

Homes, Hubs, Hope



BRISTOL
CHARITIES

FOUNDATIONS FOR A FAIRER BRISTOL

Bristol Charities'
Impact Report



**YEAR ENDING
2026**

1st April 2025- 31st March 2026

www.BristolCharities.org.uk

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A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

JULIAN MINES

Welcome to Bristol Charities' Impact Report for YE2026.

This year has been one of growth, collaboration and continued investment in Bristol's communities. Across our homes, hubs and partnerships, we have worked to create lasting change by supporting people with safe housing, stronger local connections and opportunities to thrive.

Throughout this report, you will see the impact of that work in action, from laying foundations for a regional distribution hub to launching a community activators project in Stockwood. These stories reflect the dedication of our staff, Trustees, volunteers, tenants, residents and partners, all working together to build a fairer and more connected Bristol.

As we continue to evolve our work and deliver our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, we remain focused on creating mission-led housing, empowering communities and strengthening the organisations that support our city.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in what we are building together.

Julian

HOMES. HUBS. HOPE.



● A FLOURISHING CITY WHERE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND ●



VISION

Working together to address poverty in Bristol

A flourishing city where no one is left behind



MISSION

Transforming lives, neighbourhoods and the city through community hubs, mission-led housing, and the support that helps charities thrive.

We invest in Bristol's forgotten postcodes - launching, embedding, and expanding neighbourhood hubs in underserved areas of high deprivation.

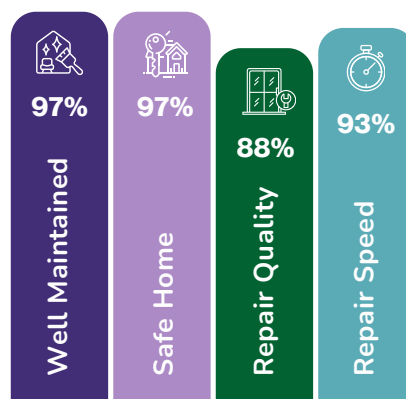
ALMSHOUSING HOMES



Our almshouses provide older people with safe, affordable homes and the opportunity to be part of a supportive community. We believe good housing is about more than a roof over someone's head – it's about creating places where people can feel secure, connected and able to thrive.



"In May, Barstaple House hosted a VE day celebration for our residents of Barstaple and John Fosters Almshouse. The event encapsulated everything that an almshouse should be."



SATISFACTION

Our almshouses are more than places to live. They are communities where neighbours know and support one another, helping residents to stay active, connected and engaged.

As Bristol's housing challenges continue to grow, we are also exploring opportunities to expand our housing offer, creating more homes and stronger communities for people who need them most.



COMMUNITY HUBS

HUBS

Bristol Charities' Community Hubs programme builds on our existing presence in the communities where we already have strong relationships. Through the Vassall Community Hub in Frome Vale and our work in Stockwood, we are developing trusted, place-based hubs that strengthen community connections and respond to local need.

Alongside refining our community hub model, we have also begun exploring and developing our work in Henbury & Brentry, where Bristol Charities has a long-standing presence through our almshouses. This will help extend our place-based approach and lay the foundations for greater impact across the city.



This year, our work in Stockwood focused on bringing people together, strengthening local networks and creating opportunities for residents to connect with their community.



STOCKWOOD COMMUNITY HUB

904

MEALS
PROVIDED

↑
61%

14

HUB
VOLUNTEERS

18+

COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS

STOCKWOOD FOOD CLUB

At the heart of this was Food Club, which provided 904 meals and food support opportunities throughout the year. More than a source of affordable food, Food Club has become an important community space where neighbours can meet, chat and build relationships.

