



helping
somerset thrive:
our impact

Stronger communities, brighter futures –
positive change for one in thirty people across Somerset



our vision

Supporting Somerset's communities to thrive.

our mission

To enable change by listening, responding to need and building connections between people and communities.

our values

We are kind and compassionate



We act with honesty and integrity



We value equality and inclusion



Contents

- 3 Foreword
- 4 Thrive at a glance
- 6 Somerset communities are resilient and thriving**
- 7 Overview
- 8 Village agent programme
- 9 Somerset carers
- 10 Help through winter & fuel poverty week
- 11 Womens conversation groups
- 12 Rural housing
- 13 Supporting children & families
- 14 We collaborate effectively with others**
- 15 Working together for Somerset
- 16 Theory of change
- 18 Stronger together: Partnerships and systems influence
- 20 Community solution seekers and collaborate leadership
- 21 Community buildings and leadership
- 22 Welcome to all
- 22 Somerset's diverse communities
- 24 We inform and influence policy to drive change**
- 25 Laying the groundwork for change
- 26 Influencing housing and transport policy
- 27 Building the evidence base
- 28 Cross-cutting themes and organisational impact**
- 29 Environment and sustainability
- 30 Equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging
- 31 Digital innovation and a learning culture
- 32 Celebrating our first 100 years – preparing for the next 100
- 33 Funding our work

foreword



This year's Impact Report marks our first as Thrive – the new name for the Community Council for Somerset. The change is more than visual; it reflects how we've grown as an organisation, and how we've learned to tell our story in a way that truly represents the communities we serve.

We've refreshed our Theory of Change to align with this new identity – not to reinvent our purpose, but to express it more clearly and confidently. Our work still begins where it always has: in the heart of Somerset's communities, helping people connect, solve problems and build local resilience.

Over the past year, Thrive has supported 18,854 people – around one in every thirty Somerset residents. Each of those interactions represents someone finding hope, confidence or connection at a time when they needed it most. They also reflect the dedication of our team, our volunteers, and the many community partners who share our belief that Somerset's strength lies in its people.

The work highlighted in this report shows what's possible when local knowledge meets shared purpose. It's not a story of completion, but of progress – a journey that continues as we listen, adapt and grow alongside the communities we serve.

Val Bishop
Chief Executive

Thrive has supported 18,854 people – around one in every thirty Somerset residents

thrive at a glance

One county, many communities.

Across Somerset, Thrive's work reaches into every corner of the county – rural villages, coastal towns and market centres alike. What unites these places is a shared desire to belong, to contribute and to look after one another.

In the past year we've seen that spirit in action on a remarkable scale: thousands of people have found help, advice and connection through our Village and Community Agents; hundreds of community buildings have been strengthened through practical support; and dozens of local initiatives have taken root – from energy-saving schemes to conversation clubs that bring people of 40 nationalities together.

Behind the numbers lies a network of kindness and collaboration – local volunteers giving their time, partners pooling resources, and residents stepping up to make a difference. Together, these efforts form a county-wide ecosystem of care: responsive, creative and resilient. It's a picture of Somerset at its best – one county, many communities, working together to help each other thrive.



18,854

people supported

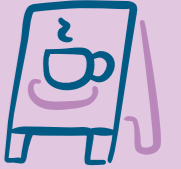


152

tonnes of CO₂ saved

5,813

visitors to our Talking Cafes



73%

of clients report increased confidence

81%

of clients report improved wellbeing



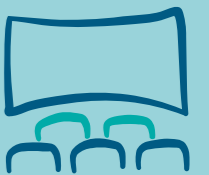
159

community buildings supported



7,250

attendees at Together events



8,762

unique referrals

10,092

one-off enquiries



100

local initiatives supported

somerset communities are resilient and thriving

Meeting needs — Confidence — Connection — Resilience



overview

Thrive's approach combines individual support with community strength-building. We help people overcome immediate challenges while ensuring the local networks around them grow stronger for the future.

The impact can be seen and felt across the county. In every locality, residents are finding practical help close to home – whether through a Talking Café, a village agent's visit, or a neighbourhood project tackling local priorities. The pattern of referrals across Somerset shows both the reach and adaptability of this model: support is not concentrated in one area but spread across rural and urban communities alike.

Our work also makes a measurable difference to wellbeing. The vast majority of clients – those who agreed or strongly agreed – told us their wellbeing had improved as a result of Thrive's support.

