



Cornwall
vsf

Trustee

Recruitment

Pack.

February 2024

Welcome from our Chair.



Thank you for your interest in joining Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum's Board. I hope you find the information included in this pack helpful in supporting your decision.

Cornwall VSF plays a crucial role in connecting, supporting and promoting the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. We are an infrastructure organisation, constituted in 1992 and became a registered charity in 2005. We provide support, advocacy, communications and leverage funding to the wider VCSE for a variety of things such as wellbeing support, training and delivery of services. We facilitate conversations and connections between the VCSE and Cornwall's public sector partners having built strong relationships with Cornwall Council and our NHS colleagues.



In Cornwall, we have over 5,500 VCSE organisations and community groups that employ a paid workforce of over 9,600 staff and deliver 3.7 million hours of volunteering each year. Cornwall VSF works hard to ensure the voices, issues, challenges and needs of this diverse sector are heard at a local, regional and national level. Our strategic and thematic alliances enable the VCSE sector to come together to discuss and take action, on the things which matter most to them.

Continued ...

The last two years have been a period of consolidation, development and growth for the team. In the next 12 months we plan to:

Continue our support to the VCSE in Cornwall:

- Expanding our VCSE Learning Academy by funding training and development for VCSE workforce and volunteers
- Managing our strategic and thematic alliances
- Working to secure funding for VCSE delivery by the sector
- Managing People in Mind partnership
- Providing targeted communications to ensure VCSE is informed and supported.

Work with public sector colleagues:

- Continue pushing for channel shift of resources into the VCSE to deliver preventative and support services for our people and communities
- Explore opportunities to commission the VCSE more effectively to secure more resources into frontline delivery
- Ensure the sector is treated as an equal partner in the design and delivery of services.

Cornwall VSF's membership, reach and impact has grown over recent years, and we are interested in hearing from prospective trustees with a range of experience that can future proof this fantastic charity and continue to support the VCSE sector.

In particular, we are looking to recruit at least two new trustees - one with a strong financial background to act as our Treasurer and provide stewardship of our increasing budget. In addition, we are looking to recruit a trustee that is interested in becoming our future Chair. We are committed to proactively seeking greater diversity and lived experience on our Board, to reflect the people and communities that we serve.

We are a small operational team, who is committed and passionate about delivering our vision of a connected, supported, and well-promoted VCSE that is sustainable, flexible, and resilient. We welcome trustees who are able to offer support, advice and expertise to the team and be actively involved in our work.

About us.

Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum (VSF) is a charity dedicated to connecting, supporting and promoting the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

Our aim is to support local charities, voluntary groups, and social enterprises. We do this to build a stronger and more sustainable community sector.

We were formed in 1992 when a small group of people came together to discuss issues for the sector in Cornwall and have been championing the VCSE sector ever since.



Our members.

We work for and on behalf of our members. They help us shape the direction of the charity and elect our trustees. Our members work for VCSE organisations based in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and we exist to advocate for them on important issues. These include funding, commissioning, value and impact.

We aim to effect positive change for the sector. This is by focusing a large proportion of our lobbying efforts on public sector bodies such as NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and Cornwall Council.

We are here to act independently on behalf of all organisations and groups in the sector.

A core part of our work is providing information, advice, and guidance. We are passionate about strengthening and supporting the VCSE sector in Cornwall.

We listen to the needs and priorities of our members. We identify creative and practical solutions to improve things for people and communities.

Our **Supporting** function includes:

- Providing access to training and development via our VCSE Learning Academy
- Supporting VCSE workforce wellbeing and resilience
- Providing collaborative bid-writing capacity
- Contract management of collaborative VCSE delivery partnerships
- Providing opportunities to share good practice and provide peer support
- Design, marketing and production of communications materials
- Sharing funding opportunities and coordinating funding events
- Sharing resources to equip and support the sector to flourish and grow.

Our vision.

A connected, supported, and well-promoted VCSE. A sector that is sustainable, flexible, and resilient.

Our mission.

Make connections and facilitate impactful dialogue between the sector and statutory bodies. This will result in greater involvement of the sector; in design and delivery of services. We use thematic and place-based forums and alliances.

Support the VCSE sector to deliver high quality, community-led services. We provide access to training, funding opportunities, collaborative bid writing and communications.

Promote the vital role the VCSE sector has in improving the wellbeing of people, communities, and our environment. We demonstrate the impact of the sector, undertaking research, campaigns, and strategic representation.

Our values.

The way we work with the sector and our partners is underpinned by the following values which have been co-designed by the sector. We expect our Board, and staff to demonstrate these values and behaviours and to lead by example:

Compassionate – We are kind, considerate, respectful, and caring.

Integrity – We are open, truthful, transparent, and sincere.

Inclusive – We are approachable, collaborative, accessible and value difference.



