North Devon Voluntary Services Limited

Annual Report and Accounts 2025-2026

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Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England Number: 06934618

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Introduction from the Chair of Trustees

North Devon Voluntary Services Ltd is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, providing a Council of Voluntary Service (CVS) for the district of North Devon.

During the 2025/26 financial year, NDVS continued to build on our relationships with other Devon-based organisations with an aim of bolstering the resilience and sustainability of the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) community through various campaigns and projects. These are mentioned more fully in the Chief Officer's report below. We were particularly grateful to continue to receive funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, for our Reaching Communities project.

Our Chief Officer gives greater detail of our activities in her opening remarks to the Annual Report, and the Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Marie, and the whole staff team, for a hugely successful year in a very challenging climate.

We do not see an easing of the existential challenges for the voluntary sector, with major re-organisation of both local government and health services due to dominate for the next planning cycle. We are however confident that we have the team, resources and connections to serve our role as the CVS for North Devon. We look forward with optimism to working closely with local authorities, our partner organisations and the health services, to ensure the voluntary sector is enabled to provide valuable and essential support in our area.

The Trustees have considered the guidance from the Charity Commission regarding reserves, and have determined that maintaining free reserves equivalent to approximately 9 to 12 months of operating expenditure represents an appropriate level of financial resilience for the organisation. This is covered in more detail in the Annual Report.
We continue to offer hosting arrangements for developing local charitable organisations, demonstrating the strength of our organisation to both act as an employer for these organisations and projects, and to create additional bridges to the voluntary and community sector.

In summary, I believe that NDVS remains strong, resilient, and viable for 2026/27, and I am extremely proud to present our annual report detailing our work over the last twelve months.



Bill Allen

Introduction from the Chief Officer

It is my pleasure to present the North Devon Voluntary Services Annual Report for 2025–2026. As I reflect on the past year, one word keeps coming to mind: **connection**. Connection between people, between organisations, between communities and the systems that serve them, and between local voices and the decisions that shape our future. At NDVS, we often describe ourselves as a bridge between communities and the wider system, and over the past year that role has felt more important than ever.

This has been a year of significant discussion, emerging opportunities and considerable uncertainty. Conversations around prevention, community-led solutions, health inequalities, neighbourhood working, Local Government Reorganisation and the NHS Ten-Year Plan have gathered pace. Whilst many of these developments remain in their formative stages, they are already influencing how organisations think about the future. For many within the VCSE sector, it has felt like a year of trying to understand what lies ahead whilst continuing to respond to increasing demand today. We do not yet have all the answers, and many of the future models are still being shaped.

However, what has become increasingly clear is that communities, volunteers and the VCSE sector have an important role to play in whatever comes next. Throughout the year, NDVS has worked alongside partners to help organisations understand emerging developments, create opportunities for discussion and reflection, and ensure that community voices remain part of strategic conversations. Through our Leadership Hub, forums, community development work, partnerships and networks, we have brought people together to explore what these changes might mean for North Devon and how we can prepare collectively for the future.

At the same time, we have remained firmly focused on our core purpose: supporting, connecting, championing and strengthening our local VCSE sector. As a CVS much of our work takes place behind the scenes, creating the conditions that enable organisations, volunteers and communities to thrive. Through infrastructure support, collaboration, leadership development, volunteering and community development, we help build the foundations upon which community action depends. Demand for support remains high, funding is increasingly competitive, and many organisations are facing rising costs, workforce pressures and growing complexity. Yet despite these challenges, I continue to be inspired by the resilience, creativity and determination of the organisations and volunteers who serve our communities every day.

This year we successfully completed the first year of our National Lottery-funded Community Development Programme in partnership with Taw and Torridge Voluntary Services (TTVS) and One Northern Devon, strengthening relationships, uncovering hidden voices and building the foundations for a stronger community development approach across Northern Devon. Our Leadership Hub has continued to flourish as a trusted space for VCSE leaders to connect, learn and support one another, while our Revitalising Volunteering programme has celebrated and promoted the remarkable contribution volunteers make to our communities. We have continued to develop Devon Connect as a key piece of community infrastructure, reached a milestone of more than 5,000 members, expanded our subsidised training programme, introduced our Thriving in Leadership wellbeing initiative, strengthened our partnership offer, and continued supporting a diverse range of hosted projects and services that extend our reach into communities. Our Annual Community Awards once again provided a powerful reminder of the extraordinary individuals, volunteers and organisations who make Northern Devon such a special place.

Alongside this, we have continued to develop NDVS itself. This year has been an important step in strengthening how we understand, measure and communicate our impact, recognising that the true value of our work often extends beyond activities delivered and into the lasting relationships, increased confidence, stronger partnerships and enhanced community capacity that those activities help create. As a local infrastructure organisation, much of our contribution is made through enabling others to flourish, connecting people and organisations, and creating the

conditions for collaboration, resilience and community-led action that may continue long after direct support has ended. Whilst this work is not always highly visible, it plays an important role in strengthening both the VCSE sector and the communities it serves. We launched a new website, strengthened our approach to impact measurement and evaluation, embraced new technologies, and invested in our people, systems and processes to ensure NDVS remains resilient and fit for the future. We have also reflected on how our role must continue to evolve to support the VCSE sector through a period of significant change.

Throughout all of this, one theme has remained constant: **people.** Increasingly, research and experience tell us what many communities have always known; that relationships matter, trust matters and belonging matters. Community assets, volunteers and grassroots organisations are not simply an addition to the wider system; they are a vital part of the infrastructure that helps people and communities thrive. Community organisations often provide support, connection and opportunities long before statutory services become involved, helping to prevent issues from escalating while strengthening resilience and wellbeing within communities.

Personally, I made a commitment this year to spend more time listening. As my role has become increasingly strategic, I never wanted to lose sight of the communities we serve. Some of my most valuable learning has come not from reports or meetings, but from conversations in village halls, community centres, wellbeing groups and local projects across North Devon. Time and again, I have been reminded that whilst North Devon is often viewed through the lens of its challenges and rurality, what stands out most to me is its community spirit. I see kindness, innovation, volunteering, collaboration and communities finding practical solutions to local issues. One of the things I love most about North Devon is that if we do not know the answer, we usually know somebody who does. That willingness to support one another remains one of our greatest strengths.

As we look to the future, I believe there are important questions for all of us to consider. How do we ensure that community voices continue to influence decisions as new models and approaches emerge? How do we support the VCSE sector to remain resilient in an increasingly challenging environment? How do we strengthen prevention, belonging and community connection whilst responding to immediate needs? And how do we ensure that communities are not simply consulted, but recognised as active partners in shaping solutions?

There has undoubtedly been progress. The VCSE sector now has a stronger presence within many strategic discussions than ever before, and its value is increasingly recognised within conversations about wellbeing, prevention and community resilience. However, there is still much work to do to ensure that community insight, lived experience and grassroots knowledge are consistently translated into action.

Despite the challenges ahead, I remain optimistic. Every day I see organisations, volunteers, communities and partners coming together around a shared purpose. That gives me confidence that North Devon is well placed to respond to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.



Finally, I would like to thank our staff team, trustees, volunteers, partners, funders and the many organisations we are privileged to work alongside. Your passion, commitment and belief in the power of community make everything we do possible. Our greatest asset is not a building, a project or a funding programme – **it is people.**

Together, despite uncertainty and challenges, we are helping to create stronger, healthier and more connected communities, and together we will continue to **help those who do good to flourish.**

With heartfelt thanks, Marie Gould
Chief Officer, NDVS

Our Structure



Diagram NDVS Team (Core and hosted projects) end of March 2026

In terms of our leadership structure, we have a board of Trustees that are embedded in the local community. There is a broad range of skills that the trustees bring to the charity, ranging from third sector, health/social care and HR. They will have overall legal responsibility for project delivery and financial management.

Our CEO reports into the Board and Marie Gould has come to the charity with background of 30 years in education (further education – business and management) and is Senior Leader's MBA Exeter University educated.

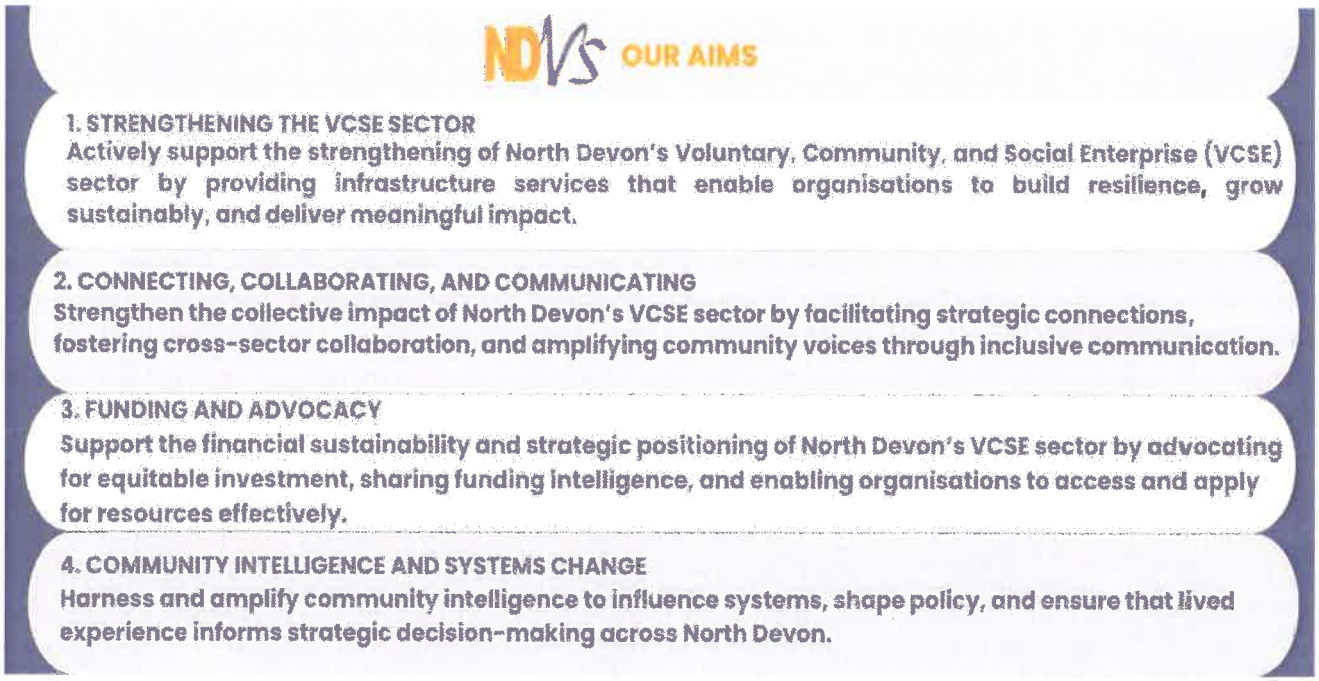
The core team is headed up by Marie and comprises:

- Partnerships Officer – working across the community and support group and partnership working.
- Events and PR Officer – working on organising a range of community events as well as our communications strategy.
- Volunteer Connector – engaging with public and a wide range of partners (VCSE, Statutory and Corporate) supporting volunteer recruitment and management including administering Devon Connect
- Admin and HR Support Officer – supporting the HR function and wider team with admin tasks.
- Finance Officer – Maintains budgets and forecasts for NDVS and produces financial reports for Funders and Board of Trustees as well as preparing the end of year accounts and ensuring financial and HR policies and procedures are fit for purpose.
- Book-keeper – Maintains the days books for sales, purchases and banking, prepares and issues invoices in relation to contractual agreements and processes BACS payments, which include staff expenses and salaries.
- Community Developers for South Molton, Ilfracombe and Lynton and Lynmouth – National Lottery Reaching Communities funded project, in partnership with relevant Town Councils
- Youth Connector – connecting the community development work through a youth focussed lens and ascertaining the gaps
- Inclusivity Connector – connecting the place-based community development work and looking at how we can reach more – by need, socially or geographically.

