About BVSC

As the primary voluntary sector support organisation in Birmingham BVSC provides support to volunteers, voluntary groups and civil society.

BVSC supports voluntary action by local people, including voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises. We work in partnership with the voluntary, public, private, academic and faith sectors in the city, providing collaborative voluntary sector leadership, strong and accountable communications and networking structures, high quality business development support, local volunteering brokerage facilities, and a range of direct services to Birmingham’s residents. We represent and advocate for the views and needs of people involved in local voluntary action through our Third Sector Assembly.

BVSC is unique in carrying out this combination of functions across the city. We are rooted in the local voluntary sector but well connected across all sectors within and beyond Birmingham and are widely known and trusted. The quality of our work and organisational management is recognised through a range of awards and accreditations including the Quality Award from the National Association of Voluntary and Community Action, the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation and the Governance Assessment Process (GAP) Award.

We are and have been the lead body for a range of recent and current voluntary sector-led service delivery partnerships in Birmingham, including Talent Match, Changing Futures Together (Multiple & Complex Needs), Ageing Better, the Third Sector Assembly, the Voluntary Sector and the Chief Executives Forum (VSCEF).

We also host projects and act as an accountable body to sub-contract work to local groups.

Our practical services include: training events; one-to-one support; voluntary sector representation and consultation; consultancy and coaching services; newsletters; back office support services (including finance, payroll and human resources); project and partnership development and delivery services; support for social and community enterprises and hubs; peer networks; and the provision of facilities for conferences and events.

We own and manage The Centre for Voluntary Action, a fully equipped voluntary sector resource hub and conference and training facility based in Digbeth. This is used by the voluntary sector and its partners as a focus for debate, learning and networking. It provides a showcase for the work of the local voluntary sector and attracts visitors.

Please see our website for more information on the work we do.
Talent Match has always encouraged me and given me confidence and just knowing there is somebody behind you to root for you. I have references now that will vouch for my hard work. I feel that I can go into other sectors, because there was a time when I thought I could never work. But now, having done work, I’ve surprised myself how I’ve survived this long at a job – an actual paid job. It’s just awesome really.”

Raja Allahrakha – Talent Match

Talent Match Birmingham & Solihull supports young people (aged 18-24) to find and sustain employment. Our service includes 1-2-1 coaching and mentoring, supported work placements, volunteering, job skills and ‘wrap-around’ support to overcome barriers to employment.

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[www.bvsc.org/talent-match](http://www.bvsc.org/talent-match)
CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE VENUE

Versatile, central, excellent value.

BVSC Enterprises is a social enterprise that offers versatile and modern facilities right in the centre of Birmingham. Our conference centre is the ideal place to hold all types of meetings, events, training and seminars.

As a social enterprise we offer excellent value for money and all profits are re-invested into the facilities and in to the work that BVSC does with the local community in Birmingham.

138 Digbeth | Birmingham | B5 6DR

1 0121 678 8817 | 0121 643 4541 e conferences@bvsc.org

www.conferencesbvsc.org

- Convenient city centre location, only minutes from New Street and Moor Street stations and public car parking adjacent
- Eight air conditioned rooms with capacities from 2-170 delegates
- All rooms fully accessible and disabled parking on-site
- Free WiFi, projection screen and white board in every room
- Variety of catering options including: working lunches; hot buffets; drinks and canapés receptions
- As a social enterprise – part of a leading Birmingham charity, BVSC – we re-invest all our profits to support the local community in Birmingham.
I book regular meetings for adult social care and children’s services for 14 local authorities. The BVSC conference centre is ideal. It’s centrally located, well equipped and the staff are always really helpful and accommodating. From the first contact right through the process, we always receive an efficient and reliable service. On the day the conference team make us really welcome and offer any technical support we need. The rooms offer everything we need. Catering is also consistently good and delivered on time. Definitely our venue of choice!”

