**Introduction to CVS South Gloucestershire**

CVS South Gloucestershire was formed in 2003 to support, develop and represent the voluntary and community sector in the South Gloucestershire unitary authority area. Based in Yate the organisation is now well established and provides the full range of CVS services and activities as defined by the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA).

Since 2011, CVS South Gloucestershire has supported the VCSE Leaders Board which brings together CVS Members that operate at South Gloucestershire level. This Board aims to work collaboratively wherever possible.

In 2019 CVS were founding members of the West of England Civil Society Partnership with our local partners: Voscur (Bristol CVS), Wesport, VANs (CVS - North Somerset); 3SG (Bath & North East Somerset) and The Care Forum. The CVS Chief Executive is a director of WoE-CSP.

CVS CEO advocates for the voluntary and community sector as a member of the South Gloucestershire Local Strategic Partnership), the Safe and Stronger Communities Partnership, and the South Gloucestershire Keep It Local/Future Funding Group.

CVS has a strong Board of Trustees drawn from our membership which oversees the strategic direction and performance of the organisation.

CVS’ Missionisto support, develop and represent voluntary, community and social action in South Gloucestershire.

In 2017, we developed and introduced new Membership Standards for those VCSE organisations without an externally validated quality award. There are 12 standards, from ranging from good governance, to managing resources.

Alongside this we’ve developed an online VCSE Directory which sits on the Council’s procurement portal. One of the ways companies bidding to deliver services can demonstrate Social Value is by choosing a local VCSE organisation to partner with.

CVS South Gloucestershire’s main funding is through South Gloucestershire

Council. Following a restructure in 2015, CVS introduced an Associates model to support its service delivery. This generates some income in consultancy and other chargeable services and our members get the benefit of a discounted rate.

CVS is highly valued by the VCSE sector and well regarded by public sector colleagues, the organisation does not deliver services or bid to deliver front-line services, and therefore can act as an honest broker, championing, advocating for and being a critical-friend to the whole VCSE sector.

CVS champions equalities and diversity and supports South Gloucestershire

Equalities Voice, a partnership of local equalities organisations established in 2017.

As part of our values around Social Justice, CVS is working with South Gloucestershire Council to support the VCSE and the Councils’ response to the Climate Emergency. As part of this work we’ve developed a CVS Membership standard:

CVS South Gloucestershire vision is:

an independent, thriving, diverse, innovative and resilient local voluntary, community and social enterprise sector providing high quality services, in communities across the area and making a positive difference to peoples’ lives

As a member of NAVCA, our national body, our strategic aims and objectives are mapped against their membership standards of the core functions of a CVS which are: Development, Support, Collaboration and Influence.

Another strategic objective is that CVS South Gloucestershire remains a robust, viable and sustainable organisation able to deliver its mission to support, develop and represent the VCSE in South Gloucestershire

The Services we deliver include:

**1** **Development: maintaining up-to-date data and intelligence on the VCSE enabling the identification of trends and any service gaps early-on**

**2 Support: to develop the skills and capacity of VCSE**

**3** **Collaboration: to provide opportunities for the VCSE to collaborate**

**4 Influence: develop and expand relationships and partners**

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