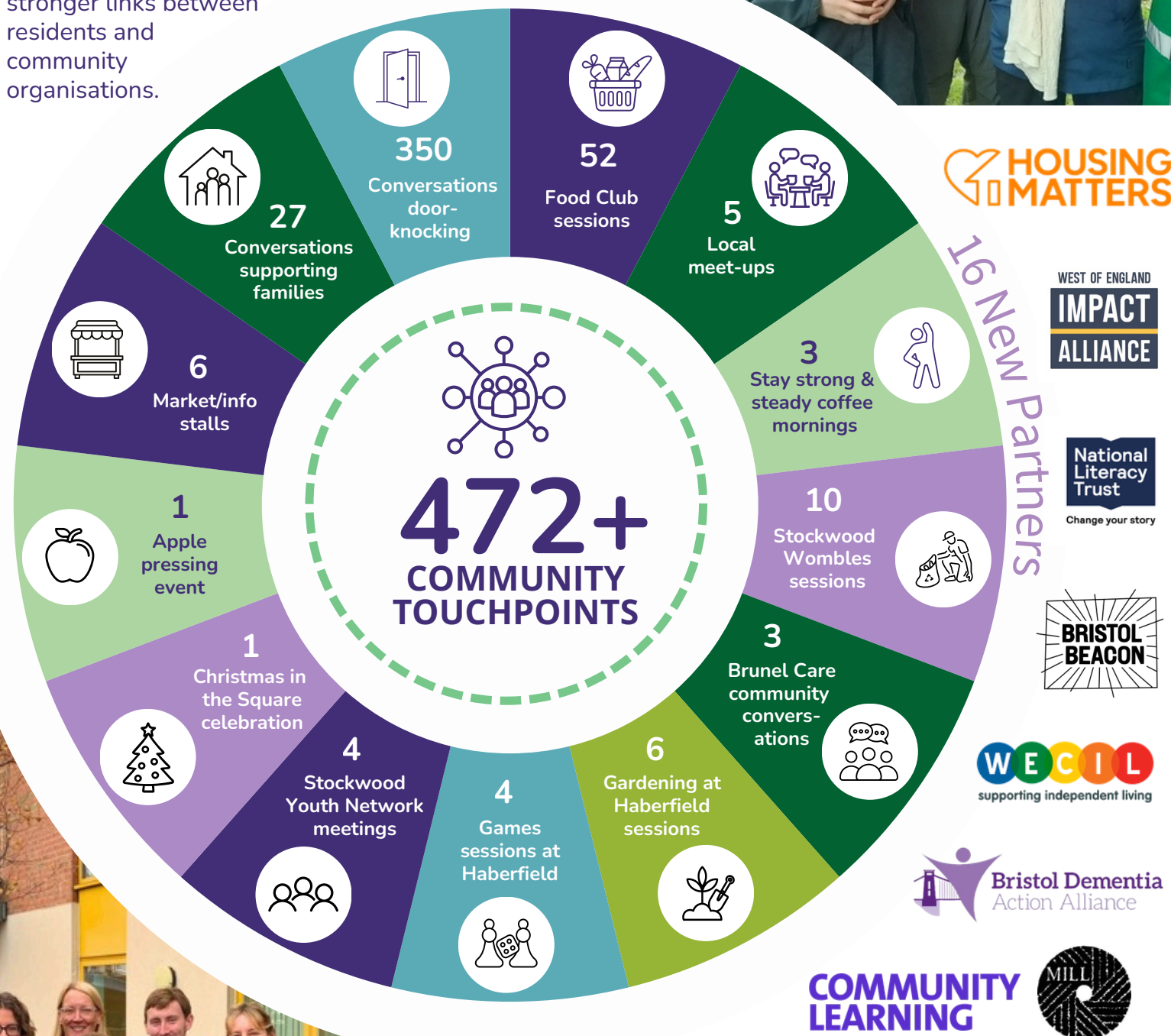


COMMUNITY HUBS



COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

Through our Community Connectors project, local residents were employed to speak with their neighbours, helping us better understand community needs, identify shared interests and connect people who could benefit from one another's support. These conversations led to new friendships, increased participation in local activities and stronger links between residents and community organisations.



"I used to dash into Food Club and out again. I didn't realise how much Food Club means to people. People like to come in and have a chat. And having the [community learning] cooking course too, there's more going on for people."

