


How are Sector3 supporting the valuable work of the VCFSE sector in Stockport?

Impact Report
Oct 2019 – end of March 2022

Sector3

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A photograph showing a person in a blue uniform and gloves handing a white plastic bag to another person. The background is a brick wall. The image is overlaid with a large blue circle on the left and a large white circle at the bottom.

Sector3 was established at the end of 2019 in response to a growing need for a support offer for the Voluntary, Community, Faith-based and Social Enterprise Sector in Stockport.

Enter 2020, Covid-19 and everything that came with it. Lockdowns severely impacted community work on the ground, however it was this face-2-face, grassroots support that was desperately needed more than ever.

**Over £45,000 raised
to support the sector
to adapt & respond
to the Covid-19 crisis**

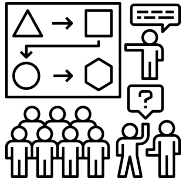
How did Sector3 help unite Stockport's third sector through the toughest period in the last few decades?

- **We listened** to the sector's concerns about **unprecedented service demand** and subsequently **launched a crowdfunder**, which raised **over £45,000** to support the sector to adapt and respond to the Covid-19 crisis

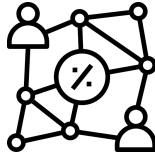
- We enabled the sector to unlock opportunities through the **creation of spaces for collaboration and information** sharing in the form of a weekly Covid response meeting between the sector and **key stakeholders**



Our impact in numbers



22 capacity
building
events



2 networks
launched



Over **400** people
subscribed to
the Sector3
newsletter



Over **30**
cross-sector
forums

Over **518** people
registered to be a
volunteer through
the Stockport
Volunteer Hub



1:1 support to
122 different
orgs



82 Total orgs
received
funding

We directed
£279,000 into
the sector



In collaboration with the sector we co-designed a Vision, Mission, Values & Purpose for Sector3 that placed **the sector at the heart** of our decision making

The Sector3 Vision:
Vibrant, healthy & inclusive communities for everyone.

What are we going to do to achieve our Vision?

Sector3 Mission:
To foster a thriving third sector in Stockport by developing a supportive network which provides opportunities for growth and shared learning

Our guiding values underpin the Sector3 service:

Independent

We are a trusted source, driven by data and insight

Active

We take a bold and creative approach

Collaborative

We are proud to be part of the sector and what it can collectively achieve

As an infrastructure organisation **led by the sector for the sector** we have made a commitment to reflect on and measure our impact so we remain relevant and continue to add value.

This is our first impact report, we hope you enjoy reading it.

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“Stockport has long been missing a resource for the voluntary sector. Sector3 is growing into that role.”

**Steve Hughes,
Citizens Advice
Stockport, Oldham,
Rochdale, Trafford**



So what have we
been doing to
foster a thriving
third sector in
Stockport?

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We are championing the voice of the sector:

- **We raised the profile of the sector** via a clean and clear accessible website, fortnightly news bulletin and dynamic marketing strategy to spotlight the valuable work the sector is doing. This has led to Sector3 brokering **more investment** into the sector via new and existing funding streams

- **We established relationships** with influential stakeholders such as Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Trust, GMVCO and The National Lottery Community Fund to **inject increased funding into the sector** and reduce reliance on Local Authority funding.

Over 8,600
website
visitors



413 newsletter
subscribers

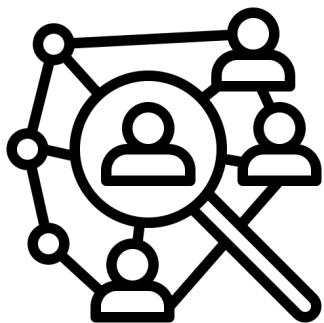
“Sharing service provision and updating us on what’s available and out there in Stockport {has been invaluable}. It can be overwhelming to keep up so it’s brilliant to have this to tap in to.”

Donna,
Community
Champions’

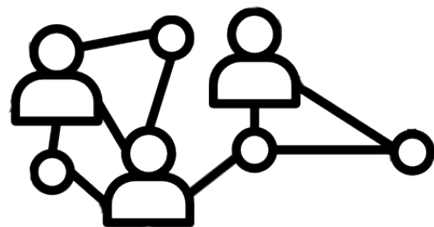
We are championing the voice of the sector:

We worked with Stockport Council to invest £30,000 into the sector to support thematic networks. A pioneering move in financing the sector to tackle inequalities (Equity Network) and food poverty (Stockport Food Network) in the borough:

- **Stockport Food Network** – now run by two members of the Stockport VCFSE sector in paid positions thanks to funding from Stockport Council. The network are benefitting from shared resources including surplus food and recently held their first Food Drive as well as an appearance on BBC Radio Manchester.