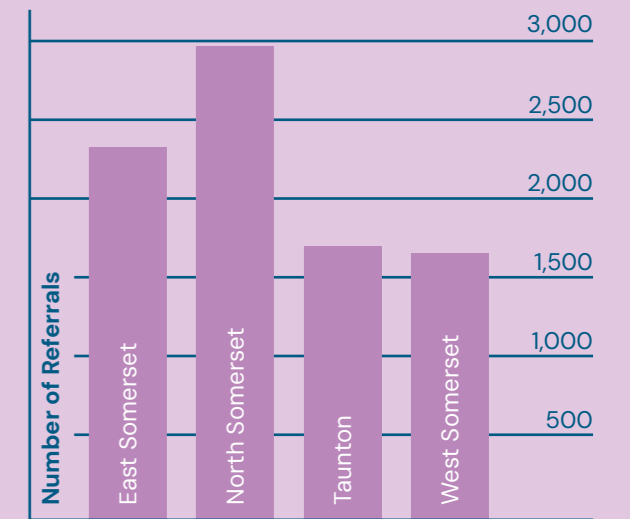
Behind every data point is a personal story of change, often summed up in one simple sentence:

I finally feel part of my community again

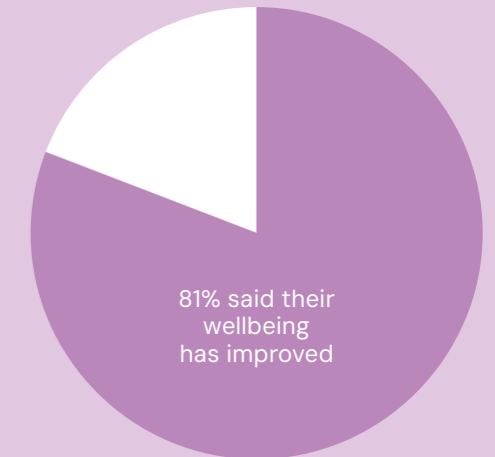
This is what it means to help Somerset's people and places thrive.



Village Agent referrals by area



Client wellbeing

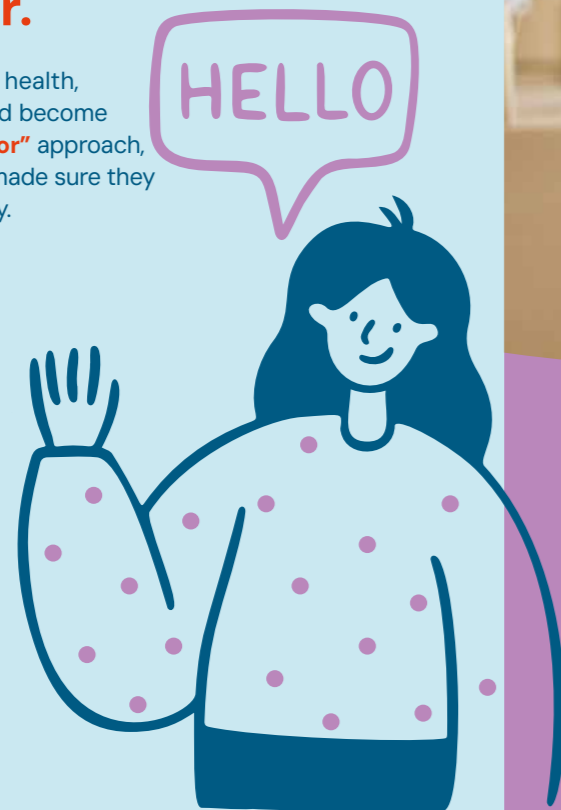


village agent programme

Our Village Agents helped 18,854 people across Somerset last year.

Many were facing financial hardship, poor health, isolation or caring responsibilities that had become overwhelming. Through our **"No Wrong Door"** approach, anyone could come to us for help, and we made sure they reached the right support quickly and easily.

Village Agents lived and worked within the communities they served, so they understood local challenges and the hidden barriers people faced. They did not wait for problems to escalate. They stepped in early, listened carefully, and found practical solutions. That often meant securing emergency food or fuel support, arranging urgent care, finding suitable housing, or connecting someone to local wellbeing or debt advice.



"I didn't know where to start."

When Peter, a self-employed decorator from rural West Somerset, lost work due to ill health, he quickly fell behind on bills and rent. His Village Agent met him at a Talking Café and helped him apply for Universal Credit, a fuel voucher and local hardship funding. Within weeks, Peter was back on top of his finances and had been referred to a community group where he now volunteers twice a week.

somerset carers

Somerset Carers offered the same trusted, person-centred support to unpaid carers, the thousands of people quietly holding families together across the county.

Carers received tailored advice, respite options and emotional support through one-to-one contact, local groups and an expanding digital offer.

This support changed lives. Seventy-three per cent of the people we helped told us they felt more confident after our intervention, and eighty-one per cent reported an improvement in their wellbeing.

Those numbers represent more than progress. They show communities becoming more resilient, neighbours looking out for one another, and people regaining hope. By working alongside clients and carers, the Village Agents did not just fix immediate problems. They prevented crises and reduced pressure on public services. GPs, partner organisations and social care teams consistently told us that our involvement kept people well and independent for longer.

