

# Portsmouth Inspiring Volunteer Awards



## A celebration of volunteering in Portsmouth

*Tuesday 6 October 2026*

**LIQUID FRIDAY**

**DELIVERED  
SOCIAL**

**irwinmitchell**  
solicitors

**HIVE**  
portsmouth

**KINGS  
THEATRE**



**Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL**

**comserv**  
property services

together in  
**HIVE**  
portsmouth

**BI BUBBLE**  
TECHNOLOGIES

Thank you for joining us for the Portsmouth Inspiring Volunteer Awards. This evening is all about the volunteers across our city who give their time, energy and kindness to make Portsmouth a better and happier place to live.

This year the awards feel extra special, as 2026 marks 100 years since Portsmouth was granted city status. Through Portsmouth100, people have come together to celebrate our city's history, its communities and its future, and it seems fitting this year to recognise the people who help make Portsmouth what it is.

The awards are organised by Together in HIVE Portsmouth and Pompey in the Community.

Together in HIVE Portsmouth promotes volunteering opportunities right across the city and helps people find the role that suits them best. To mark the centenary, we launched Team 100, inviting people to give 100 hours of volunteering during 2026. Whether through regular roles or one-off events, it has been a lovely way to encourage more people to get involved and be part of this milestone year.

It is a real privilege to share some of our volunteers' stories with you tonight.

This evening would not be happening without the generous support of our sponsors: Liquid Friday, Comserv Property Services, Bio-Bubble, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, Delivered Social, Pompey in the Community, and Portsmouth City Council. Representatives from these organisations will be presenting the awards and certificates tonight.

We would also like to thank CCADS Theatre, who will be performing for us tonight, and The Kings Theatre for so kindly letting us use this beautiful venue.

It is wonderful to be able to celebrate our volunteers in such a special setting.

# **Portsmouth Inspiring Volunteer Awards 2026**

***Awards evening opening with Master of Ceremonies Steve Wylie  
Welcome from The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth Cllr Abdul Kadir***

Awards presentation:

- Trustee / Leadership Award supported by Comserv
- New Volunteer Award supported by Bio-Bubble
- Behind the Scenes Award supported by Irwin Mitchell
- 100 Hours Award supported by HIVE Portsmouth
- Community Award supported by Comserv

Interval followed by entertainment from CCADS Theatre

- People Helping People Award supported by Liquid Friday
- Health Award supported by HIVE Portsmouth
- Arts, Culture & Heritage Award supported by Delivered Social
- Young Volunteer of the Year Award supported by Irwin Mitchell
- Volunteer of the Year Award supported by Portsmouth City Council

**Closing words: Lorna Reavley, Chief Officer, HIVE Portsmouth**

## **Photographs of the evening:**

Tonight is a celebration of volunteering in the city, and we want to share the fantastic work that volunteers do with our wider community. The awards are supported by a local photography company, Zooming Photography, who have kindly provided photography at this event for many years and freely give their time to take pictures of the evening and the presentations. If you do not wish to have your photograph used, please inform either the photographer or one of the HIVE Portsmouth team.



# Trustee/ Leadership Award

*Supported by Comserv*



The Trustee/ Leadership Award recognises the trustees and committee members who give their time and skills to lead voluntary and community organisations. Their work often happens behind the scenes, but allows groups to grow, adapt and keep supporting the people who rely on them.

## Individual Award

### **Krysia Butwilowska, Thinking Schools Academy Trust**

Krysia has been volunteering in Portsmouth for over 25 years in various organisations. Her heart belongs to the Portsmouth Community. Her dedication to work for our young people, charities and community organisations is inspirational and the impact she has had in all these roles is beyond words.

She was a high achieving Executive Headteacher who came to Portsmouth to turn around struggling schools. Now, she shares her experience from her fantastic career in her role as Trustee with the Thinking Schools Academy Trust. Krysia visits schools and supports the leadership teams to improve the educational offering to young people, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Krysia also chairs the 'Quality of Education' sub-committee, holding leaders across the Trust to account on the academic provision, outcomes and safeguarding of all the students. Krysia delivers support, mentoring and training to newer Governors and internal staff. She chairs panels for suspensions & exclusions and complaints, where she engages so positively with the community and ensures they are heard.

Krysia also volunteers with Portsmouth Cathedral and the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight Charitable foundations. Krysia is an inspiration to anyone who meets her with the knowledge, kindness and generosity that she shows not just in leadership, but in everyday life. The impact she has had in all these roles is beyond words.