COMMUNITY HUBS



VASSALL
COMMUNITY HUB

869

PEOPLE
WELCOMED

↑
24%

40,100



MEALS
PROVIDED

↑
41%

34

FAMILIES
SUPPORTED

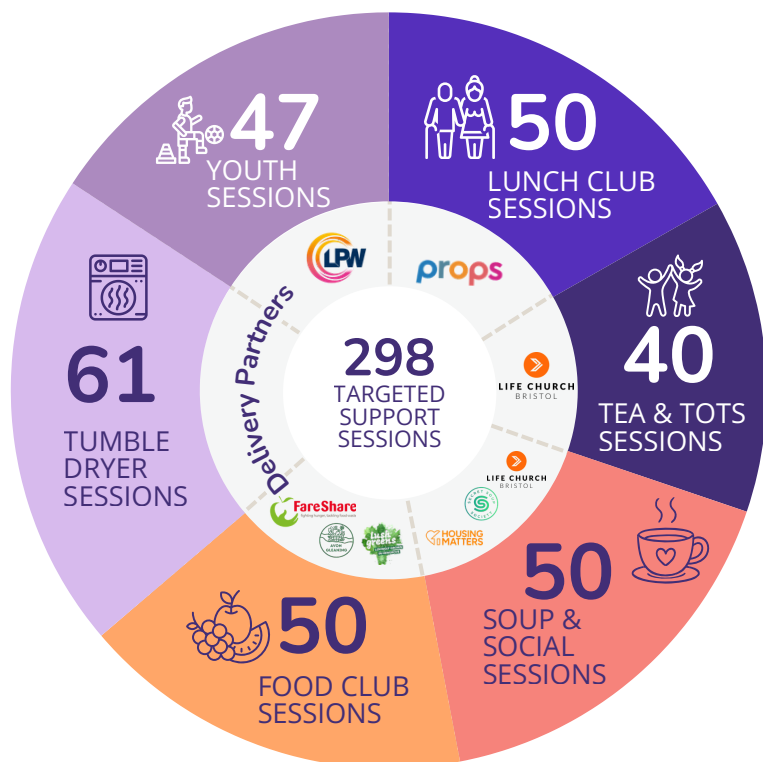
40

HUB
ACTIVITIES

↑
54%

This year has been one of steady growth for Vassall Community Hub as we continued to listen, learn and evolve our offer alongside the needs of the local community.

TARGETED SUPPORT SESSIONS



"As soon as you walk into the Vassall Centre, it's like walking into a warm hug. A hug goes a long way."

*Lorna, Community Member
& Hub Volunteer*

Many of our activities have grown directly from conversations with local residents and partners about what would make the biggest difference. From Tea and Tots, developed in response to local schools identifying a need for early years play opportunities, to our Lunch Club, which helps older residents connect and reduce loneliness, every session is designed to support wellbeing and strengthen community connections.

JOINED-UP SUPPORT

Many people engage with multiple activities and services over time, building trusted relationships that help them access the right support, develop confidence and become active members of the Hub community.



3

GARDENS/HOMES
TRANSFORMED BY
VOLUNTEERS



"I don't know what I'd do without it. Everyone's very friendly, always laughing. I love them all in here."
Lunch Club Member



COMMUNITY HUBS: VASSALL COMMUNITY HUB

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Partnership working is at the heart of everything we do. This year, we built even stronger relationships with local schools, charities and community organisations – supporting families identified by Frome Vale Academy, bringing pupils and older residents together through our Lunch Club, and welcoming Housing Matters to our Soup and Social sessions to offer free housing advice and support.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Strong communities are built by the people who live there. Throughout the year, we created opportunities for residents to share their ideas, shape local priorities and take an active role in improving their neighbourhood. From community engagement stalls at Frome Vale Academy and Hub events to a Community Action Day that brought residents together to create a new community garden and refresh a local vandalised phone box, people helped shape the future of Oldbury Court.



