

OUR IMPACT

2021-22



CHAIR OF THE BOARD: OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR



Although the pandemic continued to disrupt business into 2021-22, Voscur had a productive year. Building on adaptations made during 2020-21, the organisation was able to develop and deliver a complete range of services to support the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in challenging times.

We are pleased to report that our funding from Bristol City Council was extended for the 2021-22 financial year, at the same level as the preceding year. The extension was due to the disruption caused by the pandemic, so that services to support the VCSE sector could be maintained. During this time, we also achieved funding awards for new programmes of work commencing in 2022-23. These include a development in the Local Access Programme (focused on social investment) and a new programme funded by the West of England Combined Authority (focused on VCSE careers and skills development).

Voscur successfully applied for the Enabling the Voluntary Sector (ETVS) grant from Bristol City Council, which provides funding for the four financial years from April 2022. Overall, the continuation of this funding provides a stable financial basis as Voscur moves forward.

Our unrestricted, self-generated income increased during 2021-22. This increase was primarily due to our consultancy work with individual organisations as well as Voscur's job advertising service.

Our staffing expenditure also increased during the year as Voscur, like many employers, experienced changes based on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and funding insecurity. By engaging Voscur's Associates (skilled consultants), we were able to mitigate the impact of these staffing changes.

Voscur was in a stable financial position moving into 2022-23, with funding agreed for a variety of projects. We are working to increase our unrestricted, self-generated income through a range of enhanced services. The development of the VCSE Academy is in progress and the range of training and learning activities we plan to deliver has been increased with several new topics under development.

LIN WHITFIELD,
Chair of Trustees

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: THE YEAR AHEAD



Voscur's charitable objectives, work and programmes are targeted at improving the quality of life of individuals and local communities by enabling and strengthening the local organisations that serve them.

For more than 25 years, we have worked with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to enable them to learn, influence policy and strategy, secure funding and other resources, and collaborate and share with others. Our support, information and other services are targeted to help our members and the wider sector deliver impactful, front-line services across a range of neighbourhoods and communities.

The VCSE sector continues to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and respond to the cost-of-living crisis. In this context, our work is increasingly focused on those VCSE organisations that work with communities that experience the greatest inequality and disadvantage. This is aligned with many city initiatives and funders' strategies – this common purpose serves to ensure that valuable resources secured by VCSE sector organisations and Voscur produce the most equitable impact in communities that have experienced historic, entrenched and systemic inequalities.

As the year ended, VCSE organisations were already grappling with the cost-of-living crisis and its impact on their communities, as well as their own staff and volunteers. There has been much learning from the Covid-19 pandemic and the partnership approach from that period. As with the pandemic, Voscur is playing a pivotal role in convening, co-ordinating, supporting and informing the sector, our partners and stakeholders as part of Bristol's response to the current crisis.

A key aspect of our offer is to enable trusting, effective partnerships between the public, private and VCSE organisations to create greater social impact, add value to public spending and increase social and economic inclusion. From the co-design of new systems and processes to the development of new partnerships, the pandemic provided strong evidence of what can be achieved when the city works as one.

REBECCA MEAR,
Chief Executive Officer, Voscur

OUR IMPACT



During 2021-22, Voscur supported Bristol's VCSE organisations through:

Advice and support



214

Organisations supported through advice and guidance sessions.

Membership



225

Voscur members, including free membership for 43 organisations with an income of less than £10,000 pa.

Training



422

The number of organisations that benefited from training sessions through the VCSE Academy.

Leadership



19

Voscur senior staff contribute VCSE sector perspectives to 19 city leadership boards and committees.

Volunteering opportunities advertised



500

Volunteers are the bedrock of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. During 2021-22, Voscur advertised 500 volunteering opportunities, a service we provide for community organisations for free.

Jobs advertised



1,681

Voscur's job pages have been busy over the past few years, with 1,681 jobs advertised in 2021-22. Our fees are competitively priced so we can support community organisations to recruit the best people.

HR data



1,906

Voscur managed the first VCSE contribution to the council's Race Equality HR Data Product 2021. The nine participating organisations were able to provide data for a total number of 1,906 employees in the sector.

Community engagement



150

The Power of Community, Voscur's investigation into the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the city's VCSE sector, included data from more than 150 interviews with local organisations.