As a strong and prominent CVS, we host projects to support with HR, finance and line management. This also allows us to gain vital community feedback from the people working directly with the community.

- Volunteer Connector – funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and in partnership with North Devon Council
- Project Manager and Administrator – Devon Access to Services – DCC funded project
- Home Energy Adviser – 361 energy and funded through Energy Redress Scheme
- Project Co-ordinator and Assistant – North Devon Coast National Landscape – funded though National Lottery Heritage funded project.
- Community Developer for Live Well in Braunton – funded project through National Lottery Reaching Communities fund
- Marketing and Volunteer Co-ordinator – as above
- 3 x Social Prescribers – Local PCN funded
- Project co-ordinator – funded through The Woodyard Project

Aims and Objectives



NDVS is an independent charity based in Barnstaple, providing infrastructure support, specialist advice, community development and strategic representation for the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector across Northern Devon.

Our mission is to empower and uplift local VCSE organisations. We believe in the transformative power of community action to create lasting positive change. By championing these organisations, providing practical support and specialist advice, and fostering strong partnerships and collaboration, we help those who do good to flourish. Our vision is to cultivate thriving communities where everyone feels they belong and can contribute to meaningful social action, helping to create a happier, healthier and more inclusive future for all.

North Devon Voluntary Services Limited

As the local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), we act as a connector, enabler, advocate and champion for the VCSE sector. We support organisations to strengthen governance, leadership, volunteering, sustainability and resilience, while creating opportunities for collaboration, networking and shared learning. Through training, advice, communications, hosted services, volunteering support, partnership development and community development activity, we help build a stronger and more connected sector.

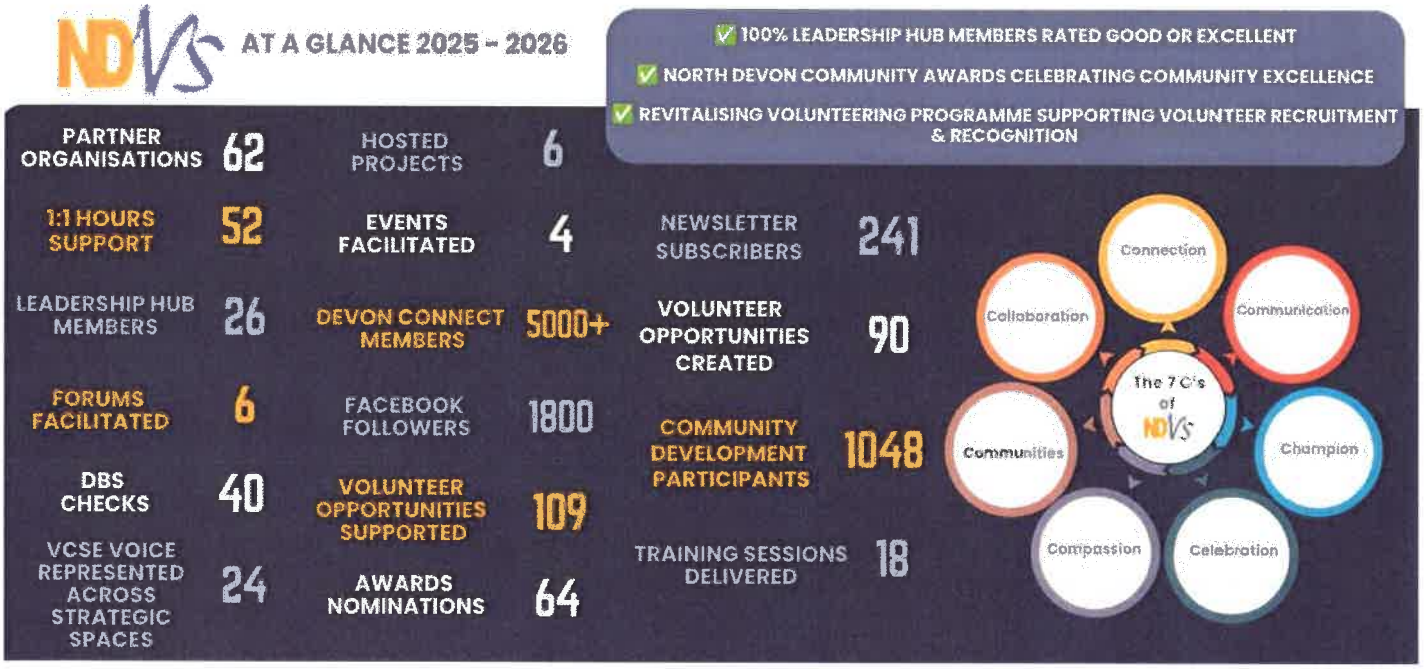
NDVS also plays an important role as a bridge between communities and the wider system. By listening to communities, amplifying community intelligence and representing the sector within strategic partnerships, we help ensure that lived experience, local insight and grassroots knowledge inform decision-making. We work closely with One Northern Devon, Northern Devon Futures, local authorities, health partners, businesses and community organisations to support prevention, tackle inequalities and strengthen community wellbeing across Northern Devon.

Alongside our infrastructure role, we host and support a range of community-led and partnership projects, providing services such as HR, finance, governance and operational support. This enables organisations and initiatives to focus on delivering positive outcomes within their communities while benefiting from our expertise, systems and networks.

As members of NAVCA, our work aligns with the four core functions of a modern CVS: **Support, Connection, Voice and Influence.** Underpinning everything we do are our 7 C's of CVS —which guide our approach to supporting the organisations, volunteers and communities we serve.

Our Impact

Every day, NDVS works alongside charities, community groups, social enterprises, volunteers and partners to help strengthen the VCSE sector across Northern Devon. Whilst some of our impact can be measured through the number of organisations supported, events delivered or people engaged, much of our contribution is reflected in stronger relationships, increased confidence, improved collaboration and greater community capacity. This year, our work has focused on strengthening the VCSE sector, fostering connections and partnerships, supporting volunteering, amplifying community intelligence and ensuring that local organisations are better equipped to respond to the challenges and opportunities facing their communities. The following provides a snapshot of some of the ways in which we have helped those who do good to flourish



Capacity Building and Organisational Support

At the heart of NDVS's work is a commitment to helping organisations build the confidence, skills and resilience needed to thrive. Throughout the year, we provided one-to-one support, advice and guidance to charities, community groups and social enterprises across North Devon.

Support ranged from governance and trustee development to funding advice, safeguarding, volunteer management, organisational planning and partnership development. We also helped organisations navigate an increasingly complex environment, responding to funding challenges, workforce pressures and changing policy landscapes.

Whilst much of this work takes place behind the scenes, it provides an important foundation upon which community organisations can grow, adapt and deliver services effectively. Through listening, coaching, problem-solving and connecting organisations with relevant expertise and opportunities, NDVS helps build stronger, more resilient organisations that are better equipped to meet the needs of their communities.

Many organisations first engage with NDVS through a one-to-one conversation. From there, they may go on to access training, join our Partnership Network, participate in forums, engage with Devon Connect, collaborate through the Leadership Hub or become involved in wider community development initiatives. In this way, our infrastructure support acts as both a safety net and a springboard, helping organisations navigate challenges whilst also identifying opportunities for growth and collaboration.



Our **subsidised TRAINING PROGRAMME continues to go from strength to strength**, despite a challenging funding environment where we are learning to be innovative and collaborative in approach to this offer. We remain committed to listening to the needs of the sector and responding with relevant, accessible training opportunities. Through regular engagement with our Volunteer Management Forum, Partners and Leadership Hub, we gather valuable insights and feedback, which directly inform the development of our training offer. This collaborative approach ensures that our sessions are timely, practical, and aligned with the real challenges and aspirations of our VCSE partners.

Events, Connection and Community Impact

Our **Events Programme continues to grow in reach, relevance and impact.** Thanks to successful funding bids, sponsorship, donations and partnership support, we have been able to organise and facilitate a wide range of events throughout the year, each designed to inform, inspire, connect and celebrate our communities.

Alongside delivering our own programme of events, we have been proud to support a range of strategic partners with planning, promotion, coordination and event delivery. By bringing together volunteers, community organisations, businesses, public sector partners and residents, these events create valuable opportunities for learning, networking, collaboration and shared problem-solving.

Whilst attendance figures tell part of the story, ongoing evaluation, feedback and ripple mapping have demonstrated that the real impact of our events often extends far beyond the day itself. New partnerships are formed, volunteers are recruited, organisations become more visible, ideas are shared and relationships develop that continue long after an event has ended. Feedback from participants highlighted collaboration opportunities, volunteer sign-ups, increased awareness of local organisations and valuable networking opportunities. The themes emerging from feedback consistently demonstrated the power of bringing people together to share experiences, build relationships and strengthen community connections.

Our **Revitalising Volunteering Programme** highlighted both the importance and the challenges of volunteering across North Devon. The event created opportunities for organisations to showcase their work, connect with potential volunteers and build new relationships. Feedback highlighted increased volunteer enquiries and sign-ups, stronger community awareness and a greater understanding of the pressures facing local organisations. One National Lottery representative reflected that the event had provided valuable first-hand insight into the impact of service reductions and the realities facing community organisations, helping to inform future funding decisions.