Vision

A connected, supported, and well-promoted VCSE. A sector that is sustainable, flexible, and resilient.

Mission

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Values

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- Inclusive — We are approachable, collaborative, accessible and value difference.

Cross-cutting themes of Innovation and Sustainability run through all that we do.

Objectives

Make **connections** and facilitate impactful dialogue between the sector and statutory bodies.

Support the VCSE sector to deliver high quality, community-led services.

Promote the vital role the VCSE sector has in improving the wellbeing of people, communities, and our environment.

Our activities.

Thematic Alliances

Our thematic alliances come together around a specific theme. For example, to eradicate homelessness, food poverty, or to support people with a disability. Thematic alliances also help charities to strengthen their engagement and work together to improve outcomes for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly residents.

Each thematic alliance is chaired by a leader of a community organisation in Cornwall, voted in as Chair by members of the alliance. Alliances receive support from Cornwall VSF in the form of a dedicated Engagement Officer. We also add communications support and financial remuneration for their time and commitment to the cause.

[Read more here](#)



Projects

We come together as a sector to identify emerging trends and issues that require action. Pooling our limited resources, we work together on key projects and campaigns.

These often align with our thematic alliances – for example food poverty, climate and environment. [Find out more about projects we are working on here.](#)

Services

The community sector is well-placed to deliver health and wellbeing services. We coordinate partnerships within the sector and with organisations such as [NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly](#) and [Cornwall Council](#) to deliver services to people locally. Through these services, we are working to create greater connections to promote VCSE integration at all levels. This will help address the issues and inequalities experienced by our communities in Cornwall.

[Find out more about services we are involved in here.](#)



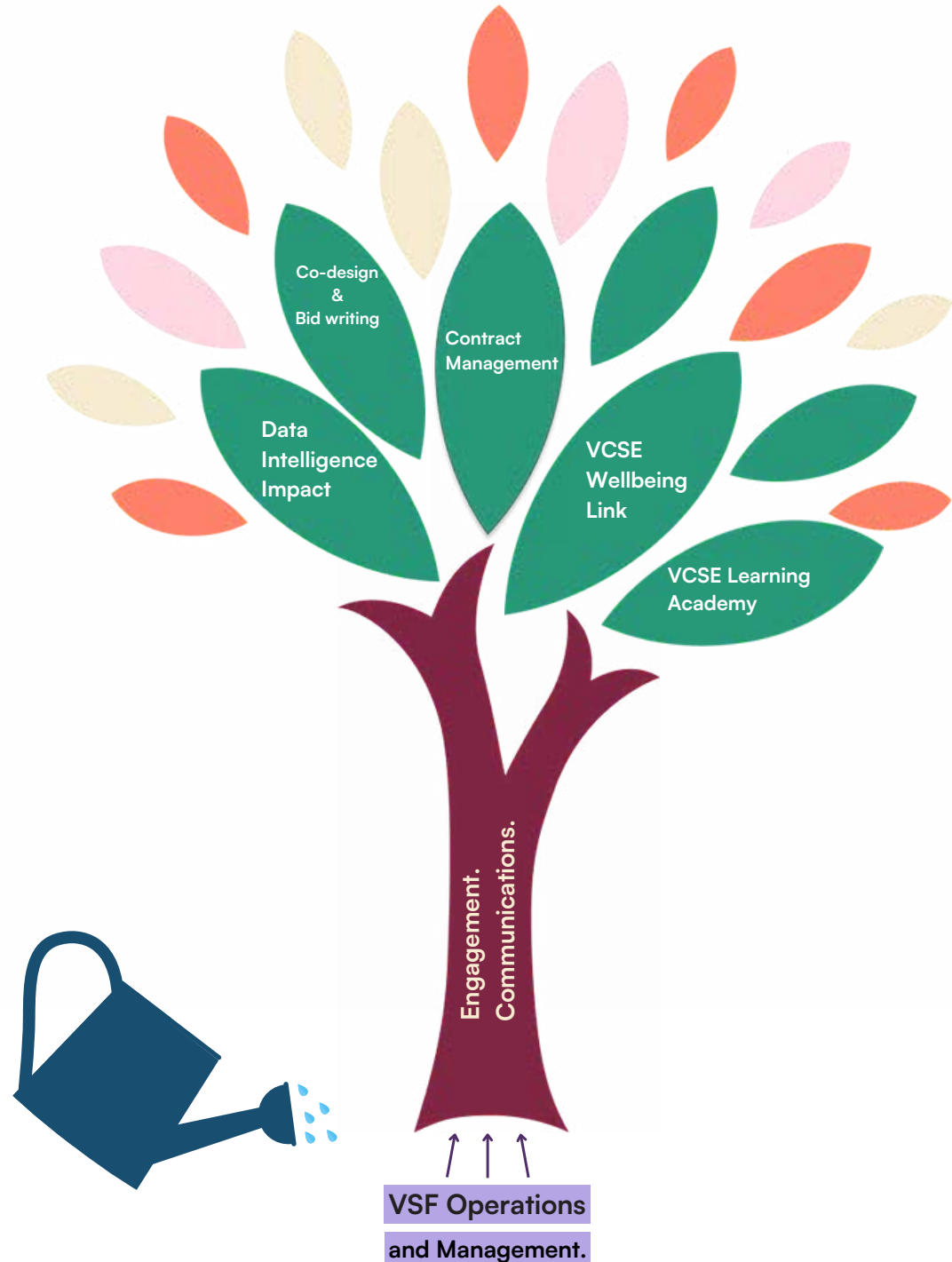
VCSE Learning Academy.