40 members
across 29
organisations



129 members
across 68
organisations

- **Stockport Equity Network** – 129 members across 68 organisations working together to tackle inequality in Stockport. In 2021 the network piloted the first ever Stockport Inclusion & Integration Fair, connecting likeminded individuals together.

- By promoting the **State of the Sector survey** and facilitating focus groups we have increased our knowledge of the size and diversity of the VCFSE sector plus the sector's challenges. We are now in a stronger position to support the sector and have clear recommendations to overcome them through the publication of the [State of the Stockport VCSE sector report 2021](#)





‘Being part of an Equity Network made me realise the opportunity for an LGBT+ network in Stockport. I set up the RESPECT network to advocate for LGBT+ issues as part of the wider Equity network, which resulted in the council making the decision to commission Forward to run the network for the next three years.’

Tina, Forward

Directed
£279,000 into
the sector



Plus
capacity
building
support

during the most
challenging and
unprecedented
times in social
action

We are investing in social action:

- We administered over **£130,000** in easy-access funding across **82** Voluntary, Community and Faith-based groups and **Social Enterprises (VCFSE)** supporting communities on the ground in Stockport
- We understood the impact lockdown would have on the sector's fundraising abilities, therefore we **galvanised public support for the sector** through a crowdfunder that **raised over £45,000** to enable local organisations to continue to support their communities throughout the pandemic
- We secured over **£85,000** of stakeholder funding through Stockport Council and a Stockport County crowdfunder, to administer across the sector through funding pots
- We launched an **easy-access funding process** for below the radar, grassroots groups through the delivery of **3 Community Soup events**, which gave them seed-funding to grow





“The Community Soup method gave me the opportunity to clarify my idea, firstly to myself, and to develop that for the short presentation. Quick, easy and very helpful.”

-

**Judith, Cheadle Jam
Community Soup Winner
for ‘Kinda Walking’**

We are investing in social action:

- We increased funding to organisations supporting **Afghan Evacuees** through securing and administering **over £19,000** to those working with the evacuee community
- We launched the **first Stockport Volunteer Hub**, a joint venture with Healthwatch Stockport, building a network of volunteer resource reaching into the heart of communities
- We bought services from those in the sector to keep the Stockport pound going round

“Having the Volunteer Hub available has been invaluable in terms of signposting individuals and sourcing opportunities all in one place”

**Helen,
Pure Innovations**





'Make a Difference could not have continued to work with Afghan Evacuee families without the support that Stockport Council gave, influenced by the amazing team at Sector3.

Getting a phone call from a family we supported for over 6 months, who called us to show their new home to our staff and to say thank you for all our support and that they would like to stay in touch with us, has just given us the best outcome we could have asked for.'

Nadia Ali,
Chair - Make A Difference

We are bolstering the sustainability of the sector:

We built **strategic partnerships** with organisations to strengthen the sector:

- **Stockport County** – donated over **£200,000** of their crowdfunder to Sector3 to administer to the sector through the Stockport Food Fund and to key stakeholders providing support for families in need

- **Mayor of Stockport Charity** partnership – the **first time** a Mayor in Stockport has chosen an **infrastructure organisation as their charity partner**. The partnership raised over **£30,000** to support the development of Stockport's volunteer offer, which will

benefit the sector and communities across the borough

- Recognised the importance of data to the sustainability of the sector. Secured funding to invest in a CRM to **gain insight on the sector's impact**, in order to attract future funding into the sector

- Cultivation of the **next generation of Social Entrepreneurs** in Stockport with the first ever Inspiring Enterprise education programme; which saw 10 participants not only learn skills, knowledge and contacts in the enterprise world, but build confidence in their abilities and future career path





“We wanted to partner with Sector3 again to help low-income families via the local services who know their communities the best.”

Mark,
Stockport County
FC

We are bolstering the sustainability of the sector:

- **We campaigned relentlessly** to bring a long-awaited **Social Enterprise investment programme** into Stockport, **the first of its kind**. One of only four boroughs chosen in Greater Manchester, Proper Good Business, launched in May this year and will provide customised support for Social Entrepreneurs.

Proper Good

- We implemented **1:1 on the ground tailored support** for the sector through recruitment of an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Lead and a full-time Engagement & Partnerships Lead.

