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## BOSS Partners Launch



BVA and Action Hampshire have come together to launch BOSS Partners, a back-office support service that's individually tailored with a multi team approach. BOSS Partners connects organisations to essential services from a collective of partners. To ensure that this is delivered in the best way possible, collaboration between both organisations is key! This launch involved BVA working closely alongside the Action Hampshire team to ensure that this service has the ability to take time consuming and complex back-office activities off an organisation's hands. BOSS partners creates more

capacity within other teams to run their organisation with the knowledge that the essentials are taken care of.

The multi team approach combines over 70 years of knowledge, offering a truly one stop shop for supporting charities and small businesses. Both BVA and Action Hampshire have worked together to build their ethos "if we can't currently help, we know who can". BOSS Partners thinks transparency is an important part of their working culture - fees are kept low, advice is straightforward and advocacy spirits are high!

BOSS Partners allows organisations to draw upon the skills and strengths of colleagues from across both organisations and is a two-way, co-created service that aims to fit exactly what an organisation needs at an affordable and sustainable price. BOSS Partners helps take care of back-office functions such as finance, HR, training, and design, so organisations can focus on what matters most – providing an excellent service to their customers.

Produced by Hampshire Councils for Voluntary Service, who would be delighted to have your feedback. Please contact Julia Allan 023 8090 2457 [jallan@1community.org.uk](mailto:jallan@1community.org.uk)  
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Supporting the voluntary and community sector

## Keep Well Stay Connected Pilot Project in Rushmoor



Captain Sir Tom Moore walked 100 laps of his garden and raised in excess of £33 million in 2020. Rushmoor Borough Council and Rushmoor Voluntary Services were awarded some of this funding by NHS charities to launch the Keep Well Stay Connected pilot project. The project is being delivered by Rushmoor Voluntary Services and the virtual community is now active with residents benefitting from learning opportunities, live classes, activities and more – residents are also really enjoying seeing their family and being able to chat virtually.

Rushmoor residents who are socially isolated, over 65 and have a TV set less than 15 years old, can apply to receive a free Sparko box, which is connected to the television, for up to one year, including internet connection if required. A very simple remote control enables them to access a library of pre-recorded classes, workshops and films. They can also remotely join live groups for bingo, exercise, conversation, and connect to family and friends via video conferencing.

Residents have been invited to contact RVS on 01252 398451 for more information and to arrange installation to be part of the Captain Sir Tom Moore legacy.

Lovely feedback has been received about the project, such as: “This feels like I’ve finally got the chance to go to university! I can learn so much here!” - Olga.

“It’s been a very lonely year; I can’t wait to meet new people and have a good chat” —Audrey.

“I’m a complete technophobe, but I feel empowered to use this and to try new things” —Brenda.

## Rushmoor’s Community Grub Hub CIC



Rushmoor’s new community store opened its doors on Tuesday 7 December, helping local people and reducing food waste at the same time. The store offers a mix of fresh and non-perishable food, as well as household and personal care essentials, and will be open to all, whether you’re donating, volunteering, swapping or shopping.

Everything in the store is free and, in time, the site at Windsor Way, Aldershot will offer broader support and community initiatives, focused on supporting healthy living

and addressing financial hardship.

The team of volunteer Welcome Hosts has been phenomenal, offering a smile and cuppa to all who walk across the threshold. On the first day 20 households came to shop, three new volunteers signed up and four people came to make a donation. On the second week, 59 households came to shop. A bittersweet testament to how much the store is needed.

The Community Grub Hub Coordinator, Danny McDermid, has worked hard to build positive relationships with local supermarkets, to ensure the Grub Hub receives a regular supply of goods. These are goods that would have gone straight in the bin.

The idea for a food partnership was developing before the pandemic and was making slow progress. During the pandemic people’s eyes have been opened, to the extent of food waste and food poverty there really is in the borough. The drive to find a community led solution grew. Rushmoor Voluntary Services, Rushmoor Borough Council, Karuna Action and Park Church came together and formed a planning team. Many other organisations have been integral to the successful opening of this unique project.

The Grub Hub is part of a growing network of community pantries and larders across Hampshire. HCC Connect 4 Communities funding has provided a model and funding for many. The partnership looks forward to working with Connect 4 Communities as they expand into Farnborough.