The positive impact continued beyond the event itself. Local organisations reported making new connections with potential partners and volunteers, while one Member of Parliament went on to visit community groups after meeting them through the event. Several participating organisations told us that simply having their work recognised and showcased helped them feel more connected, valued and visible within the wider community. One organisation commented, ***"No one sees what we do behind the scenes. We could not do it without you."***



Our **North Devon Community Awards** once again provided a powerful opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary contribution of volunteers, community groups and organisations across the district. Through the attendance of distinguished guests, strategic partners and community leaders, the awards shine a spotlight on the often unseen work taking place every day to strengthen communities and improve lives. The impact continues long after the ceremony itself, with our post-awards social media campaign generating ongoing engagement and visibility for winners and finalists over several months. One organisation told us:

"We have loved following the Community Awards posts. Through them we connected with organisations we didn't previously know existed and discovered opportunities where our own work could support theirs."

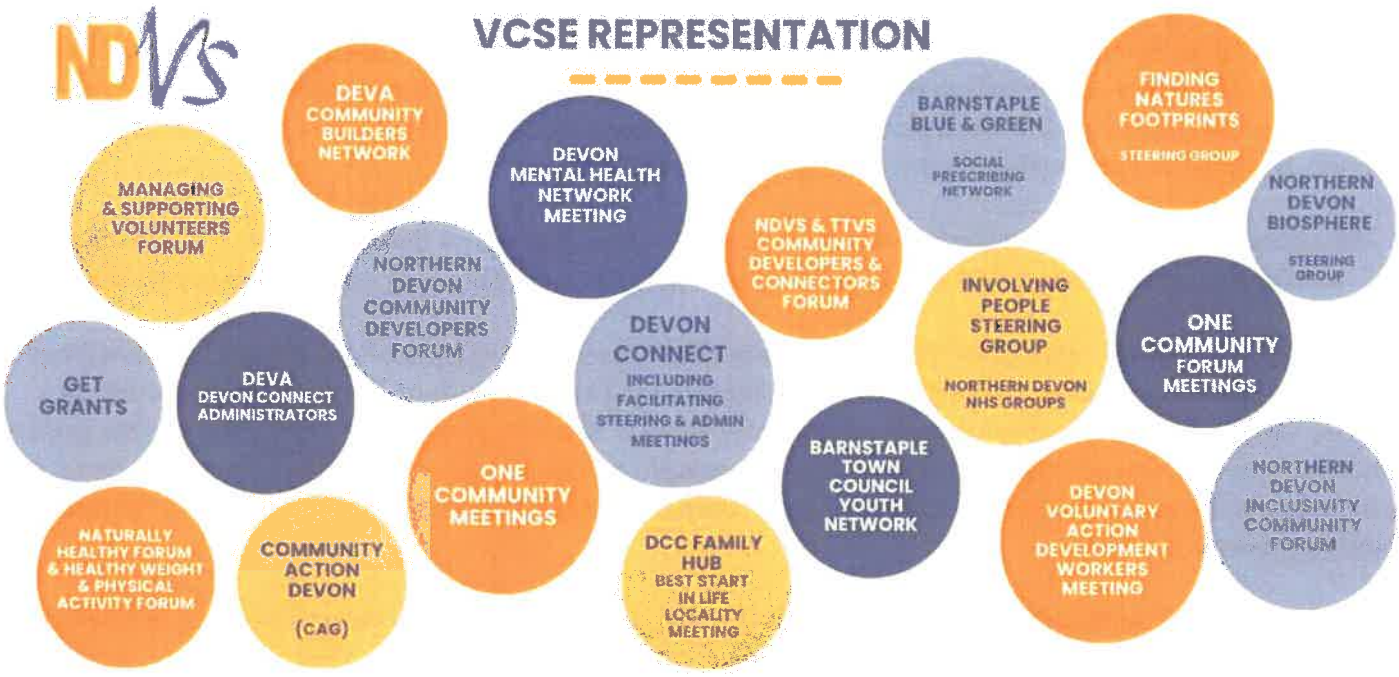
Events such as these also strengthen NDVS's understanding of local priorities, challenges and opportunities. They provide valuable opportunities to gather community intelligence, hear directly from organisations and residents, identify emerging needs and showcase the extraordinary work taking place across North Devon. The insights gathered through these conversations help inform our wider strategic engagement work, ensuring that community voices, lived experience and grassroots intelligence are reflected in the partnerships, networks and decision-making forums where NDVS represents the sector.

Perhaps most importantly, our events remind people that they are not alone. As one organisation told us following our volunteering event:

"As a new CIC, it can feel a little confusing and isolating. However, since becoming connected to NDVS we have received so much encouragement and such a warm, friendly welcome."



Whilst we can measure attendance, feedback and engagement, we recognise that many of the most significant outcomes are difficult to quantify. We do not always see every conversation, introduction, partnership or opportunity that emerges from our events. However, the stories, feedback and relationships that continue to develop afterwards remind us that the ripple effect of bringing people together is often far greater than we initially realise. As a local infrastructure organisation, we are proud to create the conditions for these connections to happen, helping to strengthen relationships, inspire collaboration and build a more connected, resilient and thriving North Devon.



Community Intelligence, Leadership and Sector Engagement

Strong communities rely on strong relationships, trusted networks and meaningful opportunities for people and organisations to connect, collaborate and share their experiences. Throughout the year, NDVS has continued to strengthen its role as a connector, convenor and facilitator, creating spaces where organisations, volunteers, community leaders and residents can come together to share learning, identify emerging needs and contribute to shaping the future of Northern Devon.

As conversations around prevention, neighbourhood working and community-led solutions continue to evolve, the importance of community intelligence has become increasingly clear. Through our Leadership Hub, forums, partnerships, community development activity, Devon Connect platform and wider engagement work, we continue to gather valuable insight into the strengths, challenges and priorities affecting our communities. This intelligence not only informs NDVS's own work but helps ensure that lived experience, local knowledge and grassroots perspectives are reflected within wider strategic conversations.

Alongside this, NDVS continues to strengthen its role within the wider community wellbeing and inclusion agenda across North Devon. Through our involvement in strategic partnerships, community development activity and cross-sector networks, we help bridge the gap between local lived experience and system-wide planning. By creating opportunities to listen, engage and build trusted relationships, particularly with underrepresented and seldom-heard groups, we are developing a deeper understanding of what helps people and communities thrive. This insight supports community-led action, strengthens collaboration and contributes to wider conversations around prevention, reducing inequalities, fostering belonging and improving community wellbeing. Through this work, we are helping to ensure that local priorities, aspirations and strengths are better understood and reflected within strategic decision-making.

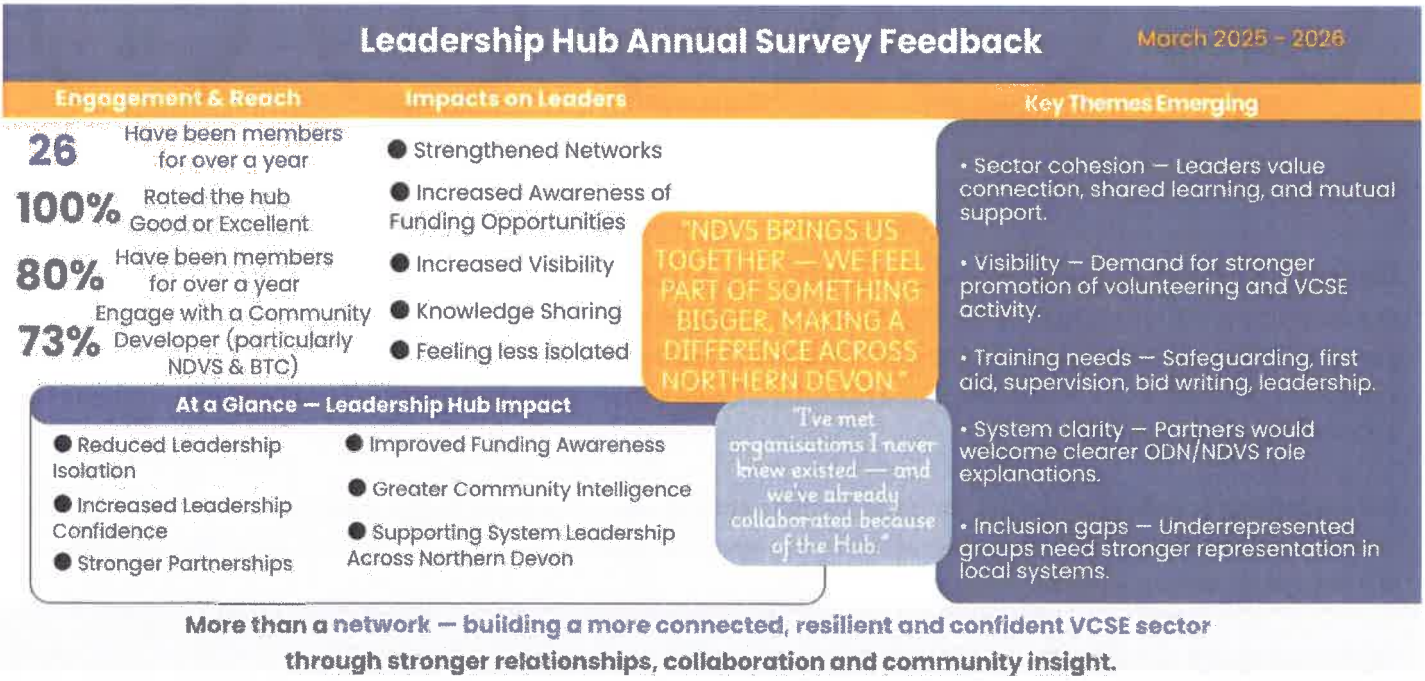
Whilst significant progress has been made, we recognise that there is more to do. Strengthening feedback loops, understanding community priorities, amplifying seldom-heard voices and ensuring local insight helps shape decision-making will remain important areas of focus as we move forward. This is not simply about understanding need; it is equally about recognising community strengths, assets and solutions, and ensuring these are visible within the wider system.

Our LEADERSHIP HUB continues to thrive as a cornerstone of VCSE leadership development and sector cohesion across Northern Devon. With 26 active members, the Hub brings together leaders from charities, community groups, social enterprises and partner organisations, providing a trusted and psychologically safe space for honest conversations, shared learning, peer support and collaborative problem-solving

The 2026 Leadership Hub evaluation highlighted its significant value to members, with 100% of respondents rating the Hub as Good or Excellent and two-thirds rating it as Excellent. Members consistently reported reduced feelings of isolation, increased leadership confidence, stronger partnership working, improved awareness of funding opportunities and a greater understanding of the wider VCSE landscape.