One lasting outcome has been the creation of a local Phone Box Group, bringing together residents who are working collaboratively to transform the disused phone box into a valued community asset. By listening to local voices and supporting people to lead change, we're helping build a stronger, more connected community.

Alongside our regular weekly and monthly activities, we hosted a range of seasonal events and one-off community celebrations throughout the year. From family fun days and holiday activities to cultural celebrations, community action days and wellbeing events, these opportunities helped bring people together, introduce new visitors to the Hub and strengthen community connections.

7
BIGGER
COMMUNITY
EVENTS AND
PARTIES



HUBS: FROME VALE

GRASSROOTS GRANTS



25

GRANTS IN
3 YEARS

£10,000

INVESTED IN THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY

1020

PEOPLE DIRECTLY
IMPACTED

This year marked the completion of the initial funding phase of the Grassroots Grants programme in Frome Vale. Over the past three years, we've supported local people to deliver projects that strengthen community connections, improve wellbeing and build resilience.



Thanks to the programme's success, further funding has now been secured, allowing us to continue backing community-led change in Frome Vale.

FROME VALE COMMUNITY ACTIVATORS



Soroush

"Kind, Generous,
Delightfully Creative"



Lindsay

"Certified Nap Enthusiast &
Neighbourhood Connector"



Uzma

"Adventurous
Helpful & Social"

Three local volunteers became Community Activators, helping residents develop ideas, build confidence, and apply for Frome Vale Grassroots Grants. They also play a key role in encouraging community participation and helping make funding decisions.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME



66
TOTAL
VOLUNTEERS



55
VASSALL
COMMUNITY HUB
VOLUNTEERS

11
STOCKWOOD
COMMUNITY HUB
VOLUNTEERS

"The Vassall Centre is our happy place. It's a village, a community. It's made such a difference in our lives."

Volunteers are at the heart of our work. From supporting activities and welcoming visitors to helping deliver food support and community projects, they make a vital contribution to our hubs and neighbourhoods every day.

FOOD CLUBS

 18

TEA & TOTS

 4

SOUP & SOCIAL

 7

LUNCH CLUB

 8

FIX IT FORWARD

 5

DIGITAL SKILLS RUN BY UWE STUDENTS

 11

HUB ADMIN/COMMS

 3

EVENTS/OTHER

 10



Volunteering also creates opportunities for people to build confidence, develop new skills and connect with others. Our volunteers come from all walks of life, including students gaining experience for future employment, residents looking to give back to their community and people who have retired and want to stay active and involved.

"When you're volunteering in a role it's easier to talk to people. You immediately have something to talk about and the conversation flows from there. It's much easier than just attending a coffee morning."

INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANISATIONAL GRANTS

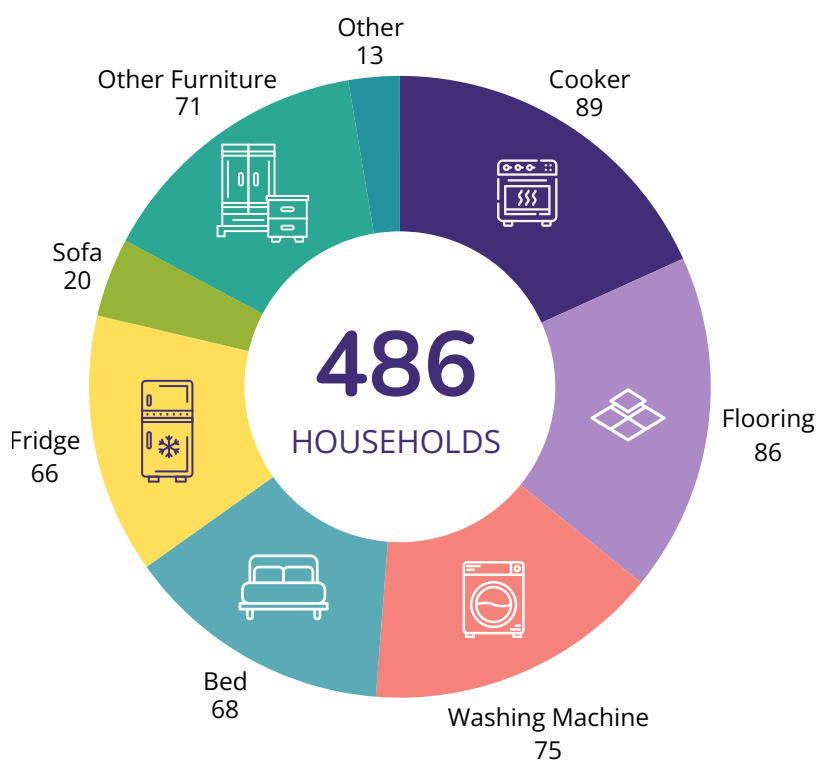
£211,519

Total grants awarded from four active grant funds



£163,863

INDIVIDUALS



TOP REASONS

Mental Health
23%

Physical Health
21%

Homeless
14.5%



54% of the Individual Grants funding supported disabled applicants



47% supported people living in the top 10 wards of highest deprivation



£47,656

ORGANISATIONS

This year, we increased the amount of grant funding awarded to local charities delivering services to key communities across Bristol. By supporting trusted organisations already embedded within local communities, we helped ensure funding reached the people who need it most.



Supporting
Props - see
page 14.



Launched three Carers Community Cafés at Vassall Community Hub, Stockwood Hub & the Beehive Centre in Speedwell, including a dedicated café for Somali carers.

INVESTING FOR IMPACT

TOTAL IMPACT INVESTMENT



This year saw the launch of Bristol Charities' Total Impact Investment Strategy, marking a significant shift in how we manage our assets. Building on the foundations laid in previous years, we have moved beyond a traditional investment model and begun actively aligning our endowments with our charitable mission.

Our approach recognises that investments can do more than generate financial returns. By increasing our focus on ethical and impact-led investments, we are directing capital towards organisations, projects and initiatives that contribute to stronger communities, a more sustainable future and a thriving VCSE sector.

Alongside supporting major initiatives such as Props and the Regional Distribution Hub, we have continued to reshape our wider investment portfolio, increasing investment in sustainable funds and organisations whose activities contribute to positive social and environmental outcomes. This is an important step towards ensuring that every part of our balance sheet works to support Bristol Charities' vision of a flourishing city where no one is left behind.

At the end of 25/26 we can confidently say that Total Impact is a key consideration within our balance sheet



Appointment of LGT
Wealth Management as
investment managers



£1.9m

Invested in sustainable/
transition bonds, directing
capital towards
environmental and social
projects.



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

£2.6m

Invested in SDG equities

Total Return
13.03%

Against long-term
target of 6.1% and
relevant benchmark
of 10.0%

INVESTING FOR IMPACT

INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITY



£200,000

Invested in Props through grants, loans and other financial support



May 2026

1st May 2026
Props joined the Bristol Charities group



25+ Years

Supporting adults with learning disabilities



One of the most significant milestones in our impact investing journey this year was reaching an agreement for Props to join the Bristol Charities Group. For more than 25 years, Props has supported adults with learning disabilities to build skills, gain confidence and access meaningful employment.

The partnership builds on several years of support from Bristol Charities, including around £200,000 in grants, working capital loans and other financial support. By bringing our organisations closer together, we can strengthen Props' long-term sustainability while creating more opportunities for adults with learning disabilities across Bristol.

This partnership demonstrates how impact investment can go beyond funding, using long-term collaboration to help mission-led organisations grow their reach and increase their impact.

COLLABORATION IN ACTION

- **982 meals** prepared by Props trainees for our Lunch Club since February 2025, helping create a warm, welcoming space for older residents.
- The **Props Café** is at the heart of the Vassall Centre, providing trainees with valuable workplace experience while serving tenants, visitors and the local community.
- **Trainees support our Tea & Tots sessions**, contribute to the Growing Club and grow produce for the café, developing practical and vocational skills along the way.
- Props also catered for our **Strategy Launch**, produced **T-shirts** for our staff and volunteers, and their trainees bring joy and life to the Vassall Centre every day.

