



THE BIGGEST GATHERING OF
TRUSTED SUPPORT SERVICES FOR
THE LANCASTER DISTRICT'S
VOLUNTARY SECTOR. EVERYTHING
YOUR ORGANISATION NEEDS...
ALL UNDER ONE ROOF.

THE
BIG

SWOP

SHOP

Skill Share
Network

17TH
SEPTEMBER
2026
1-4PM



MORE MUSIC
13-17 Devonshire Road,
Morecambe, LA3 1QT

DISCOVER TRUSTED SERVICES.
GAIN EXPERT ADVICE.
MAKE BETTER DECISIONS.



LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

Chamber
OF COMMERCE



THE BIG SWOP SHOP SKILL SHARE NETWORK

DISCOVER TRUSTED SERVICES. **GAIN EXPERT ADVICE.** MAKE BETTER DECISIONS.

*"The biggest gathering of trusted support services for Lancaster District's voluntary sector. Everything your organisation needs **All under one roof**"*

Need a new HR provider? Wondering which CRM system works best? Looking for a charity accountant, insurer or solicitor you can trust? Trying to find support with governance, compliance, finance, accessibility or fire risk assessments?

Join us for our BIG Swop Shop, one of our programme of Skill Share sessions, bringing together voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations from across Lancaster District for an afternoon of shared learning, practical insights and valuable connections.

Delivered in partnership by Lancaster District CVS and Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, the Big Swop Shop focuses on the professional and core services that help organisations run effectively and sustainably – from finance, legal and HR support to CRM systems, compliance, governance, insurance and operational services.

Whether you're reviewing your current providers, searching for specialist support or simply looking to learn from the experiences of others, you'll find a wealth of knowledge, practical advice and trusted recommendations - **all under one roof.**

WHAT TO EXPECT

EXPERT PROVIDERS MARKETPLACE

Meet a range of trusted providers who understand the needs of voluntary organisations. Explore services including finance, banking, HR, legal support, governance, compliance, insurance, CRM systems, digital tools, accessibility, fire risk assessments and more.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS EXCHANGE

Join facilitated table discussions on key topics, share experiences, compare approaches and learn from both sector specialists and fellow organisations. Bring your questions, recommendations and lessons learned to help others make informed decisions.

NETWORKING AND PEER LEARNING

Build valuable connections with colleagues from across the district, exchange ideas and gain trusted recommendations from people who understand the realities of running voluntary and community organisations.



DATE

Thursday 17 September 2026

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

LOCATION

More Music, 13-17 Devonshire Road,
Morecambe, Lancashire LA3 1QT

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Trustees, staff and volunteers from charities, community groups, faith organisations, social enterprises and other not-for-profit organisations across Lancaster District. Because better organisations are built on better conversations, trusted recommendations and shared experience.

Make sure you have booked your place to secure entry – places are limited and once all the tickets have gone, we can't allow access on the door to ensure safe numbers in the building.

Book your ticket here -

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GURH>

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

1. Book onto the event if you haven't yet done so.
2. Read through the list of providers below and decide if there are any that you would really like to meet.
3. Think about the questions you would like to ask them. It is likely that you already have someone dealing with accounts, legal issues, insurance etc but this is a fantastic opportunity to chat to people with professional expertise and ask them about things that are relevant to your organisation.
4. Come prepared to share details of your trusted suppliers.
5. Or just come along, browse and maybe talk to people that you didn't think you needed to – you never know, it could open up a new and useful connection for you.

Finally, just to say if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch on **hello@lancastercvs.org.uk** or telephone and ask for **Sharon** or **Nick** on **01524 555900**. The team at LDCVS look forward to seeing you on the day.

Best Wishes

Sharon and Charlotte

Sharon Phillips

LDCVS, Connecting Communities Development Officer

Charlotte Ellwood

Lancaster and Morecambe Chamber of Commerce, Membership and Engagement Manager

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

1:00 – 4:00 | MARKETPLACE NETWORKING

- Open marketplace throughout the afternoon with stall holders offering services to the VCSE sector:
 - Finance, banking & insurance
 - Legal & HR support
 - Systems & Support
 - Trades & operational services (e.g. fire risk, accessibility assessments)

An opportunity to ask questions, explore services and identify useful contacts

1:00 – 4:00 | INFORMATION SHARE

- Stationed around the venue will be allocated areas for you to share details of organisations or people that you currently use, that you are happy with and would recommend to others. We'll be asking you to share across the following headings:
- Consultancy, bid writing, fundraising
- People, HR and recruitment
- IT and data protection
- Legal
- Safeguarding
- Training
- Utilities and Property
- Venue Hire
- Volunteer recruitment and management
- This information will be collated after the event to be shared with your sector colleagues.
- These spaces will also be used to sit down, take a break and network with other voluntary sector colleagues. Take the opportunity to talk to each other and share your experiences, top tips and recommendations.