BRASP



16

Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP) is a Voscur-supported collaboration of 16 organisations in Bristol and the surrounding area.

RELATIONSHIPS

Voscur's relationships spread through Bristol and beyond. From start-up to established, inner city to rural, our partnerships, service delivery and networking keeps the organisation grounded in the many wonderful things happening in this part of the world.



NEGAT HUSSEIN

Community Outreach,
Refugee Women of Bristol,
refugeewomenofbristol.org.uk

Voscur have always been helpful. Most of our members and partners are from a refugee background, they need the skills and advice to set up and run organisations, one to one support and help with volunteers: Voscur has helped us with all of this. Refugee Women of Bristol set up as a charitable incorporated organisation [CIO], which Voscur helped with; it's a difficult process and our trustees really appreciated the advice. We're always referring people to the jobs and volunteering pages on the website, it's an excellent web resource.

STEVE NELSON

CEO, Wesport
wesport.org.uk

Through our work on the Tackling Inequalities Fund (now Together Fund), Wesport and Voscur have worked to co-create a robust offer for community partners, enabling new organisations – more than 80% had never received funding from Sport England – to use movement as a tool to work with their communities. Having something tangible to work on with Voscur has transformed a 'nice' relationship into one that is utilising the strengths and knowledge of both organisations to empower community organisations and grow the activities available for people who often miss out. Our relationship with Voscur has been genuine, progressive, one of mutual respect and fun!





PROFESSOR MARTIN PARKER

University of Bristol

Working with Voscur again this year has been vital for the University of Bristol to achieve its civic ambitions. We want to continue helping to create results by showing our students and staff how we can work in partnership with local institutions.

AYESHA AHMED-MENDOZA

Camps and Events Manager, Black2Nature

birdgirluk.com/black2nature

Black2Nature runs nature camps and events for Ethnic Minority young people from marginalised communities: Voscur helped us with our safeguarding policy. Many young people we work with have never stayed away from home before without parents and do not attend school camps, so it is extremely important to ensure our policies are clear for parents to understand. Thank you to the Voscur team for your 5* service.



ALESSANDRA HODGSON

Acting Co-Director, Changes Bristol

changesbristol.org.uk

As a small, grassroots charity, the training and networking opportunities provided by Voscur have been invaluable to us. Training sessions have been accessible, well facilitated and supported. The trainer made a difficult subject [Theory of Change] really user friendly and easier to get to grips with.



KIM PRADO

Executive Director, Houria CIC

houria.co.uk

The support that Voscur provided Houria CIC in the last few years has been invaluable to the development of our start up social enterprise. Our leadership has received one to one guidance on important issues like governance, democratic processes and financial management. We also received specialist support on fundraising, especially with bid-writing which was incredibly helpful. On top of this, we have found that the staff we worked closely with genuinely believed in us and our mission which has made the whole process very powerful and empowering!



FINANCE

In financial year 2021-22, Voscur's overall income was lower than the year before, while expenditure increased. This was primarily caused by the take up of restricted funding that ran over two financial years.

In 2020-21, Voscur was awarded funding of £200,000 by Sport England to support local voluntary sector organisations in delivering a range of physical activities in communities that are often underrepresented in sport. The term 'sport' in this instance was widened to include a range of physical activities such as dancing, walking and so on. Over 50% of these funds were taken up in 2020-21, and the balance in 2021-22.

Voscur is pleased to report that, although the final outcome was a deficit overall, our self-generated income, relating to direct services to the VCSE sector, was increased. These self-generated areas of income increased overall by 43%. This included substantial increases in our consultancy service of 60% and our targeted job adverts service of 73%.

Our expenditure during 2021-22 increased overall by 2%, from £697,510 to £708,609. This reflected increased costs in our staffing, and associated staffing related expenses of 13%, and our fundraising costs by 11%, reflecting the increased fundraising activity and funds generated for 2022-23. The other areas of expenditure - office running, governance, and service delivery - decreased. The decrease in service delivery costs reflects the take up of the balance of the Sport England funding, and reduced external costs, again related to the online delivery of other services.



The funds held by Voscur - restricted, designated and general - increased overall. Our designated funds were utilised during 2021-22, with the agreement of the Trustees, to improve the office environment. We are pleased to report that our general/unrestricted funds increased by 18% reflecting the increase in self-generated income.