INVESTING FOR IMPACT

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION HUB

One of the most ambitious projects to emerge from our new Total Impact Investment Strategy is the proposed Regional Distribution Hub. Developed in partnership with the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (WECA) and FareShare South West, the hub will create vital infrastructure to help charities and community organisations access affordable storage, distribute essential items and respond more effectively to rising levels of need across the region.

£2m

CO-INVESTMENT
SECURED FROM
WECA

67,550

CHILDREN LIVE
IN RELATIVE
POVERTY ACROSS
THE WEST OF
ENGLAND



FOOD, HOUSEHOLD
GOODS, FURNITURE,
TECHNOLOGY AND
OTHER ITEMS

30,000 sq ft

POTENTIAL
REGIONAL HUB
SPACE

WEST | MAYORAL
OF ENGLAND | COMBINED
AUTHORITY

BRISTOL
CHARITIES

Working together to address poverty in Bristol

FareShare
South West

A network partner of
Felix Rescuing
food for
fuller lives

"It's going to be the first of its kind and it's an opportunity to think about how we can support families in crisis."

Helen Godwin, West of England Mayor

The project demonstrates how strategic cross-sector partnerships can use capital to create long-term infrastructure that strengthens the resilience of the voluntary sector. Alongside providing space for food and essentials redistribution, the hub has the potential to support skills development, training, employment opportunities and greater collaboration between organisations tackling poverty and inequality.

This year, we secured £2 million of co-investment from WECA. The project demonstrates how strategic partnerships and mission-led investment can unlock solutions at a scale that no single organisation could achieve alone.



INVESTING FOR IMPACT



THE VASSALL CENTRE



This year, we continued to invest in improvements to the Vassall Centre for tenants, visitors and community organisations. All meeting rooms were refreshed, two new meeting spaces were created, and improvements to reception and wayfinding have made the Centre more welcoming and accessible.

We also strengthened our Centre team and expanded room availability into evenings and weekends, increasing opportunities for organisations to make use of the space. Alongside the launch of a **beautiful community garden** for the café and Hub, these improvements are helping the Vassall Centre grow as a vibrant home for Bristol's voluntary and community sector.



"Amazing revamp, an oasis for neurodivergent people, nice cafe with homemade food, rooms for meetings are perfect with a good price"
Antonio Mereno - Google review



53

Ulez free Parking Spots



340

Bike Spaces



Google
Customer Reviews
★★★★★



42,654

VISITORS FOR MEETING BOOKINGS



26

CHARITY/VCSE TENANTS



174

NEW CUSTOMERS



9,169 ^{91%}

HOURS OF ROOM BOOKINGS



2

NEW MEETING ROOMS



EDUCATION

BRISTOL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

In 2025-26, BEP strengthened collaboration around a shared vision for equitable outcomes, delivering professional learning, mentoring, networks and enrichment opportunities, while a Student Board representing 12 schools ensured young people's voices remained central to the partnership's work.

BEP

17

Schools and partners working together for a better future for children and young people

YOUTH TALKS



11
SCHOOLS



132
STUDENTS



19
FINALISTS

SUPPORTING STAFF



15

CPD/Network sessions

10

BEP Host organisations

131

Staff bookings

19

Bristol Schools

15

Online collaborative staff spaces set up

"I felt so proud of myself for stretching myself to do public speaking"

"Lovely to meet other colleagues going through the same challenges and share expertise."

BRISTOL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP STUDENT SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT

This pilot programme brought together secondary and primary schools to deliver social action projects in some of Bristol's most disadvantaged communities. Year 12 students developed leadership and citizenship skills while helping younger pupils build confidence, engagement and aspirations, demonstrating the value of peer-led support and cross-school collaboration.



40

YEAR 12
STUDENTS

4

SECONDARY
SCHOOLS

5

PRIMARY
SCHOOLS

Girls Club

7-week
empowerment
mentoring for
12 Year 5 girls.