2:15 – 4.00 | BREAK OUT SPACE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

On arrival participants can sign up to one or more of our themed discussion groups facilitated by a sector professional and taking place at various time over the remainder of the afternoon.

Places will be limited for each themed group depending on the space available. Do come prepared to share your experiences, challenges and useful contacts as well as any questions you might want the group to help with answering.

THEMES:

- **Finance, budgeting & monitoring** – how do you keep a tab on your income and expenditure, monitor spend against specific projects or pots of funding or find an accountant that is experienced in supporting and advising voluntary sector organisations
- **Insurance** – do you know what the right insurance for your organisation is? How do you navigate through the range of insurance providers and feel confident your organisation is sufficiently covered for buildings, content, public and employer liability.
- **Funding** – What are grant funders looking for? The Do's and Don'ts when applying for funding to give you the best possible chance of success. Learn from each other's experiences of applying to various funders.



EXPERT PROVIDERS & EXHIBITORS



3R FOUNDATION AND CHARITY SHOP

AREA OF EXPERTISE – GRANT GIVING AND FUNDRAISING

The 3R foundation raises funds for local charities, community groups and clubs in the North Lancashire and South Cumbria through the 3R Charity Shop. Proceeds from the shop are put straight back into the community at grass roots level. At the BIG Swop Shop they are happy to discuss generic fund-raising advice as well as guidance specific to their grant giving.



THE CUMBERLAND

AREA OF EXPERTISE – CHARITY BANKING

At The Cumberland, we're proud to support the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector across our local communities. We understand that running a VCSE organisation comes with unique challenges, from managing finances and compliance to planning for the future. Our team is here to provide practical, friendly support and help organisations make the most of their finances. Come and have a chat with us at the Swop Shop — whether you have a specific question, want to explore how we can support your organisation, or simply want to say hello.



BELL LANCASTER

AREA OF EXPERTISE – FIRE SECURITY

Prioritising the safety and protection of your property, personnel and business. Based in Forton, near Lancaster, they offer a range of fire security, training and consultancy services. They can advise your organisation on all aspects of fire precautions management, maintenance, design and installation in all fields of fire prevention.



BSG SOLICITORS

AREA OF EXPERTISE – LEGAL SERVICES, INCLUDING CHARITY LAW

Bringing considerable experience of acting for a number of charities throughout the UK from large educational and religious charities to small community organisations. BSG can advise you on a wide range of issues including charitable status, trustee appointments and elections, formation and registration, charitable trusts and unincorporated associations, charity companies, charitable incorporated organisations, governance issues, charitable trading and more.



CHAPMAN CONSULTANCY

AREA OF EXPERTISE – CHARITY GOVERNANCE

Alan Chapman is a locally based consultant with wide ranging experience of work with voluntary and community organisations' trustees, staff and volunteers as well as work for charitable trusts and the groups they fund. Alan will be happy to respond to queries on the day around governance practice including the work of Boards of Trustees, constitutions, changing structures and good governance practice.



CLOSING LOOPS

AREA OF EXPERTISE – ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Closing Loops is a collaborative project created to stimulate a thriving local economy in North Lancashire. The project was launched by FoodFutures, North Lancashire's award-winning Sustainable Food Network. Visit their stall to find out about sustainable procurement – the practice of acquiring goods, services and works in a way that balances cost, quality and long-term environmental, social and economic impacts.



GREEN ROSE CIC

AREA OF EXPERTISE – ENERGY ADVICE

Green Rose are a social enterprise based in North Lancashire offering households free advice and support with energy issues across all 14 districts of Lancashire. Their aims are to help people stay warm and well, and to make homes more sustainable. Talk to them about the people you support and how you might collaborate to ensure communities access the right information and support.



