

SPARK SOMERSET
Inspiring communities
Our impact 2022/23

657
VCFSE groups received tailored, 1-2-1 support



"Jenny's advice and support was invaluable as we prepared a constitution, navigated the Charity Commission registration process, recruited trustees, applied for funds and set up the new Local Pantry which launched in May."

West Somerset Food Cupboard

48 new DBS contracts
588 checks completed



"I have found Spark Somerset's DBS service so efficient; Leonie was friendly and helpful and answered any questions I had about the process and other safeguarding concerns. I would thoroughly recommend it."

Langport Youth Group

122
Warm Welcome SOMERSET venues supported



15 newly-qualified youth workers thanks to the Somerset Youth Work Alliance

"The certificate presentation event highlighted the good work being done by the Somerset Youth Work Alliance (SYWA), not just in terms of training youth workers, but also the benefits that the Alliance can bring to the youth of Somerset."

Attendee, SYWA event

81 groups received bid-writing and funding support

"I am very grateful to the Funding Team at Spark Somerset for support with bid writing. They reviewed one of our bids, provided great feedback and signposted us to several funding opportunities, resulting in a successful bid to provide us with a community gardener for 18 months."

The Red Brick Building

£850,060 raised for local groups



"It's been a fantastic project, only achievable by the funding; we wouldn't be able to do without it. It's brought people together from the community, not just from the church. A warm welcome space – just what is says on the tin!"

Warm Welcome provider

"We were approached by the manager of HomeStart who asked if we would help set up Chromebooks for ten of their clients ... With the help of Spark IT's Digital Champions, they have been able to access the internet to search for jobs and find homes."

Digital Champion, Minehead EYE

1,069 people helped out of digital exclusion



9% increase in newsletter subscribers

"Thank you for spreading the word about our Connect to Success programme. Both Martock Parish Council and Open Story Tellers contacted us due to the newsletter Spark Somerset put out!"

Plus team-member

79 new groups joined



356 opportunities listed

572 volunteers recruited

70+ organisations represented at our first VCFSE Assembly

"A great forum... Good to see so many VCFSE organisations present, and a good starting point for giving people a voice. Thank you!"

Attendee, VCFSE Assembly

692 people attended online and in-person events



23 networking events
8 training workshops
6 volunteer coordinator forums

"I now have the confidence to deal with an emergency requiring first aid if it arises... Having this training will enable us to run activities we wouldn't otherwise be able to do."

Attendee, Emergency First Aid Training

22 community-led carers' groups supported

