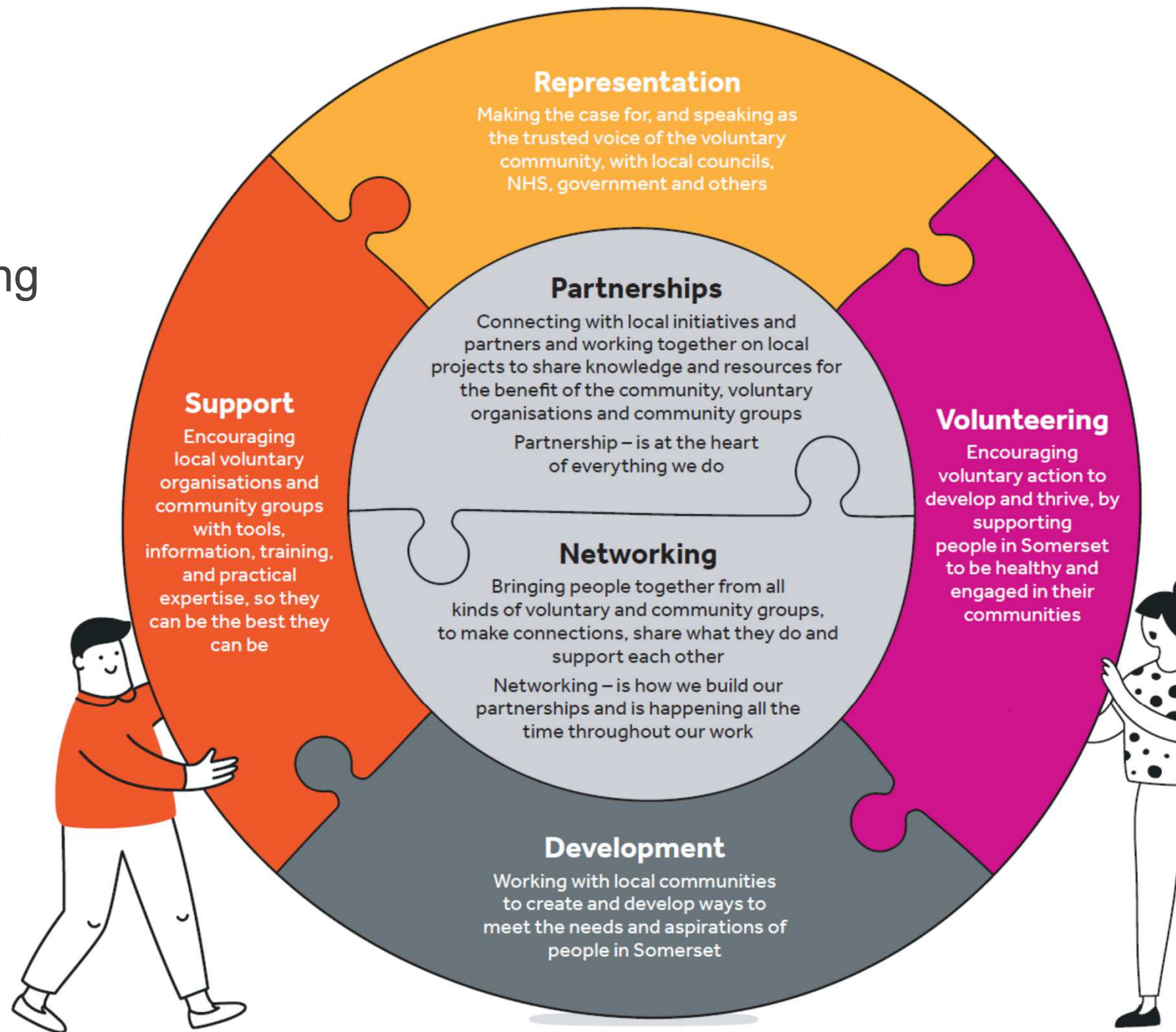




SPARK
SOMERSET
INSPIRING COMMUNITIES



Our aim is to inspire strong and sustainable communities through voluntary and community action.