Alongside regular meet-ups, learning opportunities and dedicated communication channels, the Hub continues to foster meaningful relationships, strengthen collaboration and generate valuable community intelligence. It has become an important part of NDVS's infrastructure offer, helping leaders feel connected, supported and better equipped to navigate an increasingly complex and changing environment, whilst ensuring community and sector insight informs wider strategic conversations.

The Leadership Hub is more than a network. It is helping to build a more connected, resilient and confident VCSE sector by strengthening relationships, reducing isolation, supporting collaboration and ensuring community insight is reflected in strategic conversations.

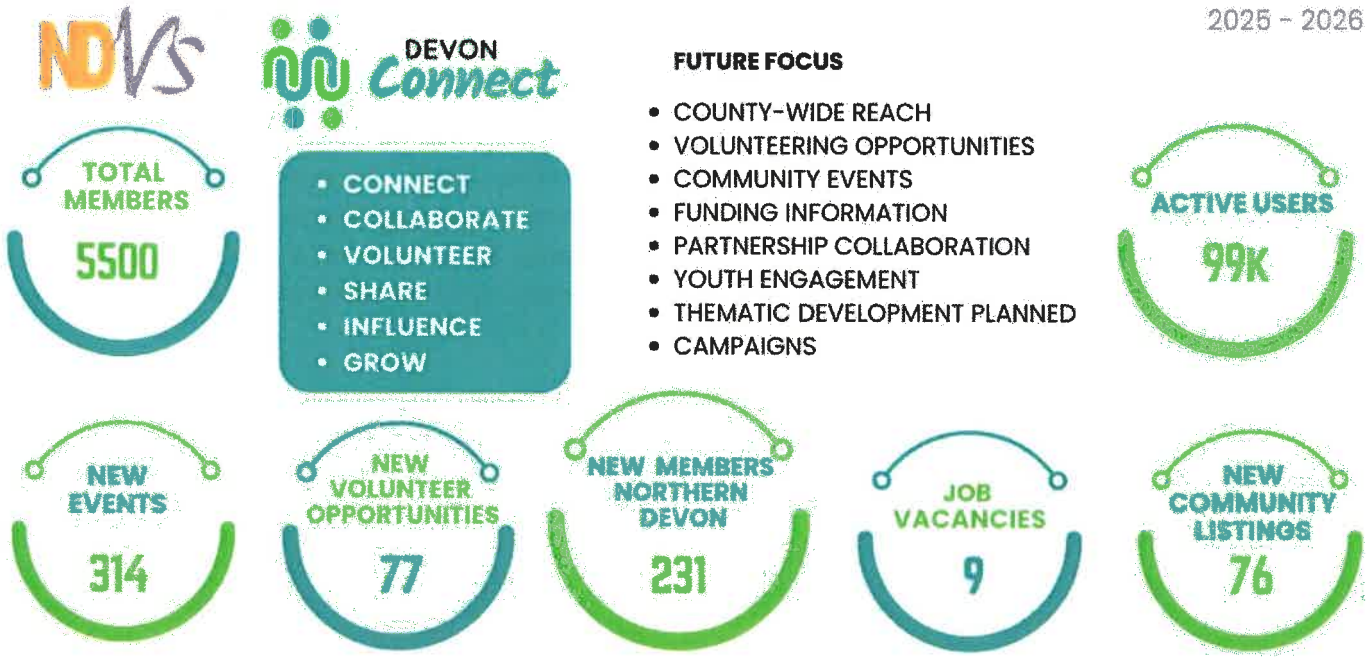


Our Partnership Offer continues to grow and evolve, with 62 partner organisations now forming part of an increasingly diverse and collaborative network across Northern Devon. We are proud to work alongside organisations that share our commitment to stronger communities, collaboration and social impact. Through regular communications, sector intelligence, funding updates, networking opportunities and events, we help partners stay informed, connected and engaged within a rapidly changing environment.

Beyond the practical benefits, our partnership network creates opportunities for shared learning, collective problem-solving and stronger cross-sector relationships. It enables organisations to celebrate successes, raise their profile, explore new opportunities and work together around common goals. As conversations around prevention, community wellbeing and neighbourhood approaches continue to develop, these trusted relationships and communication

channels are becoming increasingly important in ensuring that community voices remain connected to wider system discussions.

We are delighted that the network continues to grow, reflecting both the strength of the VCSE sector in Northern Devon and the value of creating spaces where organisations can connect, collaborate and flourish together



Devon Connect continues to grow in visibility, value and reach, strengthening its position as a key piece of digital community infrastructure for the VCSE sector and wider communities across Devon. As a collective partnership, the platform now has 5500 members and continues to provide a space where organisations and individuals can connect, collaborate, share opportunities and access community information and link residents to volunteering opportunities

Our revitalising volunteering events, communications activity and community engagement work have continued to raise awareness of the platform, encouraging more organisations to make full use of its features and helping to increase participation across the county.

Organisations are increasingly using Devon Connect to:

- Promote volunteering opportunities and community events
- Share news, resources and funding information
- Host online meetings and community discussions
- Build connections with partners and local communities
- Link content to specific geographic areas and themes
- Support campaigns, awareness initiatives and community engagement activity

During the year, NDVS stepped up to provide strategic leadership and support for Devon Connect, working closely with partners to secure the platform's future and strengthen its long-term sustainability. The fact that the platform has

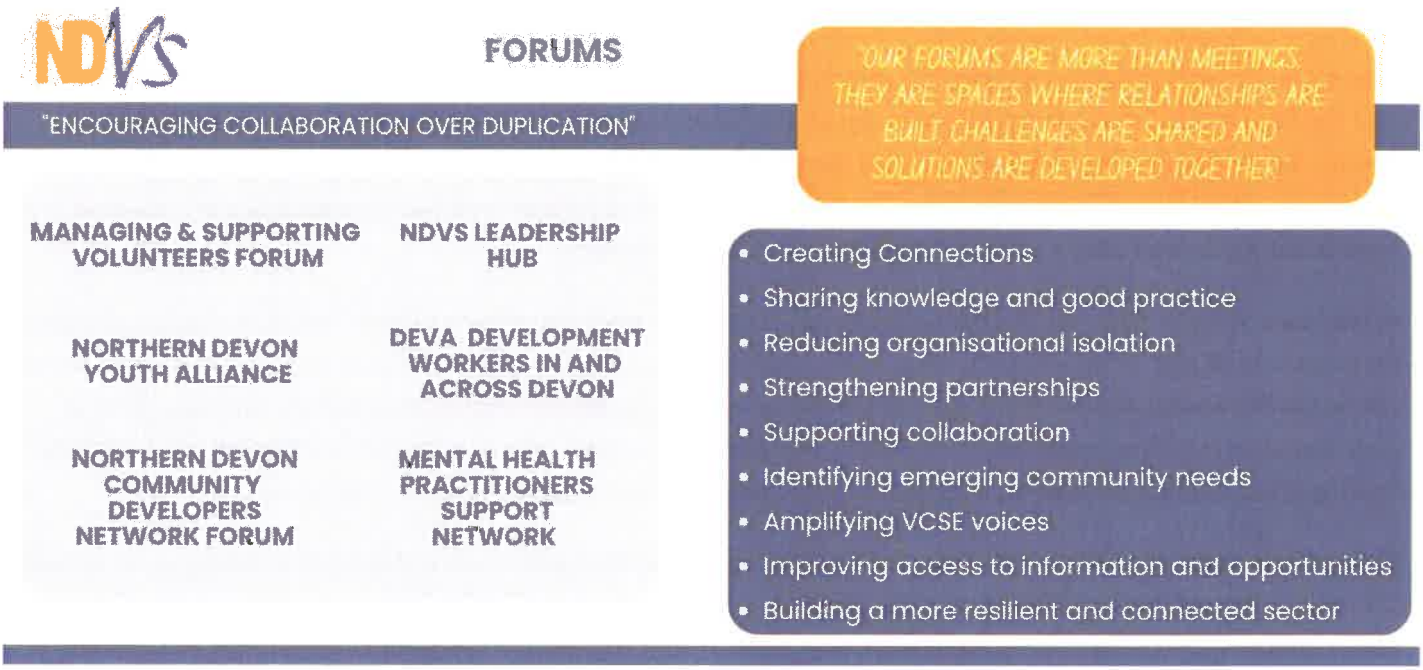
now achieved the significant milestone of 5000 members, demonstrating its growing relevance and value to the sector.

Looking ahead, partners are exploring additional investment opportunities to support further development of the platform, including enhanced functionality, greater engagement opportunities and the introduction of thematic pages to help connect communities and organisations around key areas of interest and shared priorities.

We have also been pleased to work alongside Devon County Council's Youth Council to explore how Devon Connect can become more youth-friendly and accessible, ensuring that younger voices are better represented and able to engage more effectively with community opportunities, volunteering and local decision-making.

Together, these developments are helping Devon Connect evolve beyond a communications platform into a dynamic and inclusive community asset that supports collaboration, volunteering, community engagement and stronger connections across Devon.

Beyond membership growth, Devon Connect is helping organisations increase visibility, share opportunities, recruit volunteers and strengthen connections across Devon, reducing isolation and supporting a more informed and connected VCSE sector.



We continue to support established local **FORUMS** whilst also facilitating and nurturing the development of new networks and communities of practice. These forums provide valuable spaces for collaboration, peer support, shared learning and information exchange, helping organisations feel less isolated and better connected to one another.

Throughout the year, the forums have enabled organisations to share challenges, identify opportunities, strengthen partnerships and access relevant intelligence, resources and funding information. They also provide an important mechanism for gathering community and sector insight, helping NDVS better understand emerging needs, trends and priorities across Northern Devon.

Beyond individual organisations, these forums contribute to a stronger, more connected VCSE sector by **encouraging collaboration over duplication**, amplifying community voices and creating opportunities for collective action. In doing so, they help strengthen the visibility, influence and resilience of the sector as a whole.



National Lottery Reaching Communities Community Development Project

The first eighteen months of our National Lottery-funded **Building a Strong and Vibrant VCSE Sector in North Devon and Torridge** programme marked an important step in strengthening community development across Northern Devon. Delivered in partnership with Taw and Torridge Voluntary Services (TTVS) and supported by One Northern Devon, the project is exploring how community development can help communities identify their own priorities, build on local strengths and create lasting change through collective action.