Shelley Madley, Programme Support Co-ordinator, Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands

BVSC offers versatile and modern meeting rooms and conference facilities right in the centre of Birmingham and just five minutes walk from both New Street and Moor Street stations. Our largest space can accommodate a conference of up to 180 delegates and we have a number of smaller rooms that are ideal for meetings, training courses, seminars and interviews. As a social enterprise we offer excellent value for money and all our profits are reinvested in our facilities as well as our core work supporting Birmingham’s voluntary sector.
For once you feel like your life experiences are important. It gives you a light in your eyes – I can see it in others in the group. I didn’t know you could do all this ... It normalises your existence. You can get your clothes ready and have a reason to be in the city and moan about the rush hour ... I can see people in power genuinely trying to make changes. It’s worthy and I’m pleased to be involved.”

An Expert by Experience, Birmingham Changing Futures Together

Birmingham Changing Futures Together focuses on long-term service and system change to support individuals to lead a fulfilled life and to ensure that successful models and approaches pioneered through this project become mainstream.
They made an effort to find out who is isolated, how they can get in touch with you, what they can get you involved with.”
Trevor, Age of Experience Volunteer

Both Iris and I have found it’s given us more confidence, and I’m doing things now that I never thought I could do.”
Mavis, Age of Experience Volunteer

For me it is just the social contact. It’s meeting people and making friends there and also making a contribution as well.”
Richard, Age of Experience Volunteer

The Age of Experience Group co-produces the Ageing Better programme at all levels, providing insight and guidance to influence how the programme develops and delivers.

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### April

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www.ageingbetterinbirmingham.co.uk
Birmingham LGBT is a rapidly growing community based charity. From the start, we chose BVSC to provide our monthly payroll service, initially with four staff which now has risen to approximately 20 staff. They have always been very efficient and cost effective and we would be happy to recommend them.”

Simon Pickford, Birmingham LGBT

Whether you’re a small group just starting up, or an established organisation looking for extra support. Our back office team provide a professional service, tailored to the needs of the sector, allowing you peace of mind and time to focus on your priorities.
We have a wide range of volunteering opportunities in a variety of areas including sports coaching, caring, admin and office work, research work, youth work, conservation... and more!

What is volunteering?
Volunteering involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that is of benefit to others or the environment.

Who can volunteer?
Anyone! You can volunteer whatever your age, job status or abilities.

Start your volunteering journey...
Visit us at Volunteer Centre Birmingham:
138 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR
Call us: 0121 678 8839
Email us: volunteerbirmingham@bvsc.org
Follow us: @volcentrebrum

SEARCH OUR VOLUNTEERING DATABASE
View hundreds of volunteering opportunities at www.do-it.org

DO YOU MANAGE A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION IN BIRMINGHAM?
Check out BVSC’s support services at: www.bvsc.org
We have always advertised through the Volunteer Centre. I think the opportunities have been on Do-It ever since we established the Doula Service. We have had volunteers come to us via BVSC, via the Volunteer Centre, over a number of years. It stands to reason that many of them have developed into very successful volunteers with us. It’s certainly a good and efficient service and something I’d recommend to other organisations looking for volunteers.”

Georgina Watts, CEO, Bethel Doula Project

Volunteers’ Week – which takes place every year from 1 to 7 June – celebrates the contribution of millions of volunteers across the UK. Join Volunteer Centre Birmingham in a number of events and activities to celebrate the wonderful work of volunteers in Birmingham, and the positive difference they make to our local communities.
We are bringing together in one place as many voluntary, community and social enterprise sector services as possible. We want Route2Wellbeing to become the directory of choice for health and care professionals in Birmingham. Route2Wellbeing helps people know what services and activities are near to them, and promotes the work of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to health and social care colleagues who might not realise the amazing work done by the sector.”

Jason Meredith, Project Manager, Birmingham Better Care

Route 2 Wellbeing is the definitive guide to local health and wellbeing services. It makes it easy to find services and activities that promote good health and wellbeing, including financial advice, physical activities, support for carers and more.
Your efforts and goodwill have created a new space that will be used mainly by children, young people some of whom will be facing challenges in their lives. Thanks to you we are now in a position to give support and present new opportunities which have the potential to increase our service users’ health and wellbeing. Thank you!”

