

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22



Volunteer Centre

West Berkshire

Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1156302 est 1974



VCWB Annual report provides a summary of all of the activities that have occurred during 2021-22.

DIRECTORS OVERVIEW

2021/22 held many expectations for the world and our little part of it. Like all organisations we were hopeful of a swifter fuller recovery and there was hope of a return to normality. This evaded us and the pandemic continues to have an effect on the day-to-day use of our services and the individuals and organisations that we seek to support. Our transport services are now approaching 50% of pre pandemic levels, our recruitment levels are much quicker to respond, and our voluntary sector support services have been as busy as ever, with pressures created by covid causing other matters to come to the fore of the community's needs.

Perhaps the single most important change and indeed improvement for us was the move to new offices in Broadway House at the very end of March 2021, our ever-closer working relationship with Greenham Trust resulted in a formal alliance being formed. Our respective officers meet regularly to discuss issues that face the community from an organisational and financial perspective.

CHALLENGES

We faced funding challenges and the latter part of 2021 resulted in a great deal of work bidding for funds to move us into 2022 for the next 3 years.

THANKYOU!

I want to express thanks to my team in no particular order have been great colleagues, they are Lizzie Fenton, Ros Littlejon, Jean Fleming, Katy Hawthorne, Gill Brown, Gill Smith, Catriona Ottner, Karen Eeles, Julia Jones, Sarah Summerbell, Julian Greaves, Sara Hanson, Pankaja Samant, Chris Read, Paul Wilding, Jacqui Letsome, Jan Ferrer, Sue Bennet, Trevor Lisseman, Chris Armitage and Andy Parsons.

I want to thank all of our volunteer car drivers, volunteer bus drivers and not least the team of trustees so ably led by Brien Beharrell who provides me with first class support based on her very considerable experience within business and a clear perspective of how communities tick in Newbury and West Berkshire.