Sports Club

3 sessions of
sports, team-
building & lunch
with Year 5s

Reading Buddies

Weekly reading
support for 2
half terms

Science Workshops

2 Student run
workshops for
year 6 classes

“We presented female figures that made a difference in the world, despite the misogyny they faced, and how we can learn to be confident and successful in whatever we choose to do, like Malala Yousafzai and Maria Skłodowska-Curie. We also prepared an activity each session for the girls to do (and we joined in too!) like making butterflies and shields with words of affirmations and writing letters to themselves about what their hopes and aspirations are for when they grow up.”

BEP
PRIDE!
NETWORK

 **1**
MEETUP

 **5**
SCHOOLS

 **20**
STUDENTS

 **7**
STAFF



“It was really nice
to meet people
similar to me”

“I enjoyed how
I felt included
and seen.”

The **BEP Pride Network** was launched this year, bringing together LGBTQAI+ students and allies from schools across Bristol.

- Improving wellbeing, confidence and belonging.
- Providing a safe space for connection, learning and support.
- Building links between students from diverse school communities and experiences.





CROSS-ORGANISATIONAL WORKING GROUPS

ED&I, WELLBEING & SUSTAINABILITY

Our cross-organisational working groups focus on three key priorities: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I), Wellbeing, and Environment and Sustainability. By bringing colleagues and trustees together from across the organisation, they are helping to turn ideas into action and embed our values in everything we do.



**EQUITY,
DIVERSITY
AND
INCLUSION**

9 
STAFF
MEMBERS

4 
MEETINGS

- **Staff survey** identified priorities to improve equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging.
- **Anti-racism training** delivered, with workplace actions developed by staff.
- Comprehensive review of our **ED&I policy**.
- **Communications commitment** to include ED&I themes and representation.
- Welcomed **Frome Vale Academy's Equality Group** to help shape a more welcoming Vassall Centre for children and young people.
- Developed a clear **ED&I action plan** to guide future work.



WELLBEING

9 
STAFF
MEMBERS

6 
MEETINGS

- Staff **wellbeing survey identified priorities** for improvement.
- **Trustee Away Day** focused on organisational wellbeing and culture.
- **HR Working Group** introduced more consistent recruitment and management practices, including a new line manager guide.
- Annual appraisals completed, salaries benchmarked, staff benefits renewed, and improvements made to induction and training.
- A clear **wellbeing action plan** is in place to continue building on this work.



**ENVIRONMENT
AND
SUSTAINABILITY**

9 
STAFF
MEMBERS

5 
MEETINGS

- **Staff and Trustee Away Days** helped shape our environmental priorities.
- Developed an **Environment and Sustainability Action Plan** to guide future work.
- Progress included community growing projects, gardening initiatives and environmental events across our hubs.
- Continued **improvements to our outdoor spaces**, including plans for a new wellbeing garden at the Vassall Centre.
- Building momentum towards a greener, more sustainable Bristol Charities.

SHARING OUR STORY

GROWING OUR IMPACT



49,000

Bristol Charities website page views. Average engagement time per user: 1 min 19 sec. 13% increase

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



~60 ARTICLES

~4.8 pieces per month

48% ED&I explicit/ embedded content

18 Digital Newsletters sent out

ENGAGEMENT

x10

Increase in stakeholder engagement

180%

Increase in LinkedIn follower growth

INCREASED LOCAL & NATIONAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

the guardian

Bristol Post

fishpondsvoice

BBC RADIO Bristol



NEWS / CHARITIES

600-YEAR-OLD CHARITY UNVEILS £10M PLAN TO TACKLE INEQUALITY ACROSS CITY

By MILAN PERERA Friday Mar 20, 2026

Bristol Charities, one of the oldest charity organisations in the UK, has unveiled an ambitious £10m plan to tackle inequality across the city at a recent event.