Simbi Folarin, Shenley Lane Community Association

“This was the first Team Challenge, and it was an honour for us to be involved. I have come across similar, but less successful schemes in the past – Team Challenge will, I am sure, be a hit because of the support BVSC are providing for both parties.”

Ian Edwards, St Paul’s Community Development Trust

Through our corporate social responsibility programmes BVSC supports the voluntary sector to access the volunteer capacity of employees and employers working in the city of Birmingham.

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www.bvsc.org/businessinvolvement
Ashram Moseley are a community inspired social landlord. By being part of the No Wrong Door network we can deliver better co-designed person-centred services. We see great benefit in joining together our expertise with that of our partners in related sectors.”

Peter Helly, Development Manager, Accord Group

No Wrong Door is a group of networked agencies committed to information-sharing and common approaches and standards in supporting people with multiple and complex needs. This ensures clients can access a whole system of support through a single point of entry and there is no ‘wrong door’.
I recently went on a training course led by BVSC, which was really useful. It gave information about the legal aspects of managing volunteers and how to motivate them. I would definitely recommend the BVSC training course and, in fact, I’d like you to create a two day version of it as well! We packed a massive amount into one day and Elizabeth was an excellent trainer.”

Rosalyn Clare, Volunteer Coordinator, Springfield Project

BVSC provides a full programme of training courses specifically developed to meet the needs of the voluntary and community sector. Our trainers are all experts in their fields with extensive knowledge of the voluntary sector and its needs.
There are 165,000 organisations on our register and half of them have less than £10,000 income. That means no staff, no property, very little capacity, volunteer-led, but their desire to work for the needs they are set up for is huge. But their capacity to understand changes in the law, the economic climate and the expectations on them are of necessity limited and that’s where organisations like BVSC come in – to help make connections and to bring people together.”

Sarah Atkinson, Charity Commission

Trustees’ Week takes place during the first week in November. If you are a new trustee, thinking about becoming a trustee or are an organisation looking for trustees, contact us to find out what is happening during Trustees’ Week and how we can support you.
We have a group of representatives who act as a voice for the sector. We can’t represent all of the views of the voluntary and community sector for children and young people, because it’s so diverse and there are such a lot of different things going on. But nonetheless we’re there to broker discussions with statutory partners, to see how we can influence policy and decision making and ensure that communication gets out to the sector. We’ve got an opportunity to influence and input into what takes place in the city.”

Lisa Martinali, Director of Community Regeneration at Compass Support and champion for Children and Young People
BH Bank Holidays
2 January New Year’s Day
14 April Good Friday
17 April Easter Monday
1 May Bank Holiday
29 May Bank Holiday
28 August Bank Holiday
25 December Christmas Day
26 December Boxing Day

Buddhist
15 February Parinirvana
The Buddha’s death, celebrated because he attained total Enlightenment, or Nirvana.
10 May Vaishaka Puja/Wesak
A celebration of the Buddha’s birthday, celebrated with much colour. In some countries there are special Wesak lanterns made, and caged birds are released.
15 July Asalha/ Dharma Day
The beginning of the Buddha’s teaching, celebrated with readings of scriptures.
8 December Bodhi Day
A day when some Buddhists celebrate Gautama reaching enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.

Hindu
14 January Makar Sankranti
This winter festival celebrates the Sun-God’s entry into the Northern Hemisphere.
25 February Maha Shivarati
Devotion and thanks are shown to Lord Shiva, who danced his cosmic dance this night. Many Hindus fast.
13 March Holi
Holi is a festival that welcomes the spring, which also celebrates Krishna, and the legend of Holika and Prahalad. Bonfires are lit to celebrate.
28 March Varsha-Pratipada
The Hindu Spring New Year – a good day to start new ventures. It symbolises renewal.
7 August Raksha Bandan
“Raksha Bandan” means “a thread for protection”. Sisters tie a thread bracelet around their brothers’ wrists, and receive gifts in return.
15 August Janamashtami/ Krishna Jayanti
The birthday of Krishna. Many Hindus forego sleep for the 48 hours, and some fast.
21-19 September Navaratri/ Durga Puja/ Dusserah
Navaratri (nine nights) is a festival in which God is adored as Mother.