Our VCSE Learning Academy offers funding for organisations to enhance training opportunities for staff and volunteers.

It also offers training for senior managers and leaders in the VCSE sector. This includes funding for qualifications at Level 3 and above.

We offer training for community workers. This training is for people in roles such as community workers, support workers, and social prescribers.

It can fund courses delivered at a time and place that is convenient to its learners. This could include online and distance learning.



Sector wellbeing.

We secured funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund to support sector wellbeing via a contracted service called Care Coins. This was funded by Cornwall Council's Adult Social Care services.

Care Coins has funded Mental Health First Aid training for 184 people working in the sector. It has also funded 480 hours of counselling and therapeutic interventions to anyone working for a VCSE organisation in Cornwall. This included paid staff, trustees and volunteers.

Valuing our team.

We are proud to be a Disability Confident Committed employer.

By being an accredited Real Living Wage employer, we have made a commitment to pay our staff a real Living Wage and helped launch a campaign to make Cornwall a Real Living Wage place.



Promoting the VCSE.

Our **Promoting** function highlights the incredible work of the VCSE sector via our communication channels including our recently revamped website, social media channels and email newsletter.

Our weekly newsletter provides 990+ sector colleagues with news, events, resources, funding opportunities and job/ trustee vacancies.

We showcase VCSE organisations through video case studies which promotes the incredible work they do and also supports bids for funding.



Facts and figures.

Strategic

- 5769 VCSE orgs in Cornwall and IoS
- Employing 9,600 paid staff
- £219 million income into Cornwall
- 150,000 volunteers
- 3.7 million volunteering hours per year.

Connecting

- 10 alliances
- 488 membership organisations.

Supporting

- Over £1,000,000 direct funding into VCSE sector
- Wellbeing stats:
 - 68 VCSE staff accessed counselling
 - 480 therapy hours
 - 184 people have received Mental Health First Aid training.
- Learning academy stats:
 - 218 VCSE staff accessed bespoke training
 - 65 VCSE organisations accessed funding
 - 95% of training delivered by VCSE sector
 - 83% of funding spent within Cornwall.