95 groups supported with:

- Governance, policies and set-up
- Funding advice and support
- Covid-19 issues
- Volunteering
- Connections, collaboration and partnership support
- Community events and activities
- Legal issues
- Training

15 groups received 121 support with volunteer management

9 groups received in-depth funding support

25+ events and forums, providing networking and learning opportunities

3 South Somerset forums held to support local groups with 35 representatives attending.

77 new volunteers and **67** new volunteering opportunities registered on www.sparkachange.org.uk

308 DBS applications processes

- **Yeovil Men's Shed:** Have a new committee in place, provided support to the new Chairman. Supplied with Safeguarding Policy pro forma, involved with dementia project, reconnected with Westfield Community Garden and attending Meet the Funder. *“Thank you for all the help you are giving us.”*
- Supported **South Chard Church** over a period of time, including funding advice, accessing training, providing opportunities for collaboration. *“In short, the team have been outstanding. They are an absolute support to us and as we move forward with our community projects, we are so grateful to have them at our back.”*

- **Helped St Michael's Yeovil** get a grant of £1500 to start a simple garden planting project at Birchfield Rec. *“I received an email today offering me the complete £1500. That was the best news of this week... I am very grateful for your help in finding this funder! It would not have happened without your help.”*
- Supported **Stoma Heroes** to secure their first ever grant. *“When I was asked by Shane (the founder of Stoma Heroes) if I would help trying to get such much needed funds for the charity, I thought “No problem, how hard can this be?!” I am not going to lie - it's a minefield getting your head around these application forms...With Spark's help I have now secured a grant of £2,000 for the charity..... All I can say is a huge thank you to Spark Somerset, I was struggling, and they came to my rescue!”*

9 training workshops, attended by **38** local groups
(including GDPR, trustee training and Emergency First Aid)

First Aid, September 2021

(1 not at all, 10 extremely):
Prior Confidence Average: 5.6
Post Confidence average: 8.6

“Thank you to all involved, for such an enjoyable and profitable morning yesterday. I shall be recommending the course on 6th May to my fellow trustees.”

Like many others, during the past 40 years I've attended numerous First Aid and HSE workshops. Yesterday's was by far the most engaging and valuable. I would certainly recommend the training to even the most experienced but uncertified people.”

Wider activity– some highlights

Employer supported volunteering –129 individuals, supporting 6 community organisations, including Harmony Fires: *“We wanted to carry out a volunteering day as it fitted perfectly with our charitable foundations’ ethos of supporting social and local communities and providing young people with opportunities. Helping at ARK seemed the perfect way of combining a team building day with doing good in the local community”*.

100+ Covid Community Champions and 15 Vaccine Buddies: *“Being a Covid Community Champion has been so beneficial, I've been able to reassure friends and family regarding the vaccine programme....Its been really nice knowing I am helping people through the Covid crisis thank you for this.”*

Represent the voluntary sector on key Boards, forums and events (including Local Government Reorganisation Advisory Board, Integrated Care System, Community Hospitals Strategy Group etc)

Thriving Communities: working in partnership with health, art and nature organisations to run this funded project, designed to support the social prescribing agenda.

