



**BURNLEY PENDLE
& ROSSENDALE**
COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Registered Charity Number: 1062446 Company Limited By Guarantee: 3328219



January/February Get-Together



Wednesday 28th Jan & Wednesday 11th Feb 2026



Thank you for coming along and joining in!

Hello everyone and thank you for coming along to the first get-togethers organised by the new Volunteering Hub Team at BPRCVS. We hope you agree that they were very enjoyable and useful sessions. We're looking forward to seeing you at many more get togethers!

Altogether there were 16 different organisations represented, and 25 participants in total!

All of the organisations found it really useful to connect with others who they felt they could collaborate with.



Celebrating Wins and sharing Aims

Together we celebrated our past wins and ambitions for the coming year.

Carers Link win is that they have gained funding for a paid worker which is a big boost to their aims of supporting those caring for people with living with dementia. They have also increased the number of peer support groups and their understanding of dementia courses. Their aim for the next 12 months is to expand their befriending service so that more carers can access this service that offers carers some much needed me time.

Anne's Crafty Crop for Wellbeing – their win was their trip to the Birmingham Craft exhibition which was made possible through fundraising! Their aim for the next 12 months is to move to a bigger and better venue. Having more space will mean that the team can improve their existing offer of support and brings with it much needed storage space. They also hope to attend the Birmingham Craft Exhibition 2026.

Celebrating Wins and sharing Aims continued...

The Oasis big win is that they were nominated for two Burnley Above and Beyond Awards and gained a contract with St. Matthews church. They have an ambition to run The Oasis full time in 2026.

Phoenix RDA provides equine therapy for people with disabilities and believes that every rider is an achievement. Their ambition is to have their own yard for their horses.

The Female Friendship Forum's achievement has been the training of 21 of their volunteers and they wish to continue to empower their volunteers in 2026. It is their aim also to improve their partnership and collaboration with other organisations.

Whitewell Bottom Community Centre's win is that they gained a grant to refurbish one of their rooms – now that the room has been freshly repainted and has new flooring, it is available to hire and community groups get a special discount. Their 12-month aim is to be more self-sufficient and less reliant on funding.

FUNtasticYOGA delivers yoga and menstrual health projects, and their win was that they began delivering yoga within schools. Their aim is to expand their project around body positivity and the menarche (which is the opposite of menopause- the menarche is the first period that a woman or girl experiences) to support more young women.

Pendle Food for All's win was that they have recently expanded their volunteer workforce with help from the youth council. In the future they wish to encourage more young people to volunteer. Another aim is to improve their access to premises as they are limited with storage and time that they can spend in their rented space.

Chatting Chimers' win is their ongoing support that they provide through creativity and mindfulness to empower women. They also stated that connecting with CVS is another win (thanks Farhana!). In the future they wish to gain more access to premises with storage.



Basically Cheer's win was the achievements of one of the SEN dance teams who recently had a big win at a tournament. The aim for the next year was to create more SEN teams.

Brain Health Development's big win is that the organisation still exists after losing funding streams and experiencing adversity, she was glad to have the support of her community. Her aim for the next year is to bring in more funding.

Greater Good Project's ongoing battle has been to keep going and get more funding. One of their driving aims is to do more work in care homes as she wants to improve their quality of life. Cath wants to gain more funding to continue this work.

Rossendale Valley Energy's win was when she helped her first person with hoarding to get a new boiler and making the house liveable again. The aim over the next year is to continue to help people reduce their energy bills and continue to make a difference to their lives



What we want going forward for future get-togethers



You told us that the **biggest thing** you want from future 'get together' events is simply the space for everyone to **get together to meet and network so that you can collaborate.**

There was a rejection of traditional events which focus on subjects such as wellbeing or craft, or theme such as young people or mental health, as this can be restrictive and stifles collaboration.

But you did tell us that you wanted to concentrate on topics or issues that you encounter when running your groups. Examples that you provided were **funding, monitoring and evaluation, and volunteer management.**



Cath and Karen spoke in more detail about their recent applications for funding and compared notes on the process. Tracey relayed information about the recent changes to the National Lottery funding stream and emphasised that the recording of evidence is key to successful bids. Tracey went on to say that more funders are asking for evidence of co-production and co-design – this means that bidders need to show that they are consulting their beneficiaries on their project design and application for funding; that beneficiaries are in at the planning stage.

BPRCVS has recently reviewed and refreshed the way we set up funding panels. They are now more inclusive with representatives from small groups making up 99% of the Panel members. We have also set up a Working Group which looks at our processes from applications to funding to monitoring and evaluating projects and reporting processes.

Cath said she would welcome a conversation about volunteer management and Joanne agreed stating that managing volunteers can be a full time job. This prompted a discussion about volunteering and volunteer management. It was noted that that management of groups can be difficult enough without the management of volunteers to contend with.



Future get-togethers continued....

It was agreed that it is important for managers to learn how to delegate to their capable staff or volunteers, and how this can be difficult for some because often in this situation managers have created the organisation - it's their 'baby'. This can lead to burnout, especially given the emotional toll of the work community-based groups face. There was a suggestion that burnout and how to prevent it by looking after yourself and others could be a topic of discussion at the next event.



Karen spoke a little about her own experience of burnout and said she is currently doing more hours as a volunteer than she did when working. She made the point that volunteers require a lot of support, there is investment needed in volunteers. She made clear her feelings around the assumption that volunteering is a free resource – it is not. All agreed that small groups are not as appreciated as they should be and are often under valued as a service.