This was Thrive's strategy in action: building resilient, thriving communities where people were supported early, felt connected and could live the lives they chose.

73%

of the people we helped told us they felt more confident after our intervention

81%

reported an improvement in their wellbeing



"Someone finally listened."

Sarah, who cares for her mother with dementia, contacted Somerset Carers after reaching breaking point. A Village Agent arranged an assessment, helped her apply for a Carer's Allowance, and linked her to a local support group. Sarah later described feeling "lighter" and more confident managing day-to-day life.

help through winter and fuel poverty week

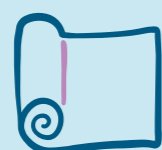
Last winter, Thrive ran **17 Help Through Winter events** across Somerset, welcoming **240 attendees** to warm, friendly community spaces. People came to talk, ask questions and get practical support to keep their homes warm and energy bills down.

Through our Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency work, we distributed **90 blankets, 20 slow cookers and 50 winter packs, along with hundreds of pieces of advice, referrals and energy-saving tips.** Our Village Agents and energy champions worked side by side with partners including Burnham & Weston Energy and National Energy Action to make sure every visitor left with something useful, from a warm pack to a clear plan for managing their bills.

The events brought organisations together under one roof, including **energy advisors, Citizens Advice, social housing providers and community groups,** to deliver immediate, joined-up support. For many, the personal contact was transformative: a conversation that turned fear about the winter ahead into a practical plan of action.

The outcomes were tangible. Dozens of households reduced their bills, accessed grants or fuel vouchers and improved their home energy efficiency. Just as importantly, people left feeling connected, informed and cared for.

This work showed Thrive's approach at its best: local, preventative and human, ensuring that Somerset's communities were not just surviving the winter but building the resilience to thrive beyond it.



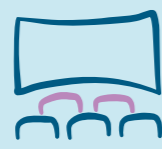
90 blankets



20 slow cookers



50 winter packs



17 Help Through Winter events



240 attendees



“You have no idea how much you have helped me”

An older resident living alone called us in distress, nearly out of heating oil and cutting back on food. We arranged a delivered food parcel, made a swift home visit, and secured £550 across two grants for heating oil, logs and draught proofing materials. We also connected them to their local food bank for ongoing support. They can now heat their home safely, have food in the cupboard, and know where to turn if they need help again. “You have no idea how much you have helped me” they said.

women's conversation groups

In art centres, libraries and faith buildings across Somerset, **Thrive's Conversation Groups are helping women build confidence, connection and belonging.** Many of those who come along are new to the county – families who have arrived through resettlement programmes, international care workers, or people rebuilding their lives after displacement. For others, the groups offer **a chance to meet new people, share culture and language, grow in confidence and feel part of the community again after isolation.**

During the past year, **six regular Conversation Clubs have run across the county, welcoming around 100 women from more than 40 different nationalities.** Each one reflects the community it serves. They provide informal English conversation, local advice, and a warm welcome for anyone who walks through the door. The members are encouraged to take up formal English learning, and **many have started volunteering or have entered employment due to the increased confidence they have and the support they have received.**

A new partnership for inclusion:

In 2025, we strengthened this work through a new partnership with Somerset Council's Community Learning Partnership. This investment recognises the role of local connection in tackling loneliness and promoting integration. It also builds on the success of our Welcome to All project, which has shown how small, community-led actions can help people feel they belong – wherever they come from.



6 regular conversation clubs



100 women



40 different nationalities



rural housing

Access to affordable housing and family support remain two of the biggest challenges facing rural Somerset.

Thrive's response brings together the expertise of our Rural Housing Enabler with the innovation of our Village Agent model – bridging policy, partnership and personal support.

Our Rural Housing Enabler works with parish councils, housing associations and planners to identify local needs and unlock sites for affordable homes.

In 2024–25, Thrive engaged **30 rural communities** and **17 parish councils**, helping to progress new rural exception sites, support local consultations, and advise on more than **100 individual housing cases through our advice network**. By combining data and local insight, we've shown how **housing policy can be rooted in lived experience rather than statistics alone**.

We have engaged with



17 parish councils



30 rural communities



supporting children and families

Meanwhile, our Children and Families Agent pilot, funded through our Living Better partnership with West Somerset PCN, tested a new way of supporting families facing complex challenges – from financial hardship and poor housing to health and wellbeing. Working alongside schools, children's centres and GPs, the pilot demonstrated how early, relationship-based support can prevent crises and reduce demand on statutory services.

The pilot's early results were promising: 81% of families reported an improvement in wellbeing following support. One parent told us, "It's the first time I've felt listened to and understood – not judged."

Together, these programmes show how Thrive's community approach can adapt to meet local needs – connecting systems and people, planning and compassion – to create the conditions where families can truly thrive.