BCfm

B24/7

COMMUNITY COMMS



8582

Vassall Hub website visitors



2124

Stockwood Hub website visitors



331

New followers on Vassall Hub Facebook



137

New followers on Vassall Hub Instagram



259

New followers on Stockwood Hub Facebook

LOOKING AHEAD TOGETHER

STRATEGY LAUNCH EVENT



ENDING THE YEAR WITH MOMENTUM

Bristol Charities ended 2025/26 with the launch of our new 5 year strategy - bringing together partners, funders, charities, policymakers, businesses and community organisations from across the city.

More than a launch event, the evening was an opportunity to strengthen relationships and spark new conversations about how we can work together to tackle poverty and inequality in Bristol. The strong attendance, positive feedback and significant interest in collaboration demonstrated the appetite for partnership across sectors.

As we move into 2026/27, these conversations are already translating into action, creating new opportunities to work together towards a fairer Bristol.

Registrations

306

with a 64.4%
attendance rate on
the day

Future Engagement

92%

rated likelihood to
attend/support future
events at 8–10.



The thought and care that runs through [Bristol Charities](#) like a stick of rock was evident from the moment you walked in, and were welcomed by the Purple Army of the charity's staff and volunteers, and continued after leaving with a goody bag including [Props Bristol](#) hand-made cake."

- Impact Alliance



LOOKING AHEAD TOGETHER

WHAT'S NEXT

Over the coming year, we will build on the strong foundations laid during 2025/26, turning ambitious ideas into lasting impact for Bristol's communities.

A key priority will be securing a permanent home for the Regional Distribution Hub, creating vital infrastructure to coordinate the redistribution of essential goods and strengthen support for charities across the West of England.

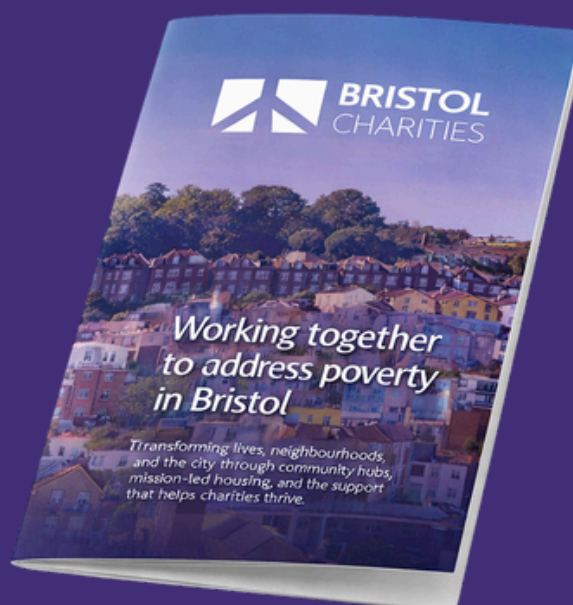
We will continue to develop and refine our support for the voluntary and community sector, ensuring Bristol Charities' expertise, partnerships and assets deliver even greater value to the organisations working on the frontline.

We will also continue exploring opportunities to develop new housing, building on our long history of providing safe, affordable homes while responding to the changing needs of Bristol's communities. We will continue investing in the Vassall Centre too, improving its facilities and developing plans for a new wellbeing garden to create an even more welcoming environment for tenants, visitors and the wider community.

Alongside this, we will further develop Bristol Charities' Community Transformation Model – a distinctive, place-based approach that brings together community hubs, partnerships, investment and practical support to create stronger, more connected neighbourhoods.

We will also embed a robust impact measurement framework to better understand the difference we make, inform future investment and demonstrate the long-term outcomes of our work.

Finally, we will strengthen our partnerships, diversify our investment portfolio and secure new funding, ensuring Bristol Charities has the resources to invest in Bristol's communities for generations to come.





**BRISTOL
CHARITIES**

THANK YOU ▼

None of the work in this report would be possible without the dedication, generosity and collaboration of so many people. Thank you to our residents, tenants, volunteers, staff, Trustees, partners, funders and supporters for helping us build stronger communities across Bristol.

Together, we are building a flourishing city where no one is left behind.



BRISTOL CHARITIES