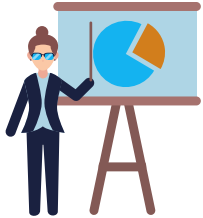


GARRY POULSON
DIRECTOR VCWB

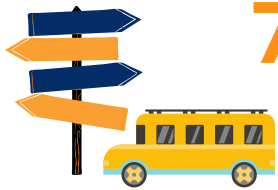
OUR IMPACT IN 2021-22



264 We promoted 264 active volunteering opportunities and gave volunteering advice to 488 people.



11 We arranged 11 Training Courses delivered and 197 people attended the courses.



776 Handy bus undertook 776 trips for 2367 passengers.



51 We published 51 weekly news bulletins.

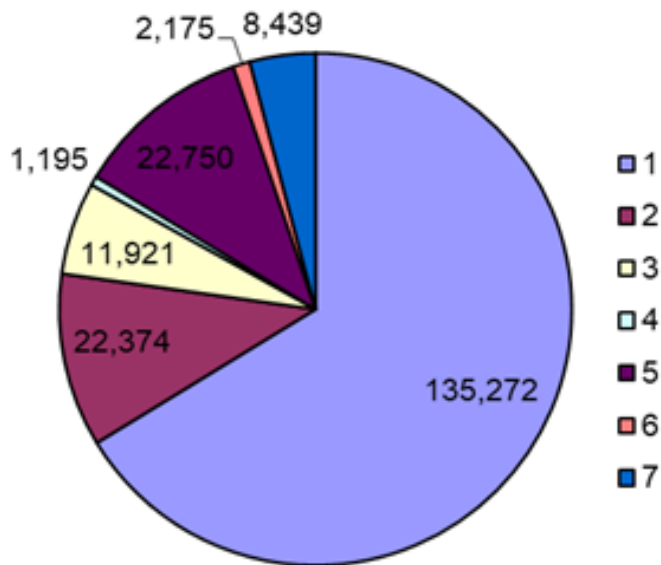


4494 During the year Shopmobility issued total of 4494 wheelchair and scooters and joined 145 new members.



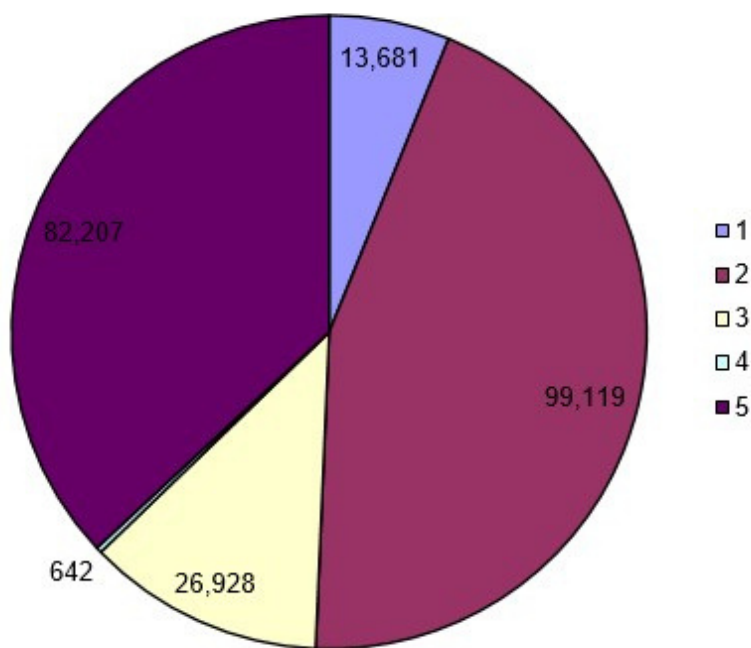
230 During the year Suicide Prevention group have visited 230 different organisations.

EXPENDITURE



1 Transport/Project costs	£135,272
2 Employment costs	£22,374
3 Premises costs	£11,921
4 Advertising and publicity	£1,195
5 Depreciation	£22,750
6 Postage,stationery & telephone	£2,175
7 Other overhead costs	£8,439
Total	£204,126

ANALYSIS OF INCOME



1 Donations,legacies etc	£13,681
2 Grant Income	£99,119
3 Direct transport income	£26,928
4 Investment income	£642
5 Other income	£82,207
Total	£222,577

- surplus of income over expenditure £18,451.Full detailed accounts are available.please write to the treasure accounts@vcwb.org.uk

ABOUT OUR HISTORY

In 1974 the government of the day wanted to see better coordinated voluntary action. A steering group chaired by the Reverend Michael Scott Joynt of Newbury Churches worked together in 1973 and established the Newbury Volunteer Bureau in 1974. We are now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation no. 1156302.

The Charity's first home was in offices above the old Newbury Plaza in the Market Place, and from there it moved across the Market Place to the Town Hall.

In 1995 the Charity moved to Bolton Place just off Northbrook Street opposite Camp Hopson. Purpose refurbished Victorian cottages now house this vibrant and forward-thinking charity. In 2004 its name was changed to Volunteer Centre West Berkshire. The organisation provides a range of direct services to the public, but its overriding ethos is to match local people to local need. The computerised Job Shop for volunteers now carries details about more than 350 volunteering opportunities in West Berkshire; visitors to Bolton Place are always amazed at just how many things can be done in a voluntary capacity.

We also provide services and information to those looking to start and fund charities.

The Charity is governed by a board of Charity Trustees and is managed on a day to day basis by a dedicated team of local people, led by the Charity's director, Garry Poulson.

The Charity invites you to make contact with them to find out more about their services from both a user's and potential volunteer's perspective. They look forward to hearing from you.

AND NOW

Currently our new home is **Broadway house, near clock tower.** In July 21, Volunteer Centre West Berkshire and Greenham Trust announced our Voluntary Sector Support Alliance. Our two charities have formed this alliance to better support new and existing community and voluntary groups across the district.



SUPPORTING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Importantly we established a working alliance with **Greenham Trust** to better support the voluntary and community sector.

During the year we have provided 51 weekly news bulletins to 782 subscribers. Our small team have supported 28 training courses with our training partner **connecting communities in Berkshire** Our funding advisor has provided funding support sessions for new and existing charities. During the year we assisted in the creation of an educational charity providing leading edge IT teaching in educational settings.

ESTABLISHMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

We also established a **Lacrosse charity** in Newbury and a **Lambourn based well being charity**. We have also been working towards a **village community shop** in partnership with **Greenham Trust and WBC**.

Our director has been providing advocacy for the sector and attending more than 10 local authority and NHS boards including the new **BOB (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West) Berks Bucks and Oxon Health Alliance** in readiness for the new larger **clinical commissioning group (The CCG)**

SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION GROUP

In May 2017 we established the **West Berkshire Suicide Prevention Action Group** in order to bring about greater awareness of the issue and to provide training and resources for local frontline workers, businesses and sports clubs.

WBSPAG

In the year we managed to secure funds from both Greenham Trust and West Berkshire Council from the surviving to Thriving fund and in the early part of 2022 a further local grant of £5000 will enable us to extend the contract of our support worker. Our worker Sue is now a fully accredited Suicide First Aid Trainer. During the year we have visited 20 Sports clubs, 28 barbers and hairdressers, 5 tattoo parlours, 65 pubs and restaurants, 5 betting shops, 25 motor garages, 22 health related organisations, 60 miscellaneous premises. Our website was also launched. This body is chaired by **Garry Poulson** who is supported by **Jerry Dixon** of Newbury Samaritans as his vice chairman.