## **Amy-Jane Gilbert, Endometriosis South Coast**

Amy-Jane has single-handedly transformed the way Endometriosis South Coast communicates. She gives a minimum of three hours every single day to her role, far exceeding any volunteer expectation.

Amy-Jane does this alongside a demanding corporate career and as a single mum. The dedication she brings to the cause is nothing short of extraordinary. Before Amy-Jane came on board, our marketing and communications lacked direction and capacity.

She changed that completely. She has built from the ground up, bringing professionalism, creativity and strategy. Her work has raised our profile, strengthened our community, and given our organisation a voice that truly reflects who we are and what we stand for.

Amy-Jane is currently leading two significant campaigns. The Big Give campaign is focused on educating men about periods and menstrual health. The second is a crowdfunder campaign to support our Family Fun Day, helping raise vital funds from the community. Both campaigns reflect her ability to think boldly and connect with audiences in a meaningful way.

Amy-Jane gives her time, her expertise, and her heart to Endometriosis South Coast. She does it quietly, consistently, and without recognition. This nomination is a small way of acknowledging the enormous difference she makes.

## **Isabelle Sene, Loaves of Love**

Isabelle founded Loaves of Love in 2021, during lockdown, out of a wish to help and support marginalised women. Her aim was to bring women together through the medium of baking to help them feel welcome and valued in the community, particularly asylum seekers and refugees.

'Breaking bread', or eating together, is a way to socialise within communities that goes back centuries - this inspiring concept is the foundation of Loaves of Love. Isabelle has sustained a team of fellow volunteers, who run the fortnightly baking sessions at Pompey in the Community.

She has also organised fundraising events and created a committee structure to support an application to become a registered charity.

Working with all those involved as attendees and volunteers, Isabelle has developed a business plan based on a vision for professional baking classes for women to learn skills and work towards a certificate, and a bakery enterprise. Isabelle has managed this volunteer project with good governance for over 5 years and encouraged marginalised and vulnerable women to build their skills and confidence.

Isabelle's quiet persistence, commitment and leadership skills are truly inspirational and deserve recognition.

# New Volunteer Award

*Supported by Bio-Bubble*



The New Volunteer Award celebrates someone who has recently started volunteering and has already made a real difference. Taking that first step can feel daunting, and this award recognises the people who have jumped in, found their place and quickly become a valued part of the team.

## Individual Award

### **Hoda Javdani, Endometriosis South Coast**

In just 11 months Hoda has become the driving force behind the voice and visibility of Endometriosis South Coast, and she has done it entirely out of the goodness of her heart. Hoda volunteers as a Marketing Manager, and the breadth of what she takes on is remarkable. She manages the social media presence, creates and delivers campaigns, promotes events, and contributes to newsletters, essentially everything that helps the outside world understand who Endometriosis South Coast are.

The charity exists to support people living with endometriosis, a chronic, often debilitating condition that is frequently misunderstood and dismissed. Hoda's work means people in pain can find the charity and raises awareness and reduces the stigma around a condition that has historically been overlooked.

What makes Hoda truly exceptional is the way she gives her time. She goes far beyond what anyone could reasonably ask of a volunteer, consistently putting in more hours than expected, showing up with energy and creativity, and treating the charity's mission as if it were her own.

Hoda has given so much, asked for nothing in return, and made a real difference to real people. She understands that behind every post, every campaign, and every event promotion is a person who might be struggling, and she creates content with that person in mind. She is a hugely valued and truly exceptional member of the team.

## **Alan Lee, Independence and Wellbeing Team, Portsmouth City Council**

Alan first came to the Independence and Wellbeing Team as a client as he had experienced some real difficulties and become isolated from his community. Alan has autism and some speech and language barriers so getting out and making links in the community was quite a big step. Alan soon settled in and engaged in the community allotment and community cookery projects.

Alan has a natural tendency to help other people and was always working with people who found things hard. He would get his jobs or cooking done, then immediately look to see who was struggling. Over the past 12 months Alan has built on this, seizing the opportunity to become an official volunteer and wearing his ID badge with pride. Alan has now been volunteering for over 6 months. He is such an asset at the community cookery groups. There have even been times when he has stepped up and run groups himself. Alan supports a cookery group at least once or twice a week, engages in training, supports his parents, and has grown as a person in ways that are hard to document.