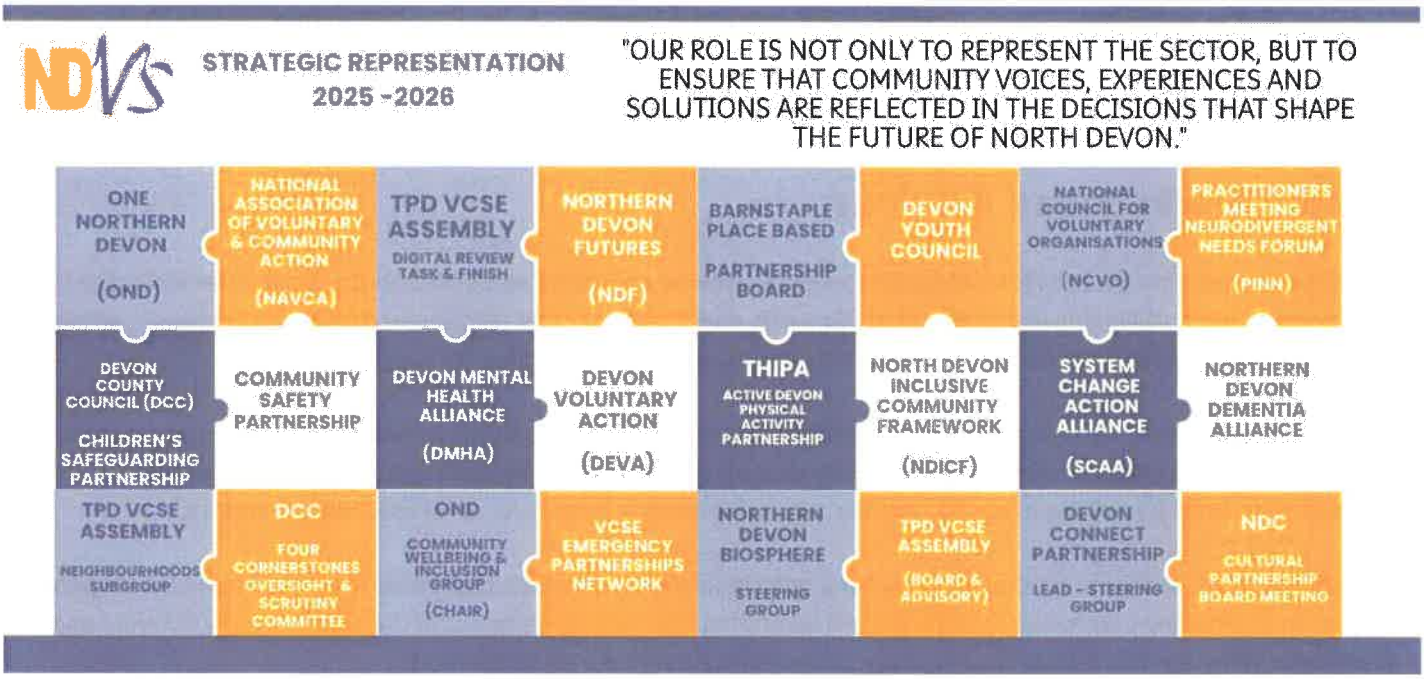
At the heart of the programme is a commitment to listening. Through place-based Community Developers, alongside dedicated Youth and Inclusivity Connector roles, the project has created opportunities to engage with people whose voices are not always heard within traditional decision-making structures. Particular attention has been given to understanding the experiences of young people, marginalised communities, rural communities and other seldom-heard groups, helping ensure that local priorities are identified and understood from the ground up.

During these first eighteen months, Community Developers and Connectors worked alongside residents, volunteers, community groups and organisations to identify local priorities, develop new activities, strengthen partnerships and build community capacity. Across Northern Devon and Torridge, the project supported a wide range of activities, events, initiatives and networks that have helped reduce isolation, strengthen community connections and encourage greater participation in community life.

An independent external evaluation highlighted the value of this approach, recognising the project's success in building trusted relationships, strengthening collaboration, improving organisational capacity and supporting communities to take greater ownership of local priorities. The evaluation also identified the growing importance of community intelligence and the role Community Developers and Connectors can play in helping communities, organisations and public services better understand local needs, strengths and aspirations.

Perhaps one of the most significant lessons from Year One has been the recognition that community development is not simply about delivering activities. It is about creating the time, space and relationships needed for communities to identify their own solutions, support one another and influence the decisions that affect their lives. Through the

collection and analysis of community intelligence gathered from residents, Community Developers, Social Prescribers, Town Councils and partner organisations, seven emerging Northern Devon themes were identified. These themes provide a shared understanding of the priorities, challenges and opportunities that matter most to local people and are helping to inform community-led action, strengthen collaboration between organisations and partners, and shape future priorities across Northern Devon. This learning is helping to influence our wider approach to community intelligence, leadership and sector engagement and will continue to inform our work as we move into the next phase of the programme. This work has reinforced the importance of placing communities at the centre of decision-making and recognising local people not simply as beneficiaries of services, but as active partners in creating stronger, healthier and more connected communities



Strategic Influence, Advocacy and VCSE Representation

Representing the VCSE sector remains a core part of NDVS's role and purpose. As local and national conversations around prevention, health inequalities, neighbourhood working, local government reform and community-led solutions continue to evolve, ensuring that the voice of the sector is heard within strategic decision-making has never been more important.

Throughout the year, NDVS has actively participated in and contributed to a wide range of local, regional and national partnerships, networks and strategic forums. Our role extends beyond simply attending meetings; we act as a bridge between communities, organisations and decision-makers, helping to ensure that community intelligence, lived experience and grassroots insight inform policy, planning and service development. This work enables us to champion the strengths of the VCSE sector, raise awareness of emerging challenges, influence conversations around funding and investment, and promote the vital contribution that community organisations make to prevention, wellbeing and community resilience. At the same time, it helps us bring valuable intelligence, opportunities and emerging developments back to the organisations and communities we serve, strengthening two-way communication between communities and the wider system.

As new models and approaches continue to emerge, our strategic representation work is increasingly focused on helping ensure that community voices are not simply consulted but recognised as essential partners in shaping solutions and influencing future priorities for Northern Devon.



Hosted Projects and Services

NDVS is proud to act as a host for a range of strategic projects delivering across North Devon and the wider Northern Devon area. This hosting role is a vital part of our work, enabling important initiatives to be delivered locally while benefiting from our established networks, infrastructure, governance and sector insight.

As a host organisation, we provide a range of support functions including employment, HR, finance, governance, administration and strategic oversight. This enables projects to focus on delivering positive outcomes for communities while benefiting from the stability, expertise and infrastructure of an established charity.

Through our hosted project model, we help bring additional skills, capacity, resources and investment into Northern Devon, strengthening community resilience and extending the collective impact of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. Below is a list of the projects we hosted during this period:

Devon Access to Services (DAS)

DAS is a 19-year, and continually evolving, project hosted by NDVS and funded by Devon County Council (DCC). We support the 58 members of Devon Community Car Forum (DCCF). We also provide information to help people access the services they need via our Devon Services website, which had 287,000 hits last year.
https://www.devonservices.org.uk/

DAS distributed the annual DCC grant £40,370 to the 51 Full Members of the Devon Community Car Forum via the fund holder, Kerswella Care in South Devon. This payment is made in return for data relating to volunteer car activity across the DCC area (please see the table below).
Working in partnership with DCC, Devon wide NHS Trusts, and the Car Forums we also distributed 1901 Volunteer Driver Hospital Parking Permits to the 57 participating car schemes.

Following publication for our annual Social Kindness report "More Than a Journey" we have been working with the Integrated Care Board (who we gratefully thank for their support), Eastern Local Area Care Partnership, the Eastern Healthy Aging Partnership, and the Community Transport Association to explore opportunities to increase understanding about, and raise the profile of, Community Car Schemes. Please follow the link to our page on NDVS website and scroll down to see our reports and please also look at our maps of car schemes and Memory Cafes.
https://ndvs.org.uk/devon-access-to-services/

North Devon Voluntary Services Limited

We are delighted to continue our transport project with the Devon Memory Café Consortium to increase access to Memory Cafes. We also had an exciting year supporting Age Well (formally Age Concern Barnstaple & North Devon) with their successful National Lottery Reaching Communities bid and we are pleased to now be part of the Northern Devon Transport Partnership with 6 car schemes. We also supported Devon Communities Together in a successful bid to Peninsula Travel and the Devon Community Drivers Pilot. All these projects are aimed at recruiting more drivers and increasing journeys.

We are also continuing to provide bespoke consultancy support to South Molton Volunteer Bureau, working alongside the organisation to strengthen its organisational capacity. This includes reviewing operational procedures, developing systems and creating process maps, preparing recruitment documents, and supporting the recruitment and appointment process to help the organisation become recruitment ready and strengthen its long-term sustainability.

DAS continued to support Community Car Schemes by organising and promoting a range of training opportunities for coordinators, trustees and volunteer drivers. Training included Safeguarding, First Aid, Dementia Awareness and Safe Assistance, helping schemes maintain good practice and ensuring volunteers have the knowledge and confidence to support passengers safely.

DAS continued its regular activities hosting Car Forum meetings and providing professional advice and support. We collected statistics, case studies and shared best practice to all the member car schemes. DAS would like to thank Devon County Council and NDVS for their continued support of the project.

Community Car Scheme Activity	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25**	**2025-26** **Provisional**
Number of Volunteer drivers (estimated 1900 pre covid)	**1206**	**1228**	**1230**	**1228**
Journeys to and from health care	88,319	88,506	81,659	77,770
Journeys to social and welfare activities	27,202	33,878	24,902	25,404
Total number of journeys	115,521	122,384	106,561	103,174
Journeys for passengers in wheelchairs	2,766	2,372	1,684	3,945
Miles travelled	1,382,925	1,319,986	1,197,431	1,345,8431
Volunteer hours	133,935	129,103	141,412	265,884
Notional value of vol hours min wage	£1,395,603	£1,476,938	£1,726,641	£3,246,444
Drivers' expenses paid	£480,971	£500,121	£479,183	£478,235
Operational costs of schemes	£704,806	£930,000	£1,094,808	£915,456
Received from passengers	£693,403	£775,497	£695,005	£693,831
All other fundraising (incl. grants)	£361,529	£379,381	£237,483	£272,825
Total cost of providing services	£1,185,777	£1,430,121	£1,573,991	£1,393,691
Funding -deficit/+surplus	-£130,845	-£275,243	-£641,503	-£427,035

To find out more about car schemes or other Public and Community service providers in your area, please call us on 07840 452147 or search https://www.devonservices.org.uk

Live Well in Braunton

Following a successful National Lottery funding award, NDVS hosted and employed key roles within the **Live Well in Braunton** initiative, including a Community Connector, Marketing, Administration and Volunteer Co-ordinator, and Social Prescribers. Throughout the life of the project, these roles helped strengthen community connections, support local residents and develop opportunities for volunteering, wellbeing and community participation.