Voscur moves into 2022-23 in a stable financial position with agreed funding for a variety of projects/programmes. In addition, we are planning to increase our self-generated income by reviewing and enhancing our range of services and service delivery. The development of the VCSE Academy will extend and enhance our programme of training and learning experiences with new courses and events in development.



IN TERMS OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, VOSCUR IS PLEASED TO REPORT A NUMBER OF ACHIEVEMENTS, INCLUDING ITS SUCCESS IN THE BID TO BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL FOR THE ENABLING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PROGRAMME.

We hope that as 2022-23 progresses we will continue the positive developments within the organisation. In 2021-22 we experienced an unusually high turnover of staff, resulting in recruitment for a range of key roles in early 2022-23.

In terms of future development, Voscur is pleased to report a number of achievements, including its success in the bid to Bristol City Council for the

Enabling the Voluntary Sector programme. This starts in financial year 2022-23 and will continue in the following years. Voscur has also been successful in attracting funding for a range of programmes to be delivered during 2022-23 financial year, including the Local Access Programme, the Skills for Social Purpose programme and a number of smaller programmes funded by Bristol City Council.

Income

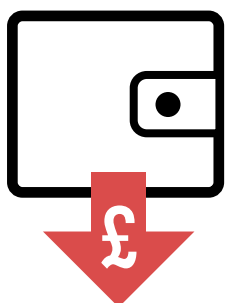


£629,011

- Grants (71%)
- Self generated income (membership, training, jobs and consultancy) (29%)

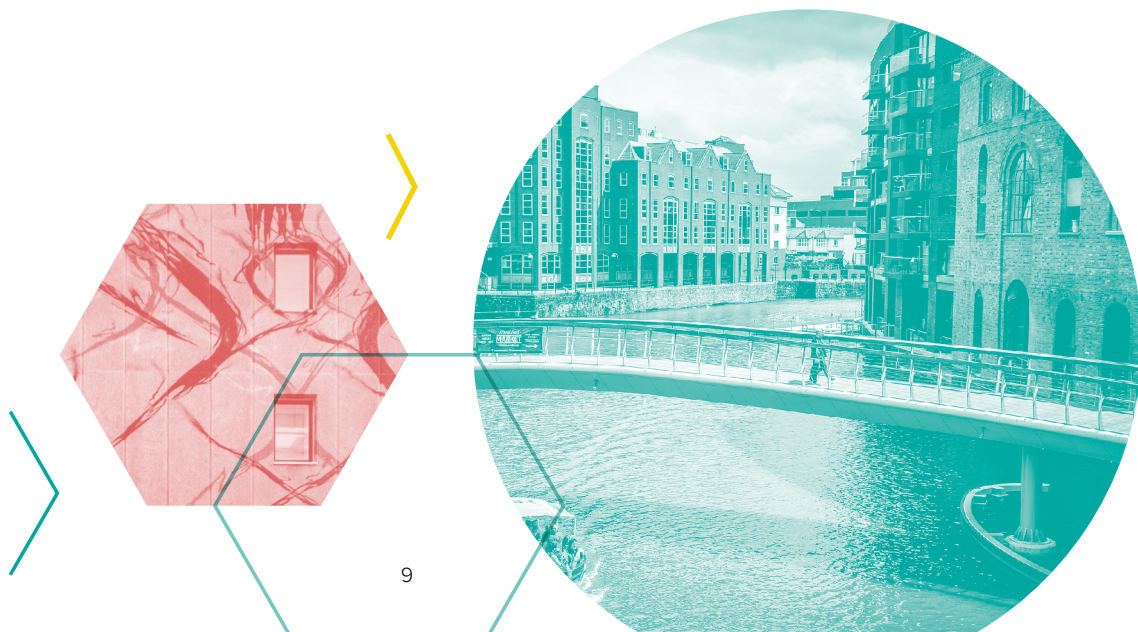
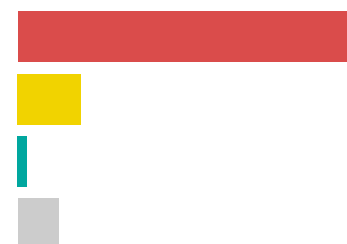