81%
of families reported an improvement in wellbeing following support



we collaborate effectively with others

Connections — Partnerships — Stronger systems



working together for somerset

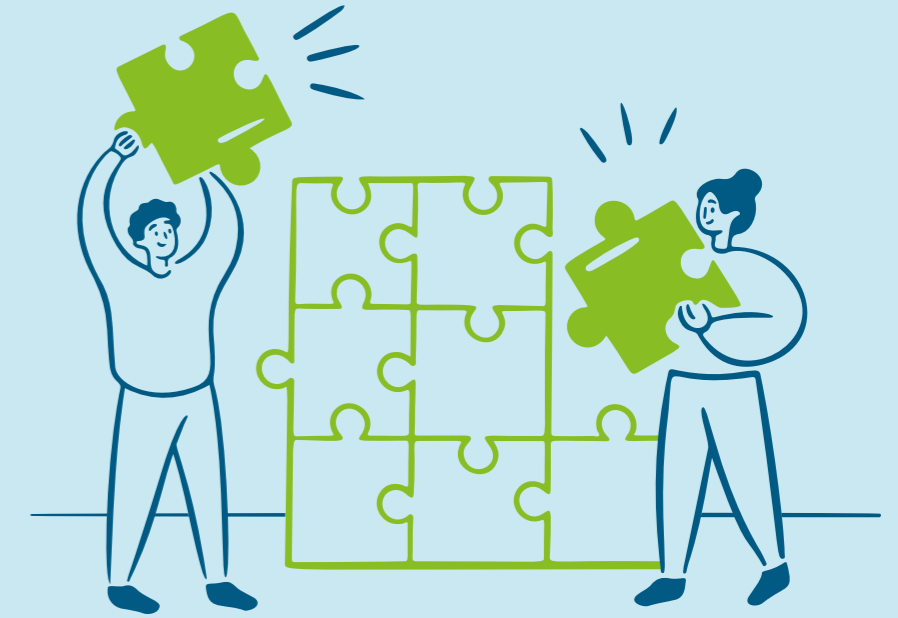
Collaboration is at the heart of Thrive's approach. **We believe lasting change happens when people, communities and organisations connect across boundaries**, and when collaboration moves beyond coordination to shared purpose.

Our way of working is rooted in what we call generous collaboration: an approach that values openness, trust and shared ownership above competition. It begins with relationships and grows into partnerships that strengthen the wider system. The flow is simple but powerful: **connections grow into partnerships, and those partnerships help build stronger systems.**

Through our networks of Village Agents, local groups and public-sector partners, we act as both a bridge and a catalyst – linking people with support and linking organisations with the communities they serve. This place-based approach means that collaboration is not something added on; it is how we work.

Our strategy commits us to building the conditions for collaboration everywhere we operate: spaces to share learning, data and resources; relationships that endure beyond individual projects; and a culture where generosity, not ownership, defines success.

The first Somerset Convention in 2024 was a landmark moment for Thrive and for Somerset's communities. Headlined by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, it brought together more than a hundred leaders from across the voluntary, public and private sectors to share ideas, celebrate collaboration and spark new partnerships. What made it distinctive was its generosity of spirit: there were no organisational logos competing for space, just people coming together for mutual benefit and a shared purpose.



The first Convention captured exactly what we mean by generous collaboration – creating a neutral, welcoming space where insight and goodwill can flow freely, where relationships are built on trust, and where the whole system benefits. The second Convention – exploring how we can move further upstream to tackle the causes not the consequences of Somerset's challenges – will build on that momentum and look ahead to our centenary year, deepening shared commitment to long-term system change across Somerset.

The successful integration of Diversity Voice this year demonstrated the strength of this collaborative approach in practice. The transition was smooth for staff and services, with their expertise adding real depth to our work. Their insight now enriches Welcome to All and Somerset Diverse Communities, strengthening community connections, inclusion, and support across the county.

Short term → Medium term → Long term



Confidence to connect

New social opportunities



Activities available for everyone



No one within any community feels isolated



Housing needs are on local and national agenda



Fit and proper housing for all



People can live securely in the places they choose



Organisations work together



Health services for all



PHARMACY

People are able to access the health care services they need

Short term → Medium term → Long term



New transport ideas to help the community



Accessible and affordable transport



People can access transport, food, and heat their homes



People share their love of growing food

People are happy to ask for help



Whole community grows and shares food



Vulnerable people receive the support they need immediately

Local & national government understand fuel poverty challenges



People able to make better choices about energy

stronger together: partnerships and system influence

Over the past year, Thrive has deepened its role as a connector and collaborator across multiple systems in Somerset – bringing lived experience and community insight into decision-making forums and helping partners work in new, more joined-up ways.