Although the original National Lottery-funded programme came to an end during 2025, its impact continues to be felt across the Braunton community. The relationships developed, partnerships established and community infrastructure created through the project have provided a strong foundation for ongoing activity, with elements of the work continuing through successor projects, community-led initiatives and wider Lottery-funded community development activity

NDVS remains an active member of the **Braunton Forum**, continuing to provide advice, information and support to local organisations and residents. During the lifetime of the project, Social Prescribers worked closely with the Community Connector and Volunteer Co-ordinator to identify gaps in provision, reduce isolation and connect people with appropriate services, activities and sources of support.

A particular legacy of the project has been the strengthening of community networks, increased opportunities for volunteering, improved partnership working and a greater emphasis on community-led solutions. The commitment of the Live Well in Braunton Committee, volunteers, partners and residents continues to demonstrate the lasting value of investing in community capacity, connection and wellbeing.

Barnstaple Alliance Primary Care Network

NDVS worked in partnership with the Barnstaple Alliance Primary Care Network to support the NHS wellbeing agenda. During the reporting period, NDVS employed Community Connectors on behalf of the network, helping to link local voluntary and community activities with the needs of patients and communities. These workers also identified gaps in provision and, with NDVS's support, helped develop and strengthen local voluntary and community services.

During the year, the partnership arrangement evolved, and responsibility for these roles transferred directly to the Primary Care Network. This was considered the most effective model for the service moving forward and reflects the success and maturity of the work that had been established through the partnership. NDVS remains committed to supporting strong relationships between health services and the VCSE sector and welcomes continued collaboration that improves community wellbeing and access to support

North Devon Coast – Natural Landscape (NDCNL)

The North Devon Coast National Landscape (formerly the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) covers 171 square kilometres (66 square miles) of spectacular coastal landscape, including Combe Martin, Lee Bay, Woolacombe, Croyde, Saunton, Northam Burrows Country Park, Westward Ho!'s Pebble Ridge, the Hartland Peninsula and Braunton Burrows, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Finding Nature's Footprints was a three-year National Lottery Heritage Fund project designed to help communities learn more about the nature in their villages, gardens, fields and shores through wildlife surveys, monitoring and mapping activities. The information gathered supports communities, volunteers, landowners and local agencies to develop community-led nature recovery plans and take positive action for nature.

Working alongside partners from across North Devon, the project has created opportunities for new audiences to connect with nature, learn about their local environment and contribute to the protection and enhancement of these nationally significant landscapes. Throughout the project, NDVS hosted the Project Co-ordinator and Project Assistant, providing employment, governance and organisational support.

While the original three-year project reached its planned conclusion during the year, we were delighted that the Project Manager successfully secured additional funding to continue elements of this important work. This funding

will enable the project's legacy to continue, building on the knowledge, partnerships, community engagement and environmental stewardship developed over the lifetime of the programme.

361 Energy Redress

Funded through the Energy Redress Scheme, NDVS worked in partnership with **361 Energy**, initially a local Community Interest Company (CIC), and hosted one of their Home Energy Advisors. The project provided advice, guidance and practical support to help residents improve energy efficiency, reduce household costs and access energy-saving measures and grants.

Through free energy advice, home visits and support with insulation, heating improvements and renewable energy solutions, 361 Energy helped local people improve the warmth, affordability and sustainability of their homes. The wider project also worked alongside businesses, schools and communities to promote energy efficiency and environmental sustainability across the region.

During the year, 361 Energy successfully transitioned from a Community Interest Company to an independent charity. This represents a significant achievement and reflects the growth, maturity and long-term sustainability of the organisation. As part of this transition, the hosted arrangement with NDVS naturally came to an end.

We are proud to have supported 361 Energy on its journey and remain committed to maintaining a strong partnership. Their successful transition demonstrates the role that infrastructure organisations such as NDVS can play in helping emerging organisations develop, strengthen their foundations and ultimately become sustainable, independent organisations in their own right.

Volunteer Connector

The Volunteer Connector role was originally funded through North Devon Council to strengthen volunteering across Northern Devon, helping organisations recruit, support and retain volunteers while encouraging more people to become involved in community action. Throughout the year, the role played an important part in connecting individuals with meaningful volunteering opportunities, supporting local organisations and promoting the value of volunteering across our communities.

Working closely with voluntary organisations, community groups and strategic partners, our Volunteer Connector has helped raise the profile of volunteering, support recruitment initiatives, promote Devon Connect and contribute to the development of a more connected and resilient volunteering infrastructure across Northern Devon.

Whilst North Devon Council funding came to an end at the close of the reporting period, we were delighted to secure an **Awards for All grant from The National Lottery Community Fund**, enabling this important work to continue. The success of the role has demonstrated the significant value it brings to both the VCSE sector and local communities. As a result, NDVS now considers volunteering support to be an integral part of our core infrastructure offer and the Volunteer Connector has become an established and valued member of our wider team.

By continuing to invest in volunteering, we are helping organisations build capacity, strengthening community participation and ensuring that more people can contribute their time, skills and experience to causes that matter to them.

The Woodyard Project

Originally established through the vision and support of **Ann Cleeves and Graham Devine**, The Woodyard Project continues to evolve as an innovative community space focused on reducing loneliness, strengthening wellbeing and bringing people together through connection, creativity and community action. During the reporting period, we were pleased to see the project continue to grow as a valued community asset, providing opportunities for people to connect, access support, develop new relationships and become involved in activities that promote wellbeing, belonging and community participation.

NDVS hosts the Project Co-ordinator role on behalf of the Woodyard Management Committee and Barnstaple Town Council, providing employment, governance and organisational support. Through this role, a range of activities and partnerships have continued to develop, helping ensure The Woodyard remains a welcoming and inclusive space for local people.

Particular highlights during the year included the continued development of initiatives such as **Mindful Mondays** and **Reading for Wellbeing**, which have created opportunities for people to connect, improve wellbeing and build meaningful relationships in a supportive environment. These activities reflect the wider vision of The Woodyard: creating a place where people feel welcomed, valued and less alone.

As the project continues to grow, partners are exploring the potential conversion of The Woodyard into a **Community Interest Company (CIC)**. This would provide greater opportunities to secure long-term funding, strengthen sustainability and support the continued development of activities that benefit the local community. NDVS is proud to have played a part in supporting this journey and looks forward to continuing its partnership as the next phase of development takes shape.

Governing Document
NDVS Ltd is a company limited by guarantee (number 06934618) and a registered charity (number 1133707) with an area of benefit which covers North Devon. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which sets out the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are liable for any debts, the total not to exceed £10.

Appointment of Trustees
Trustees are appointed by approval of the members at the Annual General Meeting, by approval of the members during the year or by co-option of the Board of Trustees. New trustees are provided with an induction pack and additional training offered as needs indicates. The Board of Trustees meets on average every other month and a Chief Officer is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations.

Risk Management
The Trustees have identified the risks facing the Charity. They review them regularly and put systems in place to mitigate these risks. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

The trustees review risks to the organisation every quarter using a risk register to identify, score, and (plan to) mitigate risks under the headings of Governance, External risks, Regulatory and Compliance, Financial and Operational. At the year end, the Board was confident that all risks were being appropriately managed.

Going forward, we believe the most significant risks to our organisation remain external funding and Local Government reform. We continue to work as a Board and leadership team to mitigate these risks to ensure continued service delivery from a sustainable organisation.

Public Benefit
The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have taken it into account when making decisions to which the guidance is relevant. How we have done this is demonstrated in the Chief Officer's report.

Related Parties
We are a member of DeVA working in partnership with TTVS, Involve CVS, Teignbridge CVS and West Devon CVS, all locally based organisations providing comprehensive support to Devon's voluntary and community sector. DeVA is an associate member of NAVCA and NCVO.

Legal and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number	1133707	
Company Registration Number	06934618	
Registered Office	Suite 206, Queens House, Queens Street, Barnstaple, EX32 8HJ	
Trustees:	Bill Allen	Chair
	Mark Johnson	Vice Chair
	David Mason	Treasurer
	Jonathan Wilkes	
	Diane Pedley	
	Clare Humphreys	
	Don Pratt	
Company Secretary	David Mason	
Chief Officer	Marie Gould	
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank, Customer Services Centre Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB	
Accountants	Westcotts (SW) LLP 47 Boutport Street Barnstaple Devon EX31 1SQ	
Solicitors	Wollen Michelmore Avery House, Liberty Road Roundswell Business Park BARNSTAPLE Devon, EX31 3TL	
Constitution	Adopted July 1997 Revised 20th April 2006 Memorandum and articles of association 15 June 2009	

Financial Review

Year 25/26 saw an increase in funding from £505,758 (24/25) to £573,501 (25/26) reflecting not only the increasing development work undertaken but funding specifically relating to projects to aid community development, including the volunteer shortage and funding challenges. Our reserves have increased from £183,961 (24/25) to £226,164 (25/26). However, projects that are WIP at the beginning of the year and WIP at the end of the year should be noted.

In particular projects that had brought forward funds on 1st April 2025 were

- Devon Access to Services (DASP) £33,644
- Barnstaple PCN £98
- Finding Nature's Footprints (AONB) £196
- Live Well in Braunton (LWIB) Lottery £191
- DCC Teacher's Hub £1,194
- Revitalising Volunteer £19,864
- Visual Impairment (Siggery Fund) £5,685
- 361 Warmer Homes Phase 2 £(30,941)*
- DCC Growing Communities £4
- The Woodyard £11,832
- NLCF – Reaching Communities/Partnerships £23,874

* Please note that 361 Warmer Homes Phase 2 shows a deficit owing to a time lag between expenditure and the receipt of the quarterly funds.

and projects that had carried forward funds as at 31st March 2026 are

- Devon Access to Services (DASP) £40,127
- Finding Nature's Footprints (AONB) £824
- Revitalising Volunteers £20,848
- Visual Impairment (Siggery Fund) £4,866
- DCC Growing Communities £4
- The Woodyard £18,641
- NLCF – Reaching Communities / Partnerships £23,179
- North Devon Biosphere £890
- Disability Friendship Groups £851
- Devon Connect £25
- DAS Project 2 £1,359

The expenditure on these will be in the 26/27 year.