Expenditure



£708,609

- Staffing & associated costs (75%)
- Direct service delivery (14%)
- Professional fees (2%)
- Office & rental (9%)



REACH & INFLUENCE

Contact with the sector through Voscur's media channels

Website



1.4M
PAGE VIEWS
DURING THE YEAR
1.3M
PREVIOUS YEAR



Weekly bulletin



2,030
RECIPIENTS
EACH WEEK
1,915
PREVIOUS YEAR



Facebook



1,989
PAGE VISITS
DURING THE YEAR
677
PREVIOUS YEAR



STAY IN CONTACT



facebook.com/voscur/



twitter.com/voscur



linkedin.com/company/3119613

STAY UP TO DATE

Voscur's email bulletin is sent out every week to a wide range of voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) stakeholders, including frontline organisations, public commissioners and private sector partners.

voscur.org/e-bulletin

THANK YOU!

Our members

We are enormously grateful for the continued support of our hundreds of members – individuals, charities, community groups and social enterprises – as well as the many more in our wider networks. Your contribution to our work and to supporting citizens and communities across the city and region has been outstanding.

Our 2021-22 Board members

Those who give their time, knowledge and expertise are vital for VCSE sector organisations; the Voscur Board of Trustees have worked incredibly hard during the year to ensure our stability and continued development:

Lin Whitfield (Chair)
 Kamaljit Poonia, Individual Member (Vice Chair)
 Dr Vita Terry, Individual Member (Vice Chair)
 Albert Gardiner, Individual Member (Vice Chair)
 Matthew Wortley, Individual Member (Treasurer)
 Philip Barry, Individual Member (Treasurer)
 Ellie Collier, Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust
 Chris Egitto, Individual Member
 Sally Fox, Individual Member
 Sian Jones, Individual Member
 Ed Norton, Life Cycle UK
 Thanh Quan-Nicholls, Individual Member
 Diane Robinson, Individual Member
 Sam Thompson, The Ardagh Community Trust

Our 2021-22 staff team

Huge thanks to our exceptional staff team for their ongoing commitment and dedication to Voscur and the sector, particularly for outstanding work during the COVID-19 emergency response:

Baher Al Abd, Polly Allen, Spencer Blackwell,
 Tom Burnett, Clare Daley, Tom Dewey, Maria Franchi,
 Fiona Gillard, Katharine Gonzales, Mark Hubbard,
 Heather Lewis, Sandra Meadows, Debra Newrick,
 Esther Passingham, Tom Rosenbloom, Janine Starr,
 Namiko Taguchi, Rosa Watkin, Phoebe Westwood,
 David Whittaker, Jenny Wildblood

Our funders and donors

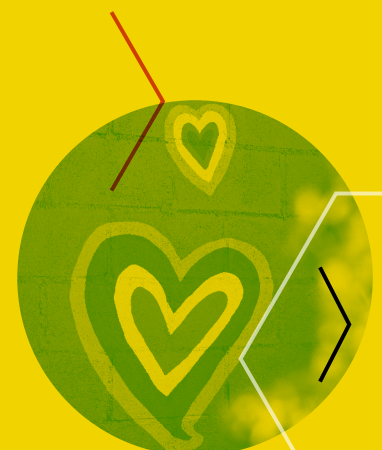
Thanks also to all our funders and donors for their ongoing trust and support: Bristol City Council, Westport, Bristol Refugee Rights, VCSEP, Bristol & Bath Regional Capital, KPMG, Local Access Foundation, Bristol-North Somerset-South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) NHS, Power to Change, Quartet Community Foundation, The University of Bristol, VWV.

Our consultancy partners

In addition to funded programmes, we worked with many community organisations as part of our charged services: thanks to Hillfields Family & Community Trust, SARSAS, Power to Change, Creative Youth Network, Black2Nature, Bristol Refugee Rights, Self Injury Support, Voluntary Action North Somerset, Bristol Bike Project, and Carers Support Centre.

Lastly...

Our thanks to the many individuals and organisations not specifically mentioned here but who shared their time, skills, specialist knowledge and other resources to support Voscur and Bristol's VCSE sector throughout the year. Your support and contribution is very much appreciated and we look forward to continuing our work together in the coming years.



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