VCFSE Collaboration:

Thrive continues to play an active role in the county-wide voluntary-sector alliance, helping shape shared priorities on prevention, inclusion and place-based delivery. We have contributed to the implementation of the Somerset Memorandum of Understanding between the VCFSE and public sector. Together with partners we have developed joint funding initiatives designed to strengthen community infrastructure and build resilience.

Health:

Since October 2023 we have worked with system leaders as part of the Somerset Social Prescribing Collaborative to develop a relational, shared approach to social prescribing in our county. Since July 2024, our Chief Executive, Val Bishop, has served as one of the two VCFSE representatives on the Board of Somerset Foundation Trust. Thrive's evidence and insight on fuel poverty, food poverty, rural transport, housing, health and isolation is contributing to a better understanding of the social context of health inequality and the role communities play in improving wellbeing.

IVAR / Hospital Discharge for Dementia:

Thrive led a system application to the Institute of Voluntary Action Research (IVAR)'s national Connecting Health Communities programme in September 2024 to explore how we can change the way we support patients who are discharged from hospital with dementia. This three-year project, facilitated by IVAR, enables us to work together as a system to centre lived experience and develop new models and ways of working that will improve lives in Somerset.

Open Mental Health Alliance:

As an active delivery and engagement partner, Thrive contributes lived experience from left-behind communities, supports the alliance to extend their reach including through communications campaigns and helps to integrate community responses into mental health pathways.

Somerset Prepared

Thrive joined the steering group, to work with emergency planners and voluntary partners to continue to develop local-preparedness plans and build community resilience, drawing on our experience of flood response and support of vulnerable people and households.



West Somerset Living Better:

Thrive participated in the 12-month Integrated Care Board funded Coaching pilot which developed a new vision and structure for a long-standing partnership in the area.

Together we developed stronger relationships and built new partnerships in West Somerset, working strategically and operationally we continue to support the integration of health, care and community support for households across the most rural part of our county, advocating for early help and holistic, community-based prevention.

Across these forums, Thrive's contribution is relational and practical – sharing insight, convening partners, and modelling how collaboration can work differently. When communities have a voice in the room, systems learn to listen – and everyone benefits.

July 2023 Thrive joins the Somerset VCFSE Collaborative Leadership Group.

September 2023 VCFSE Memorandum of Understanding signed with Somerset Council and NHS Somerset.

October 2023 Newly formed Somerset Social Prescribing Collaborative comes together.

July 2024 Val Bishop appointed VCFSE representative on the Somerset Foundation Trust Board.

November 2024 First Somerset Convention.

April 2025 Final Team Coaching Session for West Somerset Living Better partners, directing future partnership and collaboration.

June 2025 First Partnership Workshop takes place bringing 60 professionals and volunteers together for the first time to identify an approach to improve hospital discharge for people with dementia.

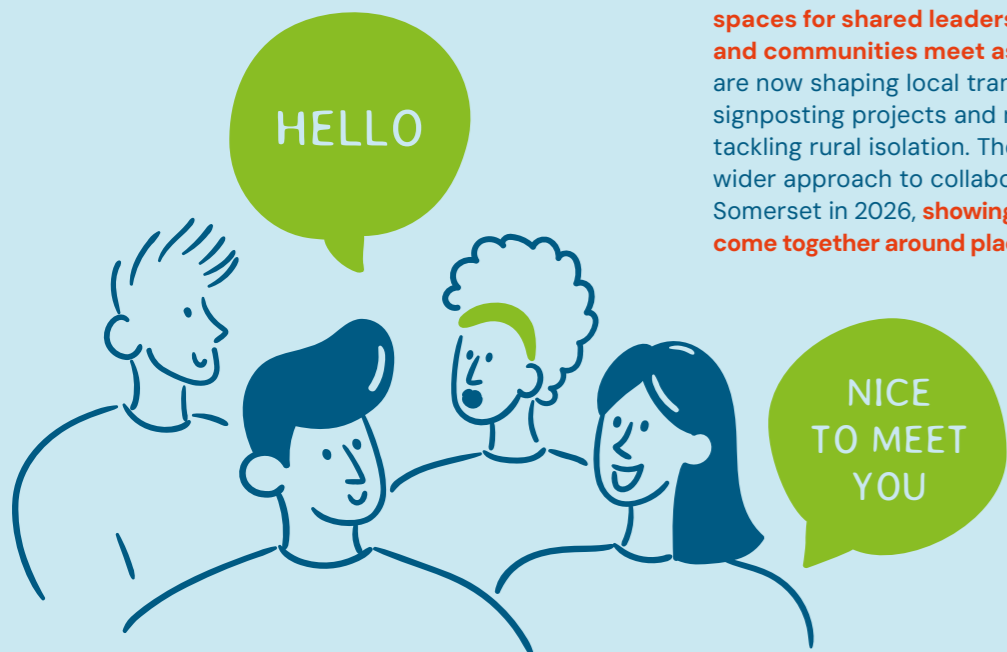
July 2025 Val Bishop invited to launch of new national Civil Society Compact and amplifies 'local agenda' to national ministers and policy makers.

community solution seekers and collaborative leadership

Across Somerset, local conversations are shaping local change. Through our Community Solution Seekers programme, funded by Somerset ICB, **Thrive has supported eight sessions in each of four Local Community Network (LCN) areas**, bringing together residents, voluntary groups, councillors and local services to explore shared challenges and co-create solutions.