Christian
6 January Epiphany
Epiphany remembers the wise men visiting Jesus.
1 March - 13 April Lent
The season of preparation before Easter, in which Christians often surrender a particular vice – such as chocolate or smoking. The sacrifice represents Jesus’ deprivation in the wilderness.
9 April Palm Sunday
The last Sunday of Lent marks Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, where the people waved palm branches at him.
14 April Good Friday
A day to commemorate the execution of Jesus on the cross.
16 April Easter Sunday
Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The most important Christian festival and the one celebrated with most joy.
4 June Pentecost
The festival where Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, 50 days after Easter. Regarded as the birthday of the Christian church.
1 November All Saints Day
A day to honour all saints and martyrs of the church.
25 December Christmas Day
The day celebrating the birth of Jesus.

International days
28 January Vietnamese/ Chinese New Year
1 March St. David’s Day (Wales)
17 March St. Patrick’s Day (Ireland)
26 March Bangladesh Independence Day
23 April St. George’s Day (England)
14 July Bastille Day
14 August Pakistan Independence Day
15 August Indian Independence Day
30 November St. Andrew’s Day (Scotland)

Jewish
12 March Purim
Commemorates the time when Persian Jews were saved from extermination by a woman called Esther.
11-18 April Passover (Pesach)
A festival celebrating the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt, led by Moses, and a general celebration of freedom.
31 May - 1 June Shavuot
Marks the time when the Jews received the Torah. Prayers are said, especially at dawn, to thank God for the five books of Moses.
1 August Tisha B’Av
A fast day commemorating several calamities that have occurred on this same day in the Jewish calendar. Known as “the saddest day in Jewish history”.
21-22 September Rosh Hashana
Jewish New Year, commemorating the creation of the world.
30 September Yom Kippur
The Day of Atonement, when God decides how the next year will be for each person. Those who have repented for their sins will be granted a happy New Year.

5 October Sukkot
Sukkot celebrates the Jews’ years in the desert on the way to the Promised Land, and is celebrated by building huts.

12 October Shemini Atzeret
Shemini Atzeret is the final day of festivities at the end of Sukkot.

13 October Simchat Torah
Meaning “Rejoicing in the Torah”, this day marks the end of the yearly cycle of weekly Torah readings.

13-20 December Hanukkah
The Jewish Festival of Lights, celebrated for eight days. It commemorates the Jews’ struggle for religious freedom. During Hanukkah, Jews light one more candle each night.

Muslim

23 April Lailat-Al-Miraj
The night journey and ascent of the Prophet Muhammad, celebrated by the telling of the story of how he was visited by two archangels.

11 May Lailat-Al-Bara’ah
‘The Night of Freedom from Fire’, in which Muslims are graced with divine mercy and blessings.

27 May - 25 June Ramadan
A month of dusk to dawn fasting, in which the gates of heaven are open and the gates of hell are closed.

21 June Lailat-Ul-Qadr
The Night of Power, when the Qur’an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Muslims spend this time in study and prayer.

25 June Eid-Ul-Fitr
Muslims celebrate the end of fasting for Ramadan, with processions through the street and a celebratory daytime meal – their first for a month.

1-4 September Eid-Ul-Adha
A major festival marking the end of Hajj, it remembers the Prophet Ibrahim’s willingness to sacrifice his son to Allah. Most Muslims will abstain from work.

22 September Al-Hijra/ Islamic New Year
The new year, which marks the Prophet Muhammad’s migration from Mecca to Medina where he set up the first Muslim state.