Promoting

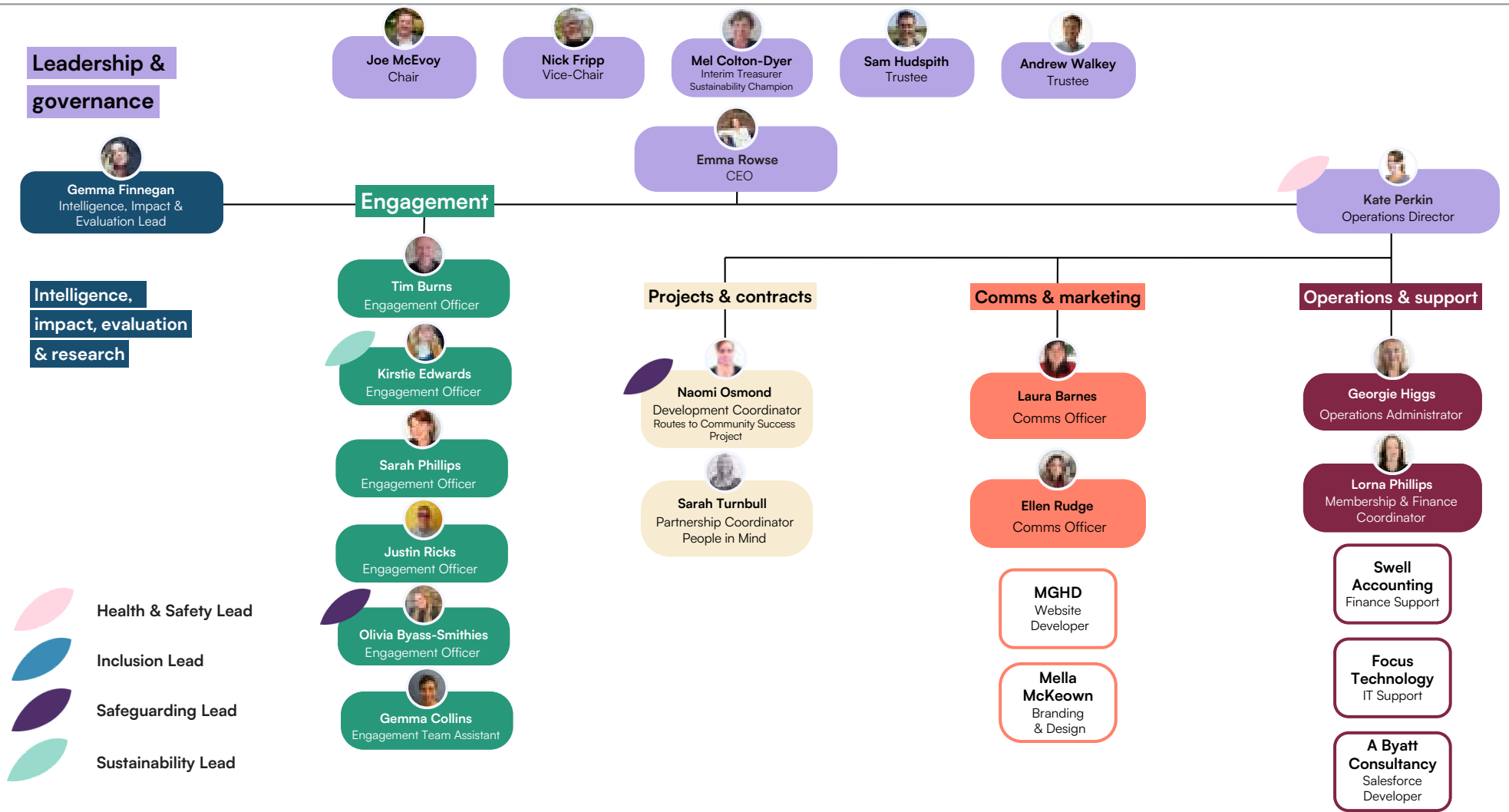
- 992 weekly newsletter subscribers
- 48% average open rate (yearly average)
- 12,000 website users (past year)
- 2000 YouTube views (past year)
- 2,573 X (Twitter) followers
- 1,600 Facebook followers.



Structure.

Cornwall VSF is led by our CEO, Emma Rowse who leads a team of 13.2 paid staff.

Cornwall VSF Organisation Chart



Our Board.

Our trustees play a very important role in making sure that Cornwall VSF is run in the interests of the people it is there to support. In our case, this is VCSE sector. They have the important job of overseeing and managing our organisation. They use their skills and experience to help us achieve our goal of connecting, supporting, and promoting the VCSE sector in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Our board is currently made up of five trustees:

- Joe McEvoy, Chair
- Nick Fripp, Vice-Chair
- Andrew Walkey, Trustee
- Mel Colton-Dyer, Trustee
- Sam Hudspith, Trustee.

[Read more about our trustees here.](#)

The role.

We are seeking people with the passion, drive and commitment needed to help us achieve our mission and have identified the following priority areas to complement our existing strengths:

- Treasurer
- Contracts and commissioning
- Communications / marketing
- Health representation
- Business development / strategy / planning

We encourage and welcome people who are suitably skilled from all backgrounds. We particularly encourage people who are disabled, or people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds and LGBTQ+ groups as these people are currently underrepresented at Board level. Whilst previous board experience is desirable, is not an essential requirement from all new trustees; we have a commitment to support and develop trustees to ensure that they can fulfil their roles and responsibilities effectively and make a positive contribution to our board.

We would also actively encourage people who are currently working at grassroots level with communities in Cornwall, either in a paid or voluntary capacity and would like to have representation from a young trustee on our Board. As a supporter of the Young Trustee's Movement we recognise that young people offer a different insight and perspective, which will ultimately lead to better governance and will bring new ideas and perspectives on your board which challenges traditional beliefs and systems.



What's in it for you.

In addition to bringing your passion, skills and abilities to work alongside enthusiastic trustees and employees who are committed to our mission, being a trustee can also bring many personal and professional benefits.

These include learning about the management and strategic decision-making of a charity and working with a diverse group of people with the same common goal.

This is an incredibly exciting time for new trustees to join Cornwall VSF's Board, and you will have the opportunity to network and attend events and visits organised by Cornwall VSF, its stakeholders and members, thereby extending your own networks and ultimately strengthening and growing the work we do on behalf of people and communities across Cornwall and IoS.

Thank you.

Thank you for taking an interest in becoming a trustee for Cornwall VSF.

[The full role description and person specification can be found on our website here.](#)