FRONTLINE FIRST AID

AREA OF EXPERTISE – FIRST AID EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Lancasters only UK emergency services led First Aid Training company. Providing professional first aid training and certification services, regulated by the First Aid Industry Body. Speak to them about the courses they provide including Basic Life Support BLS (3 hours), Emergency First Aid At Work EFAW (1 day), First Aid At Work FAW (3 days) and Mental Health at Work (1/2, 1 and 2 day)



HR DEPARTMENT NORTH LANCASHIRE – HUMAN RESOURCES / EMPLOYMENT ADVICE

AREA OF EXPERTISE – HUMAN RESOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

The HR Dept Carlisle & Morecambe offer pragmatic, impactful and business-focused advice to their clients, delivered locally with a personal touch. They are a local partner, not a call centre, providing affordable outsourced HR advice, tailored to your needs. Whether it's a review of your employment contract, policies or recruitment, an organisational revamp, management development or disciplinary, they can help.



HSE ADVICE

AREA OF EXPERTISE – HEALTH AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE

HSE Advice UK, help charities create safe, wellrun environments without unnecessary complexity or cost. Their support is practical, proportionate, and tailored to the unique challenges faced by voluntary sector organisations. They can help with practical risk assessments for real world activities, support with volunteers, trustees and staff safety, event safety planning and support, safeguarding people who use your services, policy development, training and ongoing competent person support.



LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AREA OF EXPERTISE – GRANT GIVING AND FUNDRAISING

LCC will be offering advice, guidance and support about applying for local, regional and national community funding. They will cover getting a clear understanding of eligibility requirements, funding criteria, and strategic priorities of a fund, and how to develop high quality proposals that maximise potential for a successful application. You can also learn more about LCC's funding opportunities, and how to use their LCC 4 Community funding portal.



LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

AREA OF EXPERTISE – BUSINESS AND SKILLS SUPPORT

Lancaster City council provide a business support hub offering free support to help local businesses start, grow and succeed. They have a team of experts who can work with you on a review of your business to identify the areas where they, or their partner organisations, can best assist. Help can be for a variety of things, including business grants, finance and funding, skills training, business advice, mentoring and coaching, plus support for local community groups and organisations through their Community Connectors team.



LANCASTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SOLUTIONS (LDCVS):

AREA OF EXPERTISE – VOLUNTARY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

LDCVS improve communities by bringing people together and supporting voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise sector (VCFSE) organisations. At the BIG Swop shop there will be access to advice around our financial services offer (payroll and independent examinations), demonstrations on the use of Club Treasurer (an accounting and memberships platform for charities) and information on volunteer recruitment and support from our Volunteer Centre Manager.



LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

AREA OF EXPERTISE – BUSINESS SUPPORT AND ADVICE

All businesses need support and advice to help them achieve their ambitions. Lancaster and Morecambe Chamber of Commerce are your leading business support organisation. By helping to connect, support and represent businesses, they champion the local business community. They offer a range of assistance that can help companies at every stage of their development; from getting started to expanding their existing business activities. Come and talk to them about how Chamber membership can offer a range of benefits for the VCFSE sector and your organisation.



ANTHONY COLLINS

AREA OF EXPERTISE – CHARITY LAW

As specialist charity lawyers, we understand the reality of running a mission-led organisation. You are leading a complex organisation, accountable to multiple stakeholders, managing significant resources and delivering impact at scale, all while navigating an increasingly demanding legal and regulatory environment. It is a privilege to stand alongside the people who make this work possible, and we don't take that lightly.

PREMIERLINE BUSINESS INSURANCE BROKER

AREA OF EXPERTISE - INSURANCE

Based in Lancaster, Premierline are a local broker who provide insurance solutions for UK businesses of all sizes. They have a team of experienced advisors able to complete a market search to arrange the right insurance solution to meet your requirements. Come and talk to them about your insurance needs, whether it be buildings, contents, public liability, employers' liability, professional indemnity, Directors and Officers insurance or cyber and data insurance.

RATHBONES

RATHBONES

AREA OF EXPERTISE - INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Rathbones have a team of dedicated charity specialists who are there to support your mission by helping you make sound financial decisions with clarity and confidence. They bring together institutional investment expertise, a deep knowledge of the charity sector and a long track record in responsible investing. Whether you're reviewing your current arrangements or planning for growth, we'll work with you to create a solution that supports your goals.



ROSEBANK PR

AREA OF EXPERTISE - PR & COMMUNICATIONS

Rosebank PR & Communications is led by Bob Hart. An NCTJ-qualified journalist, Bob worked in senior roles in the regional press before entering the world of communications. Now a Chartered Institute of Public Relations Accredited PR Practitioner, Bob has experience of working in a wide range of fields including education, health and various commercial sectors. Rosebank PR & Communications works with a range of associates to provide the expertise you need to meet your goals.



THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

AREA OF EXPERTISE - GRANT GIVING AND FUNDRAISING

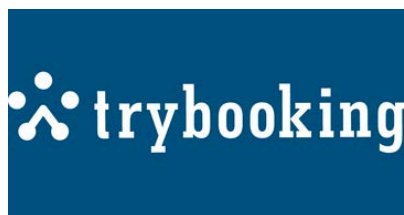
The National Lottery Community Fund are focused on funding community projects that help people connect, grow and build a better future. They particularly focus on supporting people facing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination. Our regional Funding Officers are supporting the BIG Swop Shop and will be on hand to give advice on their own funding programmes but also talk about what a good funding application should have in it.



TREBLE3 DESIGN

AREA OF EXPERTISE - PRINT AND DESIGN

Treble3 is a small, friendly specialist print and design company with over 30 years' experience in design, print, website production, exhibition and display. They can offer a full range of creative solutions to large and small businesses. Based in Carnforth since 2023, they proudly work with businesses across Lancaster, Morecambe, North Lancashire and South Cumbria, while continuing to supply print nationwide.



TRYBOOKING

AREA OF EXPERTISE - ONLINE EVENTS BOOKING PLATFORM

Whether you're running pilates in Poulton or a gala in Galgate, we're proud to champion Great British communities with event ticketing across the UK since 2014. TryBooking is the event ticketing platform designed for your community - it's easy to sell tickets, manage registrations, and stay in control on the day. And with low, all-inclusive fees, everything stays simple and affordable.



WATERS AND ATKINSON

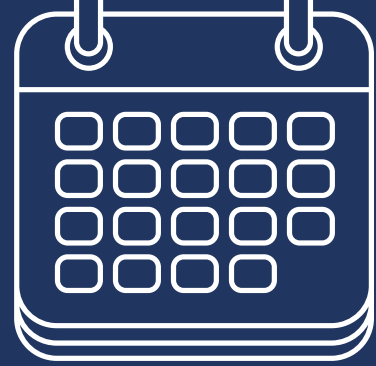
AREA OF EXPERTISE - CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, BUSINESS ADVISERS & TAX CONSULTANTS

Waters and Atkinson provide accountancy services to all types of companies, businesses and individuals from Lancaster, Morecambe and the rest of the country. They are a full-service accountancy firm working with clients across all sectors. To complement their general accountancy services, they also offer business development and specialist tax advice too.



FUTURE EVENTS

LDCVS - FESTIVOL 2026



Hold the date for Festival 2026! 17th November

Lancaster District CVS's annual celebration of our district's voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector returns this November, bringing together the people and organisations doing extraordinary things in communities across Lancaster District. FestiVOL is a chance to step away from the day-to-day, come together as a sector and take stock of where we are, what we've achieved and where we might go next.

Over the years, FestiVOL has become a space for conversation, connection and fresh thinking – somewhere to hear different perspectives, share experiences, discover brilliant work happening across our district and make connections that might just lead somewhere new. And, importantly, it's a celebration.

Our sector works incredibly hard all year round – supporting people, strengthening communities, tackling inequalities and responding to challenges as they emerge. FestiVOL gives us an opportunity to recognise that contribution while spending some valuable time together. We're still busy putting the pieces of FestiVOL 2026 into place, with details of this year's venue, programme, speakers and activities to follow.

More details coming soon. We're looking forward to bringing Lancaster District's VCFSE sector together again.

LANCASTER DISTRICT BUSINESS SUPPORT EXPO

Lancaster District's Premier Business Showcase Set for November 18th

Business owners and entrepreneurs across the Lancaster District are invited to attend the Lancaster District Business Support Expo, taking place on Wednesday 18th November 9am – 1pm at The Platform in Morecambe.

Organised by Lancaster City Council in partnership with the Lancaster & Morecambe Chamber of Commerce, this event is designed to support local enterprise with a day of exhibitions, networking, and expert advice.

The Business Support Expo will feature a wide range of exhibitors, business support stands, and networking opportunities, offering valuable insight and resources for:

- Small business owners
- Entrepreneurs and start-ups
- Scale-ups looking to grow
- Freelancers and sole traders

Whether you're just starting out or ready to take your business to the next level, the Expo is your chance to connect with local professionals, discover funding opportunities, and explore support services available across the district.