any group wishing to join should have:

- clearly defined aims, purpose or mission
- a committee
- a set of rules or constitution
- financial record keeping systems

WLCVS can help any groups who need these elements.

Apply for membership

To apply, simply fill in this **Membership Application form**.

Once we receive it, we will assess your application against our criteria and let you know as soon as possible.





More about CVS....

Our full name is **West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service** and we've been serving West Lancs since 1974.

We support a diverse membership of more than 350 voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise groups. These range from small, volunteer-led neighbourhood associations to larger charities and social enterprises with staff. Together, they deliver essential services and activities across the borough, many of which directly support communities experiencing poverty, disadvantage and discrimination.

West Lancs CVS is a registered charity (1039563) and a company limited by guarantee (2940823). We are a membership led organisation, with a board of trustees elected by our members at the Annual General Meeting.

Why the sunflower?

According to the Eden Project in Cornwall, 'the sunflower is not a single bloom, it's hundreds of little flowers that combine together to create something that's greater than the sum of its parts'.

We think this neatly sums up the role of the CVS in linking up and serving member groups, to be 'better together'.

Our mission

West Lancs CVS exists to support and develop organised not-for-profit activities which positively contribute to the wellbeing of communities in the Borough of West Lancashire.





Our core values

West Lancs CVS puts the interests of voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise member (and prospective member) organisations first.

We work to a set of strong values:

- **Expertise:** Knowledge, skills and experience are used to provide a support service which is member-focused and beneficial to the communities of West Lancashire.
- **Trust:** We operate with integrity, honesty and transparency. The trust of members and partners is integral to our way of working.
- **Mutuality:** The environment WLCVS creates is one of collaboration and cooperation between itself, members and partners based on mutual understanding, learning and respect.
- **Ethical behaviour:** As an organisation WLCVS expects to be ethical, compassionate and inclusive in leadership, employment, contracting and procurement.

What we do...

- **Inform:** Provide information, advice and support services to (member and prospective member) third sector organisations and associated not-for-profit activities.
- **Develop:** Help local people set up, develop and maintain not-for-profit groups and businesses.
- **Network:** Facilitate member organisations to build networks of common interest and social benefit.
- **Volunteer:** Promote volunteering. Recruit, train and support volunteers. Support and develop volunteer involving organisations. Match volunteers to volunteering opportunities.
- **Influence:** Support communities to have a voice and widen participation to include more localities and groups. Strengthen the third sector influence in local decision making.
- **Represent** and be accountable to, third sector groups and networks in discussions, negotiations and consultations with statutory, public organisations and relevant partnerships.
- **Champion** third sector activities in the Borough, publicise evidence of community benefit and showcase success.



Staff team

West Lancs CVS has an experienced and dedicated team of staff who support your group through every stage of its journey:

- **Jill Bradley - Programme Manager:** Jill manages our programmes, deals with all our monitoring, reports to funders, liaises with local stakeholders and generally keeps us on the right track!
- **Janice Howard - Volunteering Development Officer:** Jan heads up all things volunteering, matching volunteers with local opportunities, and liaising with groups to give support with volunteering issues.
- **Gemma Cummins - Volunteering Support Officer:** Gemma supports the work of the Volunteer Centre with local networking, volunteer recruitment, and information dissemination.
- **Debbie Shepton - Communications Lead:** Debbie compiles our bulletins, designs publicity materials, maintains the Buzz Directory and is responsible for I.T, the CVS website and social media.
- **Dot Fowell - Community Development Officer:** Dot supports groups in the community, helping with starting up, development and networking. She deals with funding queries and local funding pots.
- **Anthea Thomas - Finance Assistant:** Anthea supports financial admin and processing within CVS.

Get in touch....



- If you have any questions around membership, please contact Debbie.
- For general enquiries or specific staff, please email enquiries@wlcvs.org