1 October Ashura
A day of fasting marking the day Noah left the ark and Moses was saved by the Egyptians. For some, it is also a day of mourning.

Pagan

1 February Imbolc
Celebrates the land’s awakening and the growing power of the sun.

20 March Spring Equinox
Celebrates the renewed life of the Earth.

1 May Beltane
A fire festival, celebrates the coming of summer with maypole dances.

21 June Summer Solstice (longest day)
A time to celebrate growth and life but recognise the oncoming decline of the sun.

1 August Lughnasadh-Lammas
The beginning of the harvest season.

22 September Autumnal Equinox
A time to reflect on the past season.

31 October Samhain/Halloween
The Feast of the Dead. A time to remember and honour the dead.

21 December Winter Solstice
Yule, when the sun child is reborn.

Sikh

5 January Birthday of Guru Gobindh Singh
The tenth and last Guru, who created the order of Khalsa and instituted the Five ‘Ks’.

14 April Baisakhi
The Sikh New Year Festival, which also commemorates Sikhism being born as a collective faith in 1699.

16 June Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
Guru Arjan compiled the Sikh scriptures for the first time, and on this day was executed.

19 October Diwali
A Sikh festival as well as Hindu. Sikhs celebrate the release from prison of Guru Hargobind Singh during this time.

24 November Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadu
A champion of religious freedom, executed for refusing to convert to Islam.

Rastafarian

7 January Ethiopian Christmas
A celebration of Jesus, marked by a large feast.

23 July Birthday of Emperor Selassie
A celebration of the birth of Emperor Haile Selassie I, who Rastafarians recognise as Messiah and God, with music, song and prayer.

11 September Ethiopian New Year
Celebrated as Rastafarians believe Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland. Its history is remembered through biblical passages.

2 November Anniversary of the crowning of Selassie
The high priest reads biblical passages and initiates singing to remember Emperor Selassie.

Secular

14 February Valentine’s Day
Based on legends of Saint Valentine, who performed secret marriages while they were banned by Emperor Claudius II. Another legend tells of an imprisoned Valentine signing secret letters to the jailer’s daughter as ‘your Valentine’.

26 March Mothering Sunday
A traditional time for children to celebrate and thank their mothers, giving them cards, gifts and flowers.

26 March Clocks go forward.

18 June Father’s Day
A more recent parallel to Mother’s day for fathers, established in the early 20th Century by a daughter who wanted to express her appreciation for her single father.

29 October Clocks go back.
Our vision, mission and values

Our vision
A fair and equitable Birmingham.

Our mission
Helping people to build and benefit from a fair and equitable Birmingham.

What we are
- BVSC is an independent charity and voluntary sector organisation
- We will work in partnership with the voluntary sector to lead on social change in order to create a fair and equitable Birmingham
- The primary beneficiary of BVSC is ‘the city of Birmingham’ (individuals, organisations, initiatives, communities, cultures).

Our board of management members
Jonathan Driffill (Friendship Care and Housing) – Chair
Mohammed Al-Rahim (Freshwinds) – Vice Chair
Beryl Brown – Treasurer
Makhdoom Chishti (SUFI Trust)
Gina Ciotaki
Cllr Basharat Dad (Birmingham City Council)
Matthew Forsyth (Sport 4 Life UK)
Guy Hordern (Birmingham City Council)
Ricky Joseph (Birmingham University)
Ian Markey (retired December)
Lisa Martinali (Castle Vale Community Housing Association)
Peter Rookes (Birmingham Council of Faiths)
Amrick Singh Ubhi (Nishkam Centre)
Des Workman (Robin Day Centre)

Thanks to our funders
We’d like to thank The Big Lottery Fund, The Local Trust, Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Joint Commissioning Team – Mental Health and Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group for their support.

138 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR | 0121 643 4343 | admin@bvsc.org
www.bvsc.org  @BVSC

Birmingham Voluntary Service Council Ltd (BVSC) is a registered charity (no. 218795) and a company limited by guarantee (no. 421688).