Analysis of Incoming Funds is as follows:

	£ 25/26	£ 24/25
Grants & Donations	552,114	490,785
Training Workshops	5,158	6,962
Costs Recovered	3,756	2,520
Interest Received	3,978	5,104
Other Income	8,495	387
Total Incoming Funds	573,501	505,758

Resources Expended

Total Expenditure for the YE 25/26 is £531,298; an increase of £4,833 on the previous year. However, included in this figure is £84,739 which represents £75,107 that was redistributed to TTVS that applied for funding as part of the NLCF Reaching Communities/Partnerships project, a refund of £9,207 to AONB due to a duplicate payment as well as grants that were sent out to groups that applied for funding as part of the Siggery Fund.

Key Costs 25/26 compared to 24/25

Resources Expended:

	£ 25/26	£ 24/25
Staffing Costs	346,634	340,917
Grants Transferred	84,739	74,212
Premises Costs	12,812	12,695
Office Costs	15,002	8,446

The increase in staffing and office costs reflects the increased project activity and cost of living rises. They have also been affected by the loss of charity discounts for our software licences as well as costs incurred for consultancy fees with Peninsula and Tozer for support with HR and Employment Law.

Reserves Policy

As at 31 March 2026, the total funds of North Devon Voluntary Services Limited stood at **£226,164**, an increase of **£42,203** from the previous year.

These funds comprised:

- Restricted Funds: **£111,614**
- Unrestricted Funds: **£114,550**

Included within unrestricted funds is a designated redundancy reserve of **£8,671**, leaving free reserves of **£105,879** available for the general purposes of the charity.

The Trustees maintain reserves to:

- ensure sufficient funds are available to meet potential redundancy liabilities;
- provide financial resilience in the event of an unexpected reduction or loss of income;
- manage cashflow fluctuations where expenditure is incurred before grant income is received;
- enable the charity to respond to opportunities requiring match funding;
- ensure continuity of services to beneficiaries during periods of financial uncertainty.

In determining the appropriate level of reserves, Trustees consider the charity's operational expenditure, staffing commitments, funding profile, contractual obligations, cashflow requirements and overall risk profile.

The Trustees have determined that maintaining free reserves equivalent to approximately **9 to 12 months of operating expenditure** represents an appropriate level of financial resilience for the organisation.

Based on annual operating expenditure of **£128,162**, the charity's free reserves of **£105,879** are equivalent to approximately **9.9 months of operating expenditure**.

The Trustees are satisfied that the current level of reserves falls within the target range and provides adequate financial resilience to support the continued delivery of the charity's activities whilst allowing time to respond appropriately to any significant changes in funding.

The reserves policy is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees in line with Charity Commission guidance.

Small company provisions
This report has been prepared in accordance with the provision applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

On Behalf of The Board: .....

Bill Allen (Chair)

Date: 22/10/26

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the North Devon Voluntary Services Limited.

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026 as set out in this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiners Statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe; -

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) which is one of the listed bodies.

Signed .....

Date ....22nd October 2026

Catherine Williams FCA DChA

Westcotts (SW) LLP
Independent Examiner
47 Boutport Street
Barnstaple, EX31 1SQ

Statement of Financial Position as of 31st March 2026

Statement of Financial Position

	Total Funds 25/26 £	Prior Year Funds £
Tangible assets	218	291
Current Assets:		
Debtors	7,588	3,625
Cash at Bank and in hand	230,056	198,593
	237,644	202,218
Current Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11,698	18,548
Net Current Assets	225,946	183,670
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	226,164	183,961
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		
Provision for Liabilities		
Total Net Assets	226,164	183,961
Funds of the Charity:		
Restricted Funds	111,614	65,641
Unrestricted Funds	114,550	118,320
	226,164	183,961

For the financial year ended 31 March 2026 the company was entitled to exemption to audit under ss. 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board and signed on its behalf

on....22/10/2026.....Date



..... Bill Allen (Chair)

.....Mark Johnson (Vice Chair)

..... David Mason (Company Secretary)

Charity Number: 1133707
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England Number: 06934618

Statement of Financial Activities YE March 2026 (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	31st March 2026			31st March 2025		
	Unrestricted Funds £	**Restricted Funds £**	**Totals Funds £**	**Totals Funds £**	**Unrestricted Funds £**	**Restricted Funds £**
Income:						
Grants & Donations	30,036	522,078	552,114	490,785	26,327	464,458
Earned from Other Activities	14,193	7,194	21,387	14,973	11,632	3,341
Total Income	**44,229**	**529,272**	**573,501**	**505,758**	**37,959**	**467,799**
Expenditure:						
Expenditure on charitable activities	47,999	483,299	531,298	526,465	50,121	476,344
Net Incoming Resource	**(3,770)**	**45,973**	**42,203**	**(20,707)**	**(12,162)**	**(8,545)**
Transfer between funds						
Net Movement of Funds	(3,770)	45,973	42,203	(20,707)	(12,162)	(8,545)
Reconciliation of Funds:						
Total Funds Brought Forward	118,320	65,641	183,961	204,668	130,482	74,186
Total Funds Carried Forward	114,550	111,614	226,164	183,961	118,320	65,641

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

North Devon Voluntary Services
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
Cash generated from operations		
Profit	42,203	(20,707)
Net adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items		
Depreciation charge	73	97
	42,276	(20,610)
Working capital adjustments		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(3,963)	1,565
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(6,850)	5,169
Net cash flows from operating activities	31,463	(13,876)
Cash generated from investing		
Net cash flows from investing activities	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	31,463	(13,876)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	198,593	212,469
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	230,056	198,593

Notes to the Accounts

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Suite 206, Queens House, Queen Street, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 8HJ

1. Basis of Accounting

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS102, the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the requirements of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102). The financial reports are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There have been no changes in the Accounting Policies for 2025 or 2026.

1.3 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Management Committee for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor through the terms of an appeal.

1.4 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

Grants and donations are received by way of grants, donations and gifts and are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in the accounts.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned. Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

1.5 Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes, including the running of community transport.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SoFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

1.6 Fixed Assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500. They are valued at Cost or, if Gifted, at the value to the Charity on receipt. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off costs of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the basis of 25%, reducing balance.

1.7 Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

2. Grants & Donations

Funder	Project	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 25/26 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 24/25 £
North Devon Council	Core	19,300	-	19,300	17,000	-	17,000
Devon Voluntary Action (DEVA)	Core	1,800	-	1,800	2,008	-	2,008
Co-Op	Core	500	-	500	-	-	-
Norman Family Charitable Trust	CVS	-	-	-	(2,500)	-	- 2,500
DMCC	CVS	-	-	-	95	-	95
Devon County Council	CVS	-	-	-	2,250	-	2,250
Taw & Torridge Voluntary Services	CVS	-	-	-	288	-	288
Barnstaple Town Council	CVS Training	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
The Norman Family Trust	CVS Training	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
Easy Fundraising	Core	385	-	385	306	-	306
North Devon Community Lottery	Core	362	-	362	186	-	186
University of Exeter (J Hayes)	Core	-	-	-	20	-	20
Families in Grief	Core	-	-	-	100	-	100
Centurion Management	Core	-	-	-	175	-	175
Barnstaple Town Council	Events	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Norman Family Charitable Trust	Events	500	-	500	-	-	-
ITK Media	Events	-	-	-	300	-	300
Westcotts	Events	-	-	-	300	-	300
Devon & Conrwall Police	Events	250	-	250	200	-	200
Vitaliqi	Events	250	-	250	300	-	300
North Devon Biosphere Foundation	Events	-	-	-	300	-	300
Grin SW LLP	Events	250	-	250	-	-	-
Lineal Software Solutions Ltd	Events	250	-	250	-	-	-
Philip J Milton	Events	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Boden Group	Events	250	-	250	-	-	-
Research Your Way	Events	250	-	250	-	-	-
Give As You Live (Donations in Memory o	Events	100	-	100	-	-	-
Donation in Memory of Dan Smith	Events	10	-	10	-	-	-
W S Gayton Ltd (Donations in Memory of	Events	579	-	579	-	-	-
Devon County Council	DASP (5)	-	51,685	51,685	-	51,685	51,685
DMCC	DASP (5)	-	3,708	3,708	-	1,017	1,017
NHS Devon ICB	DASP (5)	-	12,000	12,000	-	-	-
North Devon Council (KNDC Project)	DASP (5)	-	1,015	1,015	-	-	-
Community Council of Devon (Devon Con	DASP (5)		1,897	1,897	-	-	-
Barnstaple PCN Alliance	Barnstaple PCN (50)	-	6,930	6,930	-	25,987	25,987
Devon County Council	AONB (53)	-	68,250	68,250	-	47,041	47,041
Live Well in Braunton	LWIB (54)	-	29,195	29,195	-	67,971	67,971
The National Lottery Community Fund	Revitalising Volunteers (60)	-	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
The Norman Family Trust	Revitalising Volunteers (60)	-	-	-	-	500	500
North Devon Council	NDDC Volunteer Connector (65)	-	10,000	10,000	-	20,000	20,000
The Energy Savings Trust	361 Warmer Homes P2 (68)	-	84,812	84,812	-	55,606	55,606
Ann Cleeves	The Woodyard (69)	-	1,077	1,077	-	20,000	20,000
Torrington Health	The Woodyard (69)	-	-	-	-	240	240
The Woodyard	The Woodyard (69)	-	16,200	16,200	-	-	-
Anonymous Donation	The Woodyard (69)	-	11,000	11,000	-	-	-
Devon County Council	DCC Grow Comms - Training (72)	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Devon County Council	DCC Grow Comms - Events (73)	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
The National Lottery Community Fund	NLCF - Reach Comms / Partnerships (74)	-	181,627	181,627	-	143,192	143,192
One Northern Devon	NLCF - Reach Comms / Partnerships (74)	-	1,544	1,544	-	-	-
The Asda Foundation	Empower Local Communities (75)	-	-	-	-	720	720
North Devon Bioshere Foundation	NDBF Biosphere Communities (76)	-	7,125	7,125	-	4,500	4,500
The Davie Trust	The Davie Tust - Youth (78)	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Devon Voluntary Action	Disability Friendship Groups (79)	-	2,920	2,920	-	-	-
Devon County Council (Locality Budget)	Devon Connect (80)	-	1,700	1,700	-	-	-
Age Concern and North Devon CIO	DAS Project 2 (81)	-	5,572	5,572	-	-	-
Devon County Council	Places to Go (82)	-	3,820	3,820	-	-	-
	TOTAL	**30,036**	**522,078**	**552,114**	**26,327**	**464,458**	**490,785**

Notes to the Accounts 25/26 continued

North Devon Voluntary Services Ltd
For the year ended 31 March 2026

3. Net Incoming Resources for Year Ending 2026	2026	2025
	£	£
This is stated after charging depreciation	**73**	**97**

4. Examination & Accounting Fees		
Independent Examiners Fees	1,788	2,190
Examination & Accounting Fees	**1,788**	**2,190**

5. Employees' Costs (including pension and employers national insurance)		
Gross Salaries	315,421	315,264
Employers National Insurance	33,601	22,209
Pension Costs	8,111	8,444
Employers Allowance	(10,500)	(5,000)
Total Employee Cost	346,633	340,917

No Employees received emoluments over £60,000

Average number of full time equivalent employees in the year:	10.2	10.9

6. Trustee Remuneration & Related Party Transactions

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

No loans were made to Trustees by the charity or by Trustees to the Charity (YE 2026 nil).