You also mentioned that you'd like the opportunity to focus on one group at a time in a 'show and tell' format. These ideas have really made the Volunteer and Group Support Team think, and we will look to ensure that the next get-together meets these aims.



It was decided that we should call the get-togethers – **Coffee, Cake and Collaboration** Events; we will definitely make sure that there is a choice of cake at our next event!

It was suggested that starting at 1.00pm instead of 2.00pm would be better for attendance for people with children. It was also suggested that holding forums in different venues across Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale would allow more engagement. The option of using minibuses to help people attend events was also suggested. While many people said they preferred in-person events because they offered better chances to network and meet others, it was agreed that online meetings are useful for people who are unable to make in-person events.



From your feedback the majority of you would prefer to have future **Coffee, Cake and Collaborations** once a month – we will make this happen!



Cancer Awareness Champions



Lisa Ross joined us on 28th Jan - over to Lisa....

Thank you so much for listening to me wax lyrical about Cancer Awareness Champions and The Volunteer Managers Forum on Wednesday afternoon.

To become a **Cancer Awareness Champion** please can you let me know which of the following 2 dates are suitable for you to come along and complete your sign up, induction and training. If neither of these are suitable, we will have dates going in the diary during March also.

Friday 20th February doors open 9:15am, training commences at 9:30am sharp to be finished for 11:30am. It is in the Rachel Kay Shuttleworth Room at BPRCVS Yorkshire St Burnley BB11 3BT.

Tuesday 24th February, doors open 9:15am, training commences at 9:30am sharp to be finished for 11:30am. It is at Gannow Community Centre, Adamson St, Burnley, BB12 6RB.

We have limited spaces on training as it is in person. So please drop me or Caroline an email if you are interested: hub@bprcv.co.uk
lisa.ross@bprcv.co.uk

Could you be the

Cancer Awareness Champion

for your community or workplace?

The Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance (early diagnosis team) and BPRCVS are looking to embed Cancer Awareness Champions into our communities and workplaces.

You will be trained to have conversations as a trusted member of your community around prevention, screening and promoting early diagnosis by sharing information and reducing stigma.

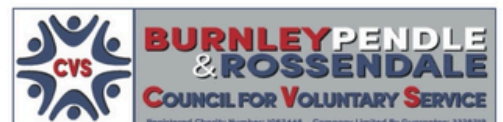
If you want to empower your community please get in touch today.

Contact Lisa or Caroline for more information:

lisa.ross@bprcvs.co.uk caroline.littleworth@bprcvs.co.uk

01282 433740

www.bprcvs.co.uk



The **Lancashire 12 Volunteer Mangers' Forum** meets monthly on teams. It is a **relaxed safe space** for anyone who works with volunteers or small volunteer involving groups to come together to find out things that are happening on a Lancashire footprint, network with organisations you might not usually come into contact with and most importantly share experiences and support each other when we have challenges.

It is not a recorded session as we want it to remain a space where we can openly and confidentially discuss the challenges we face in the VCF sector, as well as some of the amazing successes we have. It has been set up through the LACVS Volunteering for Health programme, which looks to embed volunteering into Lancashire, and spread the word about health volunteering in our community and its importance.

Our message is: **any volunteering that has a positive impact on residents is health volunteering, we put our message out to the NHS, ICB, emergency services, funders, council and more, to raise the profile of volunteering and enable us all to flourish.**

We are currently collating a **Vision for Volunteering for Lancashire**, which we discuss in the meetings, and you can play an active part in having your voice heard. As this is a national project we actively speak out in national level meetings about the amazing things that happen in Lancashire, without your stories this cannot happen.

As a knock on from the **Vision we will be looking at a one stop website for Lancashire for all things volunteering, volunteer manager and volunteer training, a tool kit for volunteer managers to help them navigate their role, and a quality mark recognised across Lancashire as a mark of outstanding practice in the third sector.**

To book onto the **Volunteer Managers forum** please follow this link. It will take you to our booking platform. You only book on one and then each month you are added to the Teams meeting where you will find all the minutes from the previous months' meetings.

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FFIF>

If anyone is interested in Lisa coming along to talk about these and other exciting projects BPRCVS and LACVS are part of please just get in touch:
lisa.ross@bprcv.co.uk

Thanks, Lisa.

*Here's what
you thought
about the
first
Get
Togethers ...*

Networking
Comforing
Interesting
Collaborative
Friendly
Celebrate
Hopeful
Enabled
Fun
Fantastic
Connections
Excellent
Informative

Future Training

We had a good response to our questions about future training we can provide courtesy of East Lancs Learning and we will be looking into booking these sessions. In case you missed this part of the feedback please click this link [Courses for volunteers – Fill in form](#)

Or you can scan the QR code below to find out more about the courses and let us know which ones you would be interested in.



Finally, a sitting yoga session



Finally, some of us stayed on for a sitting yoga session courtesy of **Val Hanson** from **BOOST Wellbeing**. It was a gentle and grounding session that helped us create a peaceful mindful moment. What a lovely and relaxing way to end the get-together, thank you Val!

Stay tuned for the next *Coffee, Cake & Collaboration*

We are currently organising the next in-person **Coffee, Cake and Collaboration** – we will update you with the details as soon as possible. You will be the first to know when we have a date ready.

If anyone has a venue they would like to offer for the **Coffee, Cake and Collaborations**, please email thehub@bprcvcs.co.uk with contact details for the venue, cost, etc.

Thanks again for attending, being so engaged and engaging...

You made the sessions a success!