Contact :Sue Bennet

wbspag@vcwb.org.uk

www.westberkshiresuicideprevention.org

During the year we have given advice and information on volunteering to 488 individuals from 45 different West Berkshire parishes. There are currently 264 active volunteering opportunities on our database. Our flexiteer service provides information on short-term and one-off volunteering roles.



FLEXITEERING

Flexiteering is the new way to Volunteer your skills. We currently have 41 flexiteers registered with us. In January we provided an online volunteer recruitment fair for 29 charities.

Here is a quote from a happy volunteer.

“Volunteering allows me to get out and about and it is nice to know that I am helping others and making their lives easier when they may be going through a hard time. It has given me a sense of purpose during lockdown. Knowing you are giving something back makes you feel good. People have helped me in the past and as such, I wanted to help others.” –

Naomi Hinton, Volunteer

NEWBURY AND THATCHAM HANDYBUS

Taking delivery of two new buses has been a highlight during the year and we are grateful to West Berks Council Community Transport department for the investment.

In particular we aim to commence our daily book a ride service using our new 16-seater Peugeot boxer bus which has fantastic new decals thanks to the kind support of Apple Print and Creative and their design team.

Thanks of course to our team of Handybus drivers who can be seen out and about 6 days and evenings a week.



During the year in Newbury, we undertook

487 trips for **1435** passengers Volunteers undertook **586** hours of time.

In Thatcham we undertook **208** trips for **851** passengers and drivers gave **357.5** hours of time.

Our wheel chairman vehicle helped with 81 trips for **81** passengers.

Contact :Lizzie Stanley

handybus@vcwb.org.uk

Call 01635 37111

Mon – Fri 9am to 1pm

THE COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

The car scheme continues to steadily increase the number of passengers using the service.

The Pandemic has had a catastrophic effect in terms of confidence to 'go out' this confidence is returning commensurate with medical appointments that are slowly returning to 'in person' appointments.



During the year in Newbury, we undertook

The total number of journeys was **2454**. **75%** of all trips are medical needs.

Thanks to the office volunteer team and the team of volunteer car drivers who continue to provide amazing selfless service for others in the town.

Contact: car@vcwb.org.uk

Call 016356 49004

Mon – Fri 10am to 1pm

ABOUT OUR SHOPMOBILITY

The past year has seen a slow but steady return of service users, the average age of users being over 60 and a lack of confidence with that cohort will take some time recover to pre pandemic levels of service.

We were required to bid for the funds from West Berkshire Council to run the service from 2022 for the next 3 years. We are pleased that those funds were awarded to us.



During the year our equipment was used for a total of 4494 days.

we enlisted **145** new members and **43** people renewed their membership for a further year.

Thanks to our team of Lindsay, Vicky, Angie, Pat and Angela.

Contact: newburyshopmobility@vcwb.org.uk

Call 01635 523854

Mon to Sat 10am to 3pm



THANK YOU!

Again, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing Volunteers, Lizzie Fenton, Ros Littlejon, Jean Fleming, Katy Hawthorne, Gill Brown, Gill Smith, Catriona Ottner, Karen Eeles, Julia Jones, Sarah Summerbell, Julian Greaves. Special thanks to our hard working small team Sara Hanson, Pankaja Samant, Chris Read, Paul Wilding, Jacqui Letsome, Jan Ferrer, Sue Bennet, Trevor Lisseman, Chris Armitage and Andy Parsons.

For all the support from West Berkshire Council, Greenham trust, Newbury town council, Thatcham town council, BCB, Community fund, Englefield estate, Sovereign, NHS Berkshire west and AP&C

Thanks also to our training partner CCB.

Thank you to all of our volunteer car drivers, volunteer bus drivers and not least the team of trustees led by Brien Beharrell who provides VCWB with first class support based on her very considerable experience within business and a clear perspective of how communities tick in Newbury and West Berkshire.



Many thanks to each and everyone who gave us their time and feedback.

GET IN TOUCH



Volunteer Centre

West Berkshire

Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1156302 est 1974



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Newbury, Berkshire
RG14 1BA



01635 49004



info@vcwb.org.uk



www.volunteerwestberks.org.uk

Follow us!



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[linkedin.com/company/volunteer-centre-west-berkshire/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/volunteer-centre-west-berkshire/)



@VCWB1



[youtube.com/user/volunteertelevision](https://www.youtube.com/user/volunteertelevision)

Opening Times:

Monday - Friday | 9:00am- 1pm

And other times by appointment.