7. Taxation

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

			£ YE 2026	£ YE 2025
8	**Tangible Assets**			
		8.1 Cost or Valuation		
		As at 1st April 2025	20,653	20,653
		Disposals		
		Additions		
		As at 31st March 2026	20,653	20,653
		8.2 Accumulated Depreciaton		
		As at 1st April 2025	20,362	20,265
		Depreciation on Disposals		
		Charge for the Year	73	97
		As at 31st March 2026	20,435	20,362
		8.3 Net Book Value		
		As at 1st April 2025	291	388
		As at 31st March 2026	218	291
9	**Debtors & Prepayments**			
		Grant Funding	4,032	723
		Other Debtors	-	-
		Prepayments	3,556	2,902
			7,588	3,625
		All of which are due within one year		
10	**Current Liabilities - Due within one year**			
		Other Creditors	4,184	11,675
		Taxation, PAYE & INS	7,514	6,873
			11,698	18,548

11. Movement in Funds 25/26 by Funding Stream

	Balance Bfwd £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance Cfwd £
DASP	33,644	76,478	(69,995)		40,127
Barnstaple PCN	98	6,930	(7,028)		-
Live Well in Braunton (Lottery)	191	29,195	(29,386)		-
DCC Teachers Hub	1,194	-	(1,194)		-
Revitalising Volunteers	19,864	20,000	(19,016)		20,848
AONB Finding Nature's Footsteps	196	68,250	(67,622)		824
Warmer Spaces	(0)	-	-		(0)
Visual Impairment	5,685	-	(819)		4,866
DCC Growing Communities	4	-	-		4
NDDC Volunteer Connector	-	10,000	(10,000)		-
361 Warmer Homes Phase 2	(30,941)	84,812	(53,871)		-
The Woodyard	11,832	28,799	(21,990)		18,641
NLCF - Reaching Communities/Partnerships	23,874	183,171	(183,866)		23,179
NDBF Biosphere Communities	-	7,125	(6,235)		890
Disability Friendship Groups	-	3,420	(2,569)		851
Devon Connect	-	1,700	(1,675)		25
DASP Project 2	-	5,572	(4,213)		1,359
Places to Go	-	3,820	(3,820)		-
Total Restricted Funds	65,641	529,272	(483,299)		111,614
Designated Fund	3,237			5,434	8,671
General Funds	115,083	44,229	(47,999)	(5,434)	105,879
Total Unrestricted Fund	118,320	44,229	(47,999)	-	114,550
Total Funds	183,961	573,501	(531,298)	-	226,164

11. Contd.

Prior Year Comparison 24/25 by Funding Stream

	Balance Bfwd £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance Cfwd £
DASP	40,218	55,792	(62,366)		33,644
Barnstaple PCN	1,100	25,987	(26,989)		98
Live Well in Braunton (Lottery)	60	67,971	(67,840)		191
DCC Teachers Hub	1,194	-	-		1,194
Revitalising Volunteers	1,239	20,500	(1,875)		19,864
AONB Finding Nature's Footsteps	468	47,041	(47,313)		196
Warmer Spaces	(0)	-	-		(0)
Visual Impairment	7,610	-	(1,925)		5,685
DCC Growing Communities	4	-	-		4
NDDC Volunteer Connnector	8,437	20,000	(28,437)		0
361 Warmer Homes Phase 2	(5,531)	55,606	(81,016)		(30,941)
The Woodyard	19,387	20,240	(27,795)		11,832
DCC Growing Communities - Training	0	3,000	(3,000)		0
DCC Growing Communities - Events	0	2,000	(2,000)		0
NLCF - Reaching Communities/Partnerships	0	143,192	(119,318)		23,874
Empowering Local Communities - Asda Foundation	0	970	(970)		0
NDBF Biosphere Communities	0	4,500	(4,500)		0
The Davie Trust	0	1,000	(1,000)		0
Total Restricted Funds	74,186	467,799	(476,344)	-	65,641
Designated Fund	1,283			1,954	3,237
General Funds	129,199	37,959	(50,121)	(1,954)	115,083
Total Unrestricted Fund	130,482	37,959	(50,121)	-	118,320
Total Funds	204,668	505,758	(526,465)	-	183,961

North Devon Voluntary Services Limited

Funders 2025/2026

Project	Funded by:
DASP **Purpose:** Dedicated to improving access to information, services and representation focussing on volunteer lead community transport schemes.	Devon County Council NHS Devon ICB
Barnstaple Alliance Primary Care **Purpose:** To support provide advice and information and connect people to their local community to improve wellbeing.	Barnstaple Alliance Primary Care
NDCNL - Finding Nature's Footprint **Purpose:** To learn more about the nature in our villages, gardens, fields and shores through surveys, monitoring and mapping of wildlife including plants, mammals, insects and birds.	Devon County Council through National Lottery Heritage Fund
Live Well in Braunton **Purpose:** Provide Community Connector services and support community building, including volunteer hub, across the Live Well Braunton area.	Live Well in Braunton National Lottery Bid
Revitalising Volunteers **Purpose:** To organise and facilitate a series of events and celebrations to expand volunteer numbers, as they have rapidly declined since the COVID-19 pandemic.	The National Lottery Community Fund Norman Family Trust
NDDC Volunteer Connector **Purpose:** Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places. Specifically, to employ a volunteer connector, enabling the expansion of the number of organisations registering for volunteering placements, alongside an increase in actual volunteers. Maintaining Devon Connect platform, and support VCSE Groups to use this as well as any other relevant training and support. As well as to work with other organisations to host events highlighting/celebrating volunteering.	This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and in partnership with North Devon Council alongside National Lottery Awards 4 All
Warmer Homes (361 Energy) **Purpose:** To provide advice, guidance and practical support to improve energy efficiency and affordability.	Energy Redress Fund
The Woodyard **Purpose:** To hold, administer and allocate funds to Third Parties as instructed to support the development of a central community hub, known as "The Woodyard" which would bring charity workers and members of the community together, improve communication and understanding, cut costs and provide opportunities for different and creative ways of working, and to make sure loneliness is reduced. This now includes employing a Project Co-ordinator.	Ann Cleeves The Woodyard Anonymous Donation
NLCF Reaching Communities / Partnerships **Purpose:** To build a strong, vibrant and connected VCSE sector using a community development alliance model, to help bring about social change and improve the quality of life across North Devon and Torridge. Looking at Community Development best practice, how to engage with hard-to-reach community members, as well as form a Northern Devon Community Development alliance, including sustainable funding model.	National Lottery Community Fund

NDBF Biosphere Communities **Purpose:** North Devon Voluntary Services (NDVS) and the North Devon Biosphere Foundation (NDBF) are partnering on the Biosphere Communities project to empower local communities in taking action for nature, climate, and sustainable land management NDVS supports eight community hubs by building their capacity, delivering engagement and training workshops, and collaborating with partners like Westcountry Rivers Trust and Biosphere Community Animators. Their work focuses on co-creating activities that reflect community aspirations and environmental priorities, while contributing to broader initiatives such as exhibitions, forums, and youth events.	North Devon Biosphere Foundation
Disability Friendship Groups **Purpose:** To set up two in person friendship groups for members of the community who have disabilities. Run a session once per month in Barnstaple and Ilfracombe respectively.	Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA)
Devon Connect Landing Page **Purpose:** To support with the costs associated with our North Devon Landing page of online platform Devon Connect.	Devon County Council (Locality Budget)
DAS Project 2 **Purpose:** To support Age Concern Barnstaple in the successful delivery of the National Lottery funded Community Transport Partnership by providing project administration and coordination that enables partners to develop and strengthen their community transport services. The role works collaboratively with partner organisations to improve volunteer recruitment and support, develop good governance and best practice, coordinate training and promotional activities, and monitor project progress to ensure funding objectives are achieved. Through this work, the partnership aims to improve access to transport, reduce social isolation, and help people remain independent within their local communities.	Age Concern and North Devon CIO
Places to Go **Purpose:** **Project One: Devon Connect Youth Research:** To work with the Devon Youth Council to explore how Devon Connect can become more accessible, engaging and relevant for young people across Devon. **Project Two: Young People's Cooking Skills Programme:** To provide opportunities for young people in South Molton to develop practical cooking skills, build confidence, form friendships and reduce social isolation through shared activities. Based on community research. **Project Three: Youth Connection and Wellbeing Activities:** To work in partnership with local organisations to deliver youth-led activities that strengthen social connections, improve wellbeing and reduce isolation among young people in South Molton.	Devon County Council Places to Go Fund

12. Analysis of Assets

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2026 Total £	2025 Total £	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £
Tangible Fixed Assets	218	-	-	218	291	291	-	-
Curent Assets	116,469	8,671	112,504	237,644	202,218	132,978	3,237	66,003
Current Liabilities	(10,808)		(890)	(11,698)	(18,548)	(18,186)	-	(362)
	105,879	8,671	111,614	226,164	183,961	115,083	3,237	65,641

Purpose of Designated Funds

NDVS has felt that it is prudent to provide for redundancy costs. The total estimated as at 31st March 2026 is £21,661 from which £12,990 is calculated as being the cost for those staff working for DASP (Restricted Funding) and is built into their ongoing budget. The remaining £8,671 represents those staff who are currently being funded from Unrestricted Funds.

Non-regular Costs

None have been recorded during 2025/2026.

13. Company Status

NDVS is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital.

Each director of the company is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 towards the assets of the charitable company in the event of liquidation.

14. Grants Redistributed

NDVS were awarded £183,171 via the National Community Lottery as part of the NLCF Reaching Communities/Partnerships project of which £75,107 had to be redistributed to TTVS who collaborate in partnership with NDVS on this project. We also had funds carried over from 24/25 which were received from the Siggery Fund. This is being used to redistribute to smaller charitable entities (on application) for the purpose of providing activities, equipment or services to enable social connection for people living with visual impairment. The total of these funds amounted to £84,739 and are shown as an expenditure item in Restricted Funding.

END OF REPORT