The journey of what Alan has been through and the barriers he's faced, to where he is now, is quite incredible. Alan is basically a legend and held in the highest regard in the team, who are really proud of him and his progress, he helps remind us all of the difference we can make.

## **Rob Prior, Sidekick Initiative**

Over the past 12 months, Rob has worked tirelessly to uphold our community and support local mental health. His approach goes far beyond simply offering a listening ear; Rob is a proactive, hands-on leader who effects real, positive change in people's lives through leading by example.

Rob uses his own physical feats to raise awareness for mental health, self-kindness, and personal wellness. He actively teaches the community to treat their bodies and minds with the respect they deserve.

What makes Rob's dedication truly remarkable is that it is fuelled entirely by his own grit, determination, and pocket. He balances a demanding full-time job and a young family, yet he makes himself available to every member of the Portsmouth community at any hour of the day or night, no matter the crisis.

Rob is actively breaking down deep-seated barriers to speaking openly about mental health. He has so much vision for what this community could achieve.

Rob is guiding people back to full mental, spiritual, and physical health. Offering him this recognition is so truly deserved; to honour his sacrifices and help him continue lifting others out of crisis.

Rob's love and reach have no limits. He is a shining example of what it means to live in the light, and he deserves to be recognised for the heart, soul, and endless energy he pours into his community.

# Behind the Scenes

*Supported by Irwin Mitchell*



The Behind the Scenes Award recognises the volunteers whose work often goes unseen but keeps everything running. They might be sorting donations, managing the paperwork, keeping the books, setting up before an event or tidying up after everyone has gone home. Without them, many of the services and activities people rely on simply wouldn't happen.

## Individual Award

### Elizabeth Hughes, Stamshaw and Tipner Community Centre

Liz always goes above and beyond to support the community centre and the community who use it. Liz organises all the maintenance in the building, making sure it doesn't impact on the regular groups that use the centre. This means that most work has to be carried out in holiday times.

Everyone else will be having time off but Liz will be in supporting the maintenance teams, making them tea and even providing sandwiches, ensuring the work is carried out to a high standard.

Liz volunteers between 12 and 30 hours a week, which is remarkable. If she isn't keeping the building up to standard, she is busy in the office taking bookings for functions, organising the diary and keeping the centre going. The whole community benefits from her volunteering as she is keeping the centre open. Liz will even rearrange personal commitments in order to volunteer when needed.

Liz has been volunteering for nearly 3 years. All the regular groups know Liz, miss her if she does take a hard-earned holiday and are always so pleased to see her back. Liz is hardworking, an asset to the community, selfless and always goes above and beyond in everything she does. Liz never expects praise for anything she does, she just gets on with it, and this makes her a remarkable woman.

## **Sue Hussey, Age UK Portsmouth**

‘Sue from Reception’ has WORKED in a voluntary capacity, 2 - 3 days per week, for Age UK Portsmouth consistently for 35 years! Her timekeeping, professionalism, kindness, friendliness, acute abilities and all-round loveliness help to make Age UK Portsmouth what it is.

A community hub where older people feel safe, seen and heard and where they can get a cup of tea or chat or advice. Sue is the very ethos of the charity personified. Sue mainly works on the reception desk but will happily help in whatever capacity needed. Her flexibility and general cheer make everyone she works with so grateful for her.

Sue is so very deserving of this award. She has stuck with the charity through thick and thin, she is a complete inspiration! She’s not loud or showy ... her quiet dedication to making the organisation work for the community of whom she is a part speaks volumes. Her length of service is amazing. Her kindness and professionalism deserve this recognition.

Through many life changes Sue has continued to consistently volunteer at Age UK Portsmouth. She is dedicated and knows the older people of Portsmouth need help, assistance, advice and believes in the charity and the good that is on offer. The fact that she is so professional and seeks no recompense absolutely bowls us all over. You are a complete hero Sue, and wholeheartedly deserve this recognition.

## **Sarah Young, 48th Portsmouth Scouts, Lead Volunteer for Cubs**

Sarah is the very definition of a volunteer who goes above and beyond behind the scenes. For decades, she has been the driving force behind 48th Cubs, dedicating countless hours each week to planning and delivering engaging meetings, organising weekend camps, week-long summer camps, hikes and countless other opportunities that have enriched the lives of young people.

Scouting is full of fantastic volunteers who work very hard, but Sarah deserves extra recognition for her behind the scenes work. She is the extra person at every cross country, chess competition, hike, sleepover etc.