Consultation and Engagement

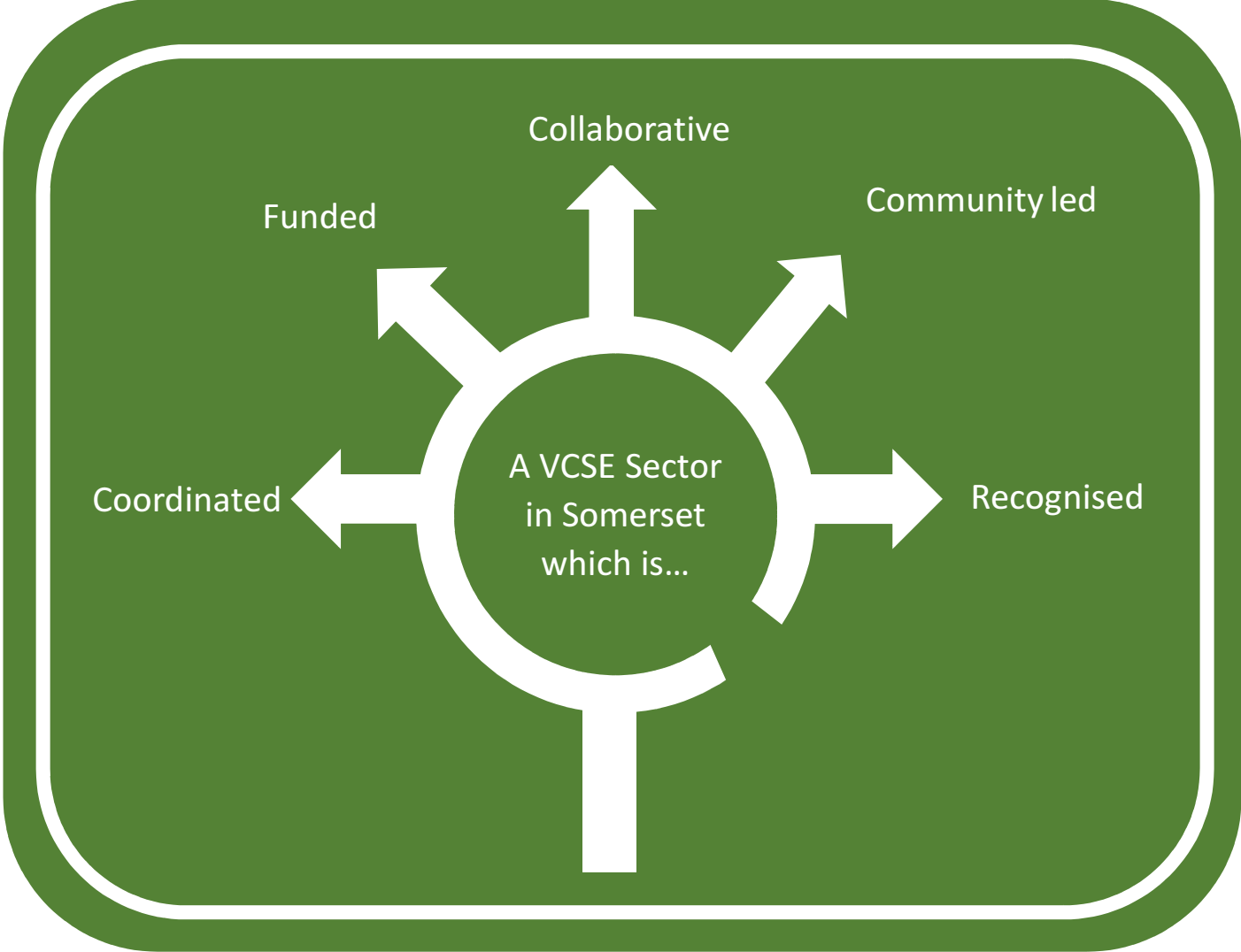
- Reflect on how the pandemic impacted VCSEs in Somerset, and the people/communities they support.
- Understand the **recovery** needs of VCSEs, and the people/communities they support.
- Identify what the VCSE sector in Somerset needs to **renew** and thrive as we emerge from the pandemic.



*Long term planning
takes place so that
short term projects can
shape and deliver
better outcomes over
time"*

*What the VCSE knows
and does what, so that
individuals and groups
get the right help they
need, as quickly as
possible."*

*"Work with and not for statutory
services."*



*"That we are inclusive
and people don't get
forgotten. There are
pockets of deprivation
and it's great all around
the county"*

*"Respect (and
understand) each other's
specialities/expertise"*



**Thank you for
your support**



www.sparksomerset.org.uk

www.sparkachange.org.uk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Elc0ddBotj0>