- We collaborated with VCFSE's to host capacity building events to enable skills sharing across the sector

We've provided 1:1 support to 122 different organisations

'Sector3 have been able to assist me with developing my ideas (of which I have many!) into winning funding applications including a successful HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) funding agreement from the very first round. The team have provided the reassurance, encouragement and guidance for me to make my ideas a reality.'

Jan, Stockport Together



'The programme really introduced me to the idea of social enterprise... [it] helped me to find my purpose and identity. A recent update is I've been successful in securing a small bit of money that I applied for... it's the first thing I've applied for as an individual and I wouldn't have felt confident enough without the course and your support!'

**Jenny,
Inspiring Enterprise
participant**

What does all of this mean?

By championing the voice of the sector, investing in Social Action and bolstering the sustainability of the sector; we are building a resilient future for the sector to thrive in. A sector which will support vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities, for everyone in Stockport.

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Next Steps

Short-term goals

- Continue to build engagement with the sector on the ground through newly appointed Engagement & Partnerships Lead
- Roll out engagement plan including accessible events schedule to arm the sector with the support to thrive
- Develop the Stockport Volunteer Hub service through the Volunteer Hub Lead, supporting a thriving volunteer network
- Launch the Proper Good Business programme to provide financial support, networking opportunities and mentorship to Social Entrepreneurs across the borough
- Cultivate up and coming thematic networks such as the Refugee & Asylum Seeker hub and Veterans Network, facilitating progress through collaboration
- Build on our ability to support the sector with its digital capacity in partnership with Stockport's award-winning Digital Alliance

Long-term goals

- Continue to drive new investment into the third sector
- Use our data and insights to promote the value and impact the VCFSE brings to our borough
- Continue to harness the right conditions for Stockport's third sector to thrive, led by the sector, for the sector

413 people subscribed to our newsletter

Want to keep up to date on the valuable work of Stockport's third sector?

[Subscribe Here](#)

With thanks to our partners:

- Great Places Housing
- GMCA
- GM VCSE Leadership Group
- GMCVO
- Marketing Stockport
- National Lottery Community Fund
- One Stockport
- Stockport CCG
- Stockport College
- Stockport Council
- Stockport Economic Alliance
- Stockport Homes Group
- The Goodness Collective
- 10GM

Our trustees:

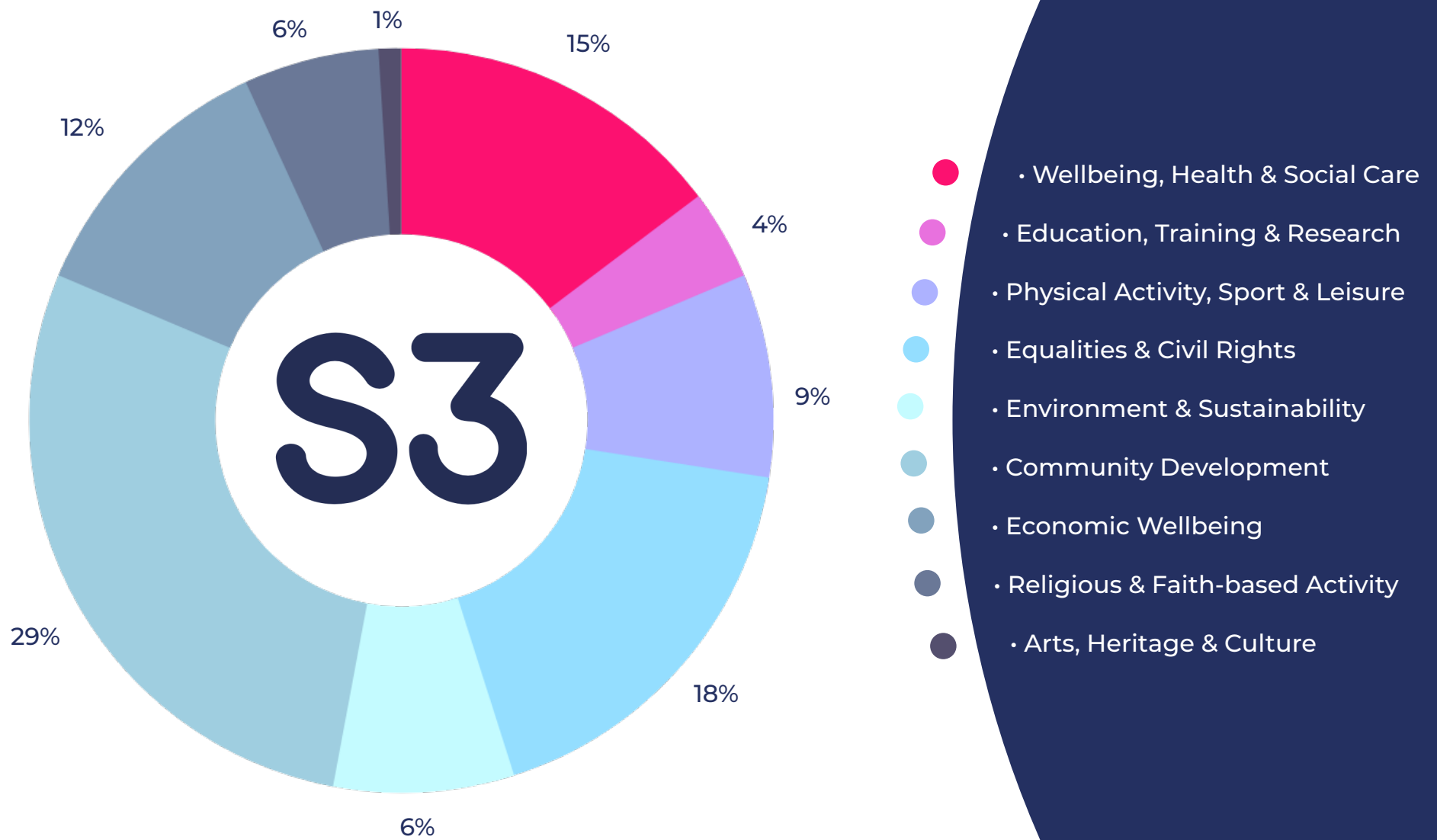
- Anna Lambert
- Dianne Scott-Fowler - STUFF
- James Harper - Beacon Counselling
- Kay Kelly, Walthew House
- Kamran Riaz
- Louise Parrott
- Bates, Pure Innovations
- Margaret Brade, AGE UK Stockport
- Mary Edwards, Stockport Advocacy
- Steve Hughes, Citizens Advice
- Tolu Fiberesima, African and Caribbean Community Association

