

What is Stevenage CVS?

We are a local charity (established in 1961) that offers Community and Voluntary sector Support and promotes local voluntary and community action. We exist to encourage innovation and co-operation in the voluntary sector, to aid communication between this sector and the local statutory and public sectors, and to ensure that the voice of the voluntary sector is heard.

We do this by providing our member groups with information, advice, networking and learning opportunities, support and development services.

What does Stevenage CVS do?

We provide access to basic facilities, such as meeting rooms, photocopier and ICT.



We also support local groups through regular newsletters, training, funding advice, and specialist services such as community accountancy, employment and charity legal advice.

Liaison: As a focal point for the local voluntary and community sector, Stevenage CVS encourages networking between individuals and groups within the sector, and between local groups and the statutory and private sectors. This allows local groups to learn from one another, establish contacts and work more effectively.

Representation: With government encouraging involvement of voluntary and community groups in shaping and delivering services, Stevenage CVS enables the views of local groups to be represented., and we are committed to promoting equal opportunities for all. We run the Social Inclusion Forum which provides an opportunity for local groups to share their views on national and local equality issues.



We organise meetings on consultation matters and alert our members to opportunities to get their voice heard.

Development work: Over the years, the local voluntary and community sector has pioneered some of the essential public services that we now take for granted. Stevenage CVS helps to identify gaps in service provision and works with groups to develop new and innovative services to meet these needs. Stevenage Furniture Scheme, Volunteer Centre Stevenage and Chiltern Accountancy and Training (Community Accountancy service to the charity sector) are all examples of projects initiated and supported by Stevenage CVS.

Strategic partnerships: Stevenage CVS works in partnership with local government and other statutory agencies to shape the delivery of services.



We play a key role in empowering local groups to take part in partnerships which may cover several issues or have a particular focus.

I've heard of the Volunteer Centre Stevenage – what's the difference between you?

Volunteer Centre Stevenage matches people interested in volunteering with voluntary opportunities, encourages local interest in volunteering, promotes good practice in volunteer management and develops local volunteering opportunities. They are a separate charity but we work closely together.

It's easier to think of the Volunteer Centre working with people who want to volunteer, and Stevenage CVS working with the organisations they volunteer into.



CVS in a nutshell

We are a local charity (established in 1961) that offers Community and Voluntary sector Support and promotes local voluntary and community action.

We do this by providing our member groups with information, advice, networking and learning opportunities, support and development services.

We are run by charity trustees elected by our member groups, and our Annual General Meeting in July each year is open to everyone!



There's more information on our website: www.stevenagecvs.org.uk