SPARK SOMERSET
Inspiring communities

Our Impact 2022

"Spark have been working hard to strengthen the community infrastructure in Somerset and play a key role in co-ordinating the counties charities through the Somerset Group of Charities which has allowed strong connections, collaborations and insights to be easily captured during the last turbulent year."

Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership

644 groups have received 1:1 support

"We have been greatly supported by Spark over the past few months ... their support has helped us communicate better with the public, funders and our volunteers and it has helped us build a robust structure for our volunteers. We are so happy that Spark is here to help us. We couldn't do what we do without them."

South Chard Church

£736,805 raised for local groups

"We were successful in obtaining £10,000 from Awards for All for The Thomas Poole Library to part-fund the Centre Manager post and continue its work! Thank you for all your help and proofreading my application. It made all the difference."

Thomas Pool Library

428 DBS checks completed

"We wanted to carry out a volunteering day as it fitted perfectly with our charitable foundations' ethos of supporting social and local communities and providing young people with opportunities. Helping at ARK seemed the perfect way of combining a team building day with doing good in the local community."

Harmony Fire

Spark a Change

116 new groups registered on Spark a Change

"I just wanted to say thank you very much for your email and your help. I contacted Age UK Somerset and have started volunteering with their Walk & Talk befriending scheme. I've completed one, and I've got another one booked in this week. Thanks again, I really appreciate the time you took to help me."

Volunteer

985 volunteers registered on Spark a Change

65 groups received strategic funding support

"I'm so glad that Spark is back on DBS. We were using another provider and they weren't half as good as Spark!"

Bibic

11 training workshops, attended by **146** delegates

"Thank you for such an enjoyable and profitable morning yesterday. I shall be recommending the course to my fellow trustees."

Trustee

74 networking forums, attended by **1,149** delegates

"It's been great to see the Mental Health Network established again as it brings the charity sector together in a non-judgemental way, allowing us to express ourselves in a safe environment. We are able to share a wealth of information across the board, Spark do such a great job by facilitating."

Heads Up

"I'm writing to say how much I enjoy the Spark newsletter. I find the format a total joy, such easy-reading and I love the contact button after each piece. Don't go changing – we love you just the way you are."

SWT District Council

859 newsletter stories read

"The recent Spark visioning session was very well done and really demonstrated the work you are all doing to look at how Spark moves forward and the potential for the voluntary sector to make changes in how we work together and communicate with each other."

Headway Somerset

Reflect Recover Renew

270 participants

13 focus groups

24 interviews with VCSE leaders

2 visioning sessions

7 'Becoming Dementia Friendly' sessions attended by **57** people from **30** different VCSE groups

sparksomerset.org.uk

#nevermoreneeded