Full list of organisations funded via Sector3:

- Active Communities Experiences
- Allotments Stockport
- APNA Womens Group
- Arc
- Arty Kind
- Aspiring Boldly Associates
- AutiSK
- Bosden Farm Community Group
- Bramhall Community Hub
- Chatty Ideas
- Cheadle and Gatley JFC
- Cheadle Jam
- Cherry Tree Project
- Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme
- Coffee Morning Daily Dance
- Community Essence
- Cracking Good Food
- Crafternoon
- Drawing Board Productions (Heatons Post)
- DryWave
- Early Dementia Users Cooperative Aiming to Educate
- Early Essentials Stockport
- Ebony and Ivory Community Association
- Forward
- Friendly Fridays
- Friends of Hesketh Park and Mellor Green
- Friends of High Lane and Brookside Parks
- Gatley Food Bank
- Handy Ladies
- Hazel Grove Brass Band
- Hazel Grove Cricket Club
- Hazel Grove Mutual Aid
- Heald Green Friday Hub
- Heart CIC
- Heaton Norris Community Centre
- House of Issachar International Ministries
- Independent Options
- Its Her Story
- Joy Ethic
- Jump Space
- Kids Community Closet
- Keiras Kingdom
- Little Stars Playgroup
- Make Build Grow
- Merseyway Workshop
- Nexus
- Offerton Community Cafe
- Oldham Drive Estate Tenants Group
- Olive Community Project
- PIE: Pursuing Individual Excellence
- PIP UK
- Plastic Shed
- Pretty Tough Things
- R Kids
- Read Easy
- Renewal North West
- Sands United Stockport FC
- Seashell Trust
- Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (UK)
- Socially Yours
- Signpost Stockport for Carers
- Soul City Church
- SPACE
- ST4ND
- Starting Point Community Learning Partnership
- Step Ahead Community Group
- Stockport & District Mind
- Stockport Community Cycling Club
- Stockport Food Bank
- Stockport Oromo Community
- Stockport Progress and Recovery Centre
- Stockport Together
- Stockport Volleyball Club
- Stockport Without Abuse
- Sustainable Bramhall
- The Garden House Marple
- The Wellbeing Initiative
- The Wellspring
- Together Trust
- V&A Street Dance
- Village Web Company
- We Care NW



Full list of organisations funded via Sector3:



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Stockport's VCFSE sector