Sarah quietly takes on countless responsibilities that many never see. She spends hours preparing activities, organising events, supporting other leaders and reassuring parents.

At camps and sleepovers, she is often the one who stays awake through the night to keep watch, ensuring every young person is safe and cared for, before carrying on the next day without seeking recognition.

Sarah has helped generations of young people develop confidence, resilience, independence and lifelong friendships. She creates welcoming environments where every young person is encouraged to thrive, challenge themselves and achieve more than they thought possible.

The positive impact she has had on so many families over the years is impossible to measure.

# 100 Hours Award

*Supported by HIVE Portsmouth*



To mark 100 years since Portsmouth became a city, Together in HIVE Portsmouth launched Team 100, inviting people to give 100 hours of volunteering during 2026. Individuals and teams from across the city have taken up the challenge, giving their time through regular roles, one-off events and everything in between.

## Individual Award

### **Alex Bearne, 4th Portsmouth Boys' Brigade**

Alex is the volunteer leader in charge of 4th Portsmouth Boys' Brigade. He has overall responsibility for the boys who attend, manages the volunteer leaders, plans the activities for the boys, completes all the admin, communicates with the parents, does the finances and everything else!

Alex provides opportunities for children and young people to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian faith. The boys and young men have fun, make new friends, learn new skills, have opportunities to try new things, take responsibility, build confidence and are encouraged to make a real difference in their community. Alex has been volunteering for around 18 years and juggles his volunteering with a full-time job and the rest of life! He was in Boys' Brigade as a boy, moved to Portsmouth for university and carried on in the organisation as a leader and then the team leader! Alex works exceedingly hard. On top of the weekly meetings and admin there are frequently additional activities on offer such as sleepovers, competitions, outings and the weeklong summer camp.

Alex makes a difference every week by being a positive role model for the children and young people. He's great at encouraging them and supporting them to step out of their comfort zones.

## **Amanda Hazzard, Headway Portsmouth**

Headway provides information, support and advice for adults living with acquired or traumatic brain injury, as well as their carers and family members. Amanda has been a dedicated volunteer for over 10 years, demonstrating outstanding commitment, resilience, and compassion.

Amanda's own lived experience gives her a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the people Headway support as she is a full-time carer for her husband, who sustained a brain injury when their children were still very young.

Despite everything she has been through, Amanda has been a constant and valued presence within the charity. She volunteers twice a week with the ladies' group and singing group. These sessions provide a safe and welcoming space for individuals to socialise, rebuild confidence, and enjoy meaningful activities and Amanda plays a vital role in making that happen. Her warmth, empathy, and reliability help create an environment where others feel understood and supported.

Amanda has grown in confidence and flourished in these roles, and has developed into a capable, kind, and incredibly funny individual who is clearly enjoying life, and this positivity shines through in every session she supports. Amanda connects with people in a truly meaningful way, bringing invaluable compassion, insight, and encouragement. Amanda is an extraordinary woman and embodies everything the charity stands for.

## **Michelle Maguire, Paulsgrove Bathroom Bank**

Michelle helps run the Paulsgrove Bathroom Bank, which is a community project to combat hygiene poverty. She is always searching out bargains, eliciting donations and serving the people of the community with love.

She has also established the Paulsgrove Pet Food Bank, which she largely funds herself, so that vulnerable people can have basic supplies for their dog or cat - often their only company. She is frequently seen driving her mobility scooter across the Green, laden with new stock!

Michelle is a tireless servant of Paulsgrove in many ways, and often at great personal cost. She has the biggest heart, has done amazing things, and is a vital part in helping hundreds of people make ends meet each month.

She is a champion of Paulsgrove and for the most vulnerable people in a very deprived community. She volunteers around 15 - 20 hours every week, even when she is not feeling very well.

She is a model of humility, modesty, compassion and kindness. Having someone from the community serving the community also means the Bathroom Bank is not about doing something to people but with them.

Michelle puts in the hard yards, goes the extra mile and is an absolute inspiration.

## **Team Award**

### **8th Portsmouth Girls' Brigade**

8th Portsmouth Girls' Brigade is a youth group for girls and young women from all backgrounds. It's a safe environment where members can relate to one another, have fun, learn new skills, earn badges and awards, and make a difference in their community.

The group have been meeting weekly for 82 years. The leaders come from all different walks of life, and some have been involved with the Girls Brigade for over 60 years. This year alone, the volunteers have already clocked up well over 1,000 hours of volunteering!

They provide girls and young