

# Membership: a brief guide

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## Why join us?

We support voluntary and community organisations in Adur, Worthing, Brighton and Hove. We currently have over 450 members.

Voluntary and community organisations working in these areas can apply to become a member. As a member you will benefit from exclusive and prioritised access to our full range of services.

We can help you to run your organisation more effectively. We will either work with you directly or support you to work with one of our expert volunteers or businesses. We can help you find volunteers and provide guidance on how to support them. We can also help you to make your views and needs heard in your local area.

We will help you to make a difference to local lives and issues by strengthening your work and amplifying your voice.

## Membership benefits

### Work together

Our networks bring you together with organisations of all sizes so you can learn from each other, and collaborate together. Our networks meet three times a year during our members' conferences.

Attendance at our conferences and networks is free for members.

### Learn more

Our training courses and other peer-support activities help you to run and manage your organisation effectively. We can also give you one-to-one advice and support to help you resolve that issue you're facing.

Attendance at our courses and participation in our activities is prioritised for members. Members also benefit from reduced fees and, on occasion, free courses and activities.

### Stay connected

Our member-only email groups, enable you to communicate directly with other members about the issues that affect you, and find solutions to the challenges you're facing. We also use our email groups to share important information with you, so you can stay connected to events and discussions taking place in the voluntary and community sector and in the local area.

Being part of our email groups is free for members.

You'll also receive our exclusive members' newsletter, which is published every three weeks. It contains a summary of all our current events, training courses and our work, plus useful resources and funding opportunities to help you run your organisation.

## **Be heard**

We provide opportunities for you to share your views and experiences, and work jointly with other members as a unified movement to make sure that your voices are heard locally, regionally and (where appropriate) at a national level.

As a member, you can elect representatives who will work on your behalf to influence plans and services in your local area. We help you to connect to your representatives and to contribute to their work. As a member you can also volunteer to be elected as a representative.

## **Get promoted**

Your group or organisation's details will appear in our online members directory, which is promoted across the region.

Our online directory is only for members.

## **Take action**

We're a member-led organisation. Our members are at the centre of our work. As a member you can vote on key decisions at our annual general meetings. You can also be elected as a trustee.

## **Eligibility**

Full membership with us is open to any community-led group or organisation which operates in Adur, Worthing, Brighton or Hove, and for the benefit of local residents.

Associate membership is also available to any group or organisation which operates in Adur, Worthing, Brighton or Hove, and to any individual who lives or works in Adur, Worthing, Brighton or Hove. Please note, associate membership does not entitle you or your organisation to access the services provided exclusively for our members.

## **Membership fees**

Our membership fees are based on annual income and entitle you to membership for a two year period.

- under £35,000: Free
- over £35,000 but below £100,000: £50 (£2.08 per month)
- over £100,000 but below £250,000: £100 (£4.17 per month)
- over £250,000 but below £500,000: £200 (£8.33 per month)
- over £500,000: £300 (£12.50 per month)

If you'd like to apply to be a member, please complete our online application form at:

[bhcommunityworks.org.uk/members/join-us/apply-for-membership](https://bhcommunityworks.org.uk/members/join-us/apply-for-membership)

If you have any questions about membership, get in touch with us on: [info@bhcommunityworks.org.uk](mailto:info@bhcommunityworks.org.uk) or 01273 234023