Common themes have emerged wherever we work: transport, mental health and isolation remain the issues people care about most. But behind these themes lies something deeper – a growing appetite for collaboration. **People want to be part of decisions that affect their lives and are willing to contribute time, insight and energy to make things better.**

These sessions are not consultations. They are spaces for shared leadership, where public bodies and communities meet as equals. The ideas emerging are now shaping local transport pilots, mental-health signposting projects and new volunteer networks tackling rural isolation. The learning will inform Thrive's wider approach to collaborative leadership across Somerset in 2026, **showing what's possible when people come together around place, purpose and trust.**



Participants told us:

“It’s the first time I’ve felt the Council really listened.”

“We came in with different priorities, but left with a shared plan.”

“I didn’t expect the community to have so many ideas – it’s changed how we work.”

community buildings and leadership

Somerset’s village halls and community centres are the heartbeat of rural life. They host everything from warm-spaces and parent groups to emergency-response planning and energy-saving projects. This year, Thrive has supported **159 community buildings, helping volunteer committees navigate compliance, finance, and sustainability.**

Through trustee training and one-to-one mentoring, local leaders are gaining the confidence and skills they need to plan for the future. Many are now building partnerships with parish councils, energy groups and local charities to make their halls greener, more inclusive and financially secure.

The Hallmark quality-assurance scheme remains a cornerstone of this work. 43 halls achieved Hallmark Awards and eighteen completed independent reviews, recognising strong governance and continuous improvement.

One hall trustee summed it up: **“The training gave us the tools – but the real change was in how we think about our role in the community.”**

This programme isn’t just about buildings; it’s about people. Each thriving hall represents local leadership in action – volunteers stepping forward, learning together and keeping community spaces alive for future generations.

159
halls supported

43
Hallmark awards

18
reviews completed



welcome to all

In July 2025 we formally launched Welcome to All – a county-wide partnership of ten organisations committed to ensuring Somerset is welcoming to everyone who chooses to make it home. The partnership builds on years of collaboration through Thrive's Somerset Diverse Communities team and the work carried out by partners since 2022 to create Welcome Hubs to provide a place for support, advice and connection for all who are displaced in Somerset. This new partnership brings together partners including town councils, voluntary and faith based organisations under a single shared vision.

The programme's first year has been a period of integration and growth. Staff transferred from previous providers, joining Thrive's team and partner organisations in a twelve-month setup phase to align systems, governance and practice.

The emphasis is on trust-building and inclusion through everyday contact, ensuring new residents feel part of Somerset's social and economic life from day one. "It's not just about helping people settle," one partner reflected. "It's about making communities stronger for everyone."

somerset's diverse communities

Since 2017, Thrive has built strong relationships with Somerset's diverse ethnic communities, helping local groups grow peer support and community leadership. This work continues through multicultural Together events in Bridgwater, Chard, Yeovil and Wellington, and with support for Frome and Taunton organisers. Each event celebrates belonging and strengthens local connections.

Recently, Thrive was awarded the Race, Interfaith and Belief contract, extending this work to include engagement with faith and belief communities. Faith groups play a vital role in helping people new to Somerset feel they belong, linking this programme closely with Welcome to All and our shared goal of inclusive, connected communities.



we inform and influence policy to drive change

Insight — Adovcacy — Policy change



laying the groundwork for change

Our mission has always been about helping people and places to thrive. Increasingly, that means not only responding to individual and community organisational needs but also helping to shape the systems and policies that determine how support is delivered. Over the past year we have taken the first deliberate steps towards becoming a stronger voice for Somerset's communities – an organisation that listens locally and speaks nationally.

We have developed a clearer, evidence-based approach to policy influence. We have built on the learning from our Homelessness Report, which was widely praised and cited as a model of how local evidence can inform better practice. It demonstrated how locally rooted, person-centred work can reveal the human realities behind policy challenges, and how evidence gathered at the heart of our communities can be turned into practical recommendations for decision-makers.

In the last 18 months we have strengthened our partnerships, contributed to county-level policy groups, and improved how we communicate insight. Preparatory work has led to the first in a series of thematic briefing papers: Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency – an area where the link between national policy and local experience is clear. We have also convened the first Somerset Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency Forum which brought together 12 professionals across VCFSE, public sector, housing and business to discuss the strengths, the gaps and the opportunities for partnership.