## Unity Embraces Force for Change Programme



Unity has been in the thick of the pandemic, co-ordinating the Community Helpline, recruiting and managing the Covid vaccination volunteers programme and providing friendship calls to isolated

individuals up and down the Valley.

Through all this work, they have recognised the need for people to be supported with the transition of emerging from lockdowns to the new normal in their local communities.

As a result, Unity is now celebrating its successful application for funding through The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust and their Force for Change Programme.

The project will be called “Bulford with no boundaries”. It will provide a route for Forces Families, stationed in and around Andover, to engage with the local community as we emerge from lockdowns to the new norm. Families will be able to make full use of the health and wellbeing, leisure, and training facilities as part of a local community. This will be a person-centred service in which skilled and experienced support workers engage actively with individuals to assess their needs, look at all the community resources that may appeal to them, and then connect them to those resources.

Unity Chief Executive, Terry Bishop said, “We are really grateful to The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust for supporting this important project that will undoubtedly have a positive impact on people’s lives.”

## Community Garden Project in Hart Ready to Go in 2022

Back in the June issue of Nexus we featured an article about breaking ground at Hart’s Green Garden, which will be home to the Minding the Garden project. Here’s a round-up of what’s been happening since then.

**August**—presented with signage, polytunnel staging and wheelchair accessible tables, all designed and produced for Hart Voluntary Action by Church Crookham and Fleet Men’s Shed.



fully accessible composting toilet in place, ready for creating “humanure” when it goes into use next year!

**December** – Christmas wreath making workshop at Fleet Library with some of the new Minding the Garden members. Next year these will be held in the community garden space.

**October** – the two polytunnels going up—one for group work and propagation and the other for growing produce, and the



## Wheels to Work Moped Scheme Given a Green Boost



Operated by Community First on behalf of Hampshire County Council, the Wheels to Work (W2W) scheme is delivered in East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester.

With Cop26 and the Climate Agenda still relatively fresh in our thoughts and conversations, Community First is excited to announce that the scheme is taking steps towards going green, with the addition of five electric powered mopeds to its fleet of conventionally powered bikes; with plans to purchase more in the coming months.

Using their knowledge and undertaking extensive research, Community First Wheels to Work Coordinators, Andy Yates and Sue Ward, were able to determine the right specification of electric moped that would lower CO2 emissions to reduce the scheme's carbon footprint; consequently, the new vehicles introduced into the fleet fully fit the needs of hirers, whilst being environmentally friendly.

The scheme, which currently has the capacity to loan out 25 mopeds across the four districts, has the aim of helping support young people get into the workplace by giving them access to convenient transport. The scheme is predominantly funded by Hampshire County Council; furthermore two district councils in the county, East Hampshire District Council and New Forest District Council, contribute towards the costs of the scheme being provided in their respective areas. There is the potential to extend the scheme to other district areas of Hampshire, subject to additional funding being identified, if required.

W2W helps young people aged 16 to 25 years old in some rural areas of Hampshire by loaning them their own form of transport; public transport options may be limited where they live, and they generally have no transport of their own due to the cost. By hiring mopeds at an affordable rate, young people are able to get to work or to undertake vocational training. Furthermore, by enabling young people to be able to travel around their region more freely, the scheme is also supporting rural businesses find suitable candidates, more talent, and to be in a position to offer apprenticeships to more young people.

## Festive Spirit at One Community



Staff at One Community have been touched by the generosity shown by the public this Christmas. The Santa for a Senior Campaign launched by One Community, in partnership with Fareham Shopping Centre, has attracted over 250 gifts for older people who might be alone this Christmas in Fareham.

Thanks to the generous contributions from the community of Eastleigh, who have donated through various drop off points in the town—Shopmobility, Eastleigh Museum and Dial-A-Ride—

and from i4 Chandlers Ford, One Community's Young Carers Service has been able to provide 35 families in need with festive hampers, as well as 100 selection boxes for Young Carers.

Thornden Community Wind Band, through playing Christmas Carols to shoppers on two consecutive Saturdays, and by having Chief Executive Debra Clothier to speak during their Christmas concert—followed by a bucket collection—has raised a substantial sum for Eastleigh Young Carers.

Meanwhile, One Community's Community Christmas Tree Festival, open until 8 January at Eastleigh Museum, with Christmas trees created by local voluntary and community groups reflecting their work, is really putting visitors in the festive mood.

Pictured above is Fareham MP Suella Braverman adding her donation to the Santa for a Senior collection.