Thrive's growing presence in the media has supported this shift. We have secured 15 substantive media mentions highlighting community issues and were directly engaged by three Members of Parliament interested in how community services can deliver more effectively for their constituents. This profile is helping to build recognition that rural and other communities that face disadvantage in Somerset have both lessons to share and needs that must be heard.



influencing housing and transport policy

We want to ensure that the lived experience we gather everyday feeds directly into policies shaping housing and transport – two of the most pressing issues for Somerset communities.

Through our Rural Housing Steering Group, Thrive is bringing together housing associations, local authorities and voluntary-sector partners to examine the barriers that prevent affordable homes being built or sustained in rural areas. One district housing officer put it simply: “What Thrive offers is real-life context – the stories and data that show why housing policy must work differently in rural areas.”

We are also helping communities to voice their concerns and ideas on local transport. Through the Community Solution Seekers programme and ongoing LCN (Local Community Network) discussions, residents are shaping proposals for better local connections – from flexible community transport to walking-route improvements that reduce isolation.

A county councillor told us:

“The evidence Thrive brings to the table has changed how we think about rural mobility. It’s not just about buses – it’s about people’s independence.”

By convening these conversations and sharing insight, Thrive is beginning to influence how decisions are made about rural access, housing, and wellbeing – helping ensure that local policy is shaped by local experience.



building the evidence base

This year we began investing in the systems and culture needed to turn the knowledge gathered by our teams into insight that drives change.

Our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) work is evolving from data collection to data interpretation. The new Insight Dashboard now in development will allow staff, trustees and partners to see emerging patterns in real time – from wellbeing and confidence gains to community demand trends. This will strengthen how we evaluate our impact, plan services, and present evidence to policymakers.



We are also embedding a more structured learning cycle, ensuring that insights from our programmes inform future design and commissioning. Our data manager reflected:

“We’ve always known that our strength lies in what we hear from communities. The difference now is that we’re starting to use that knowledge to shape the system itself.”

The coming year will see this approach expand, with staff training on evidence gathering, new data partnerships, and the launch of further reports. These steps mark the beginning of our journey towards being not only a trusted delivery partner, but also a credible and influential advocate for communities that are rural or disadvantaged in Somerset.



cross-cutting themes and organisational impact



environment and sustainability

Thrive's environmental commitment runs through everything we do – from the way we support communities to the way we manage our own footprint. The past year has seen real progress in turning that commitment into measurable change.

Through the Decarb Somerset programme, we have helped **78 community buildings** take practical steps to reduce their environmental impact. This has included **23 full energy audits**, providing local volunteers and trustees with actionable advice on heating, lighting and insulation. Together, these projects are estimated to have saved **152 tonnes of CO²** in the past year alone.



Our Environment Plan

Developed in consultation with staff, trustees and partners, sets a clear framework for the future. It focuses on reducing emissions, supporting community resilience, and sharing practical tools that help local groups make sustainable choices. We are building new partnerships with energy providers, retrofit specialists and local councils to make sure community spaces are not only greener but also warmer, more affordable and more welcoming.

Sustainability is now a recurring item in team and board discussions, reflecting our view that environmental responsibility is inseparable from social wellbeing. By embedding sustainability across our operations and programmes, Thrive is helping Somerset communities respond to the climate challenge with the same creativity and care that define all our work. Thrive's ability to learn, adapt and innovate is central to how we deliver impact. Over the past year, we have invested in the digital systems and culture that will help us to work smarter, collaborate better and continuously improve.



equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging

Creating an organisation where everyone feels they belong is central to Thrive's mission and values. Over the past year we've made real progress embedding EDIB across our culture and governance. Our staff-led working group has driven this forward, shaping a clear strategy and action plan, now adopted by the Board, focused on inclusive recruitment, accessible communication and psychologically safe workplaces.

Next, we'll keep deepening understanding and ownership through learning, discussion and reflection, building not just a diverse workforce, but a culture where everyone feels respected, valued and able to contribute fully.



digital innovation and a learning culture

Preparation for the roll-out of our new Case Management System (CMS) has been a major focus. The system will give staff a single, secure platform for recording, tracking and analysing client interactions, improving both service quality and insight. Extensive testing and staff workshops have helped shape the design so it supports real-world needs and strengthens our evidence base.

Alongside this, we have begun scoping how artificial intelligence might enhance our operations – from simplifying data entry and report generation to improving the way we capture and share learning across teams. This exploratory work is being approached carefully, with a focus on ethics, data security and practical value.

Our Learning and Development Framework continues to grow, creating a culture where reflection and professional growth are part of everyday practice. Over the year we have recorded **300 CPD entries**, with **90% of staff actively engaging in structured learning**. **360-degree appraisals have been introduced and rolled out for the first time, designed to strengthen feedback and align personal growth with organisational values.**

Together, these developments are building the foundations of a modern, learning-led charity: digitally confident, reflective, and ready to adapt to the changing needs of Somerset's people and places.



celebrating our first 100 years - preparing for the next 100

In 2026, Thrive turns 100. Our Centenary Year will be both a celebration of community action across Somerset and a springboard for the next century of impact. The focus is simple: stronger people, stronger places, and a stronger voice for Somerset.

Strengthen place-based approaches

We will deepen our local, developmental work – supporting communities to define their own priorities, connect with local services, and lead solutions that reflect their strengths and aspirations.

Put prevention first

Scale practical, early-help pathways around cost-of-living, fuel poverty, housing stress, and health and wellbeing, ensuring today's support builds resilience for tomorrow.

Grow belonging and inclusion

Build on Welcome to All and our Race, Interfaith and Belief work, ensuring everyone feels they belong and that lived experience continues to shape our services.

Invest in community infrastructure

Help community buildings and local groups to be sustainable, energy efficient and inclusive – the foundations of thriving local life.

Strengthen our rural voice

Use our evidence and insight to advocate for a fairer rural economy, ensuring the needs of Somerset's people and places are heard nationally and locally.

Support and value our people

Continue to invest in the wellbeing, skills and leadership of our staff and volunteers, ensuring they are empowered, connected and confident in the work they do.

Diversify income and partnerships

Grow Help Through Winter and community funds, develop corporate and philanthropic partnerships, and pilot Centenary micro-grants that back small, high-impact local ideas.

Mark our Centenary, launch our future

A year-long celebration of Somerset's communities – culminating in our Somerset Convention – will showcase what works, share learning and shape the next decade of community-led change.

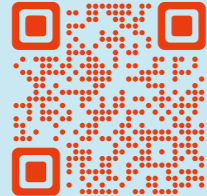
Our promise for the Centenary is to look forward: to **celebrate what Somerset communities have achieved – and equip them for what comes next.** Through practical help, trusted relationships and shared purpose, we'll keep doing what we do best: **helping Somerset's people and places to thrive.**

funding our work

Support Thrive to keep Somerset thriving. Your support helps local people overcome challenges, build connections and create lasting change in their communities.

We are grateful to all of the organisations who have supported and engaged with our work, but in particular to those who have provided funding to enable us to deliver our services and mission:

- ACRE
- Community Matters Fund
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- HPC Community Fund
- Living Better (West Somerset PCN)
- National Lottery Community Fund
- NHS Somerset
- Open Mental Health (Rethink Mental Illness)
- Somerset Community Foundation
- Somerset Council
- Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- South Petherton Parish Council
- Spark Somerset
- Taunton Town Council
- The Grace Trust
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Yeovil PCN

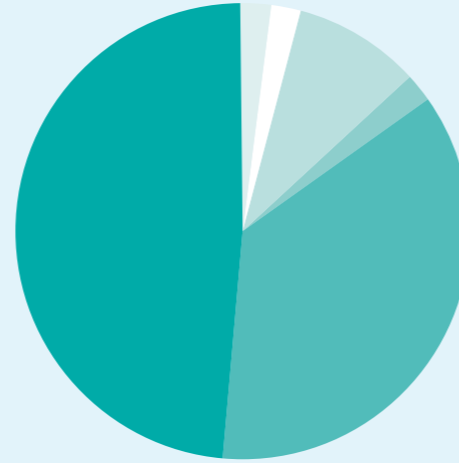


Please scan to donate

Last year we turned over £3 million

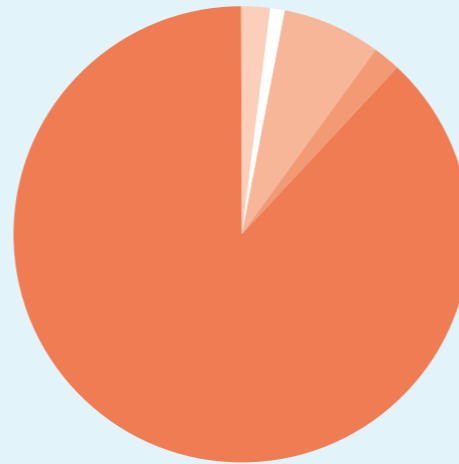
Income

- 48% Somerset council
- 36% NHS Somerset
- 2% Public sector (other)
- 9% Large grants (over £10,000)
- 2% Donations and small grants
- 2% Trading/investments



Expenditure

- 89% Charitable activities
- 2% Grants to individuals
- 7% Support and management
- 2% Fundraising
- 1% Governance and audit





The Community Council for Somerset, operating as Thrive, is a Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England and Wales and is a Registered Charity No. 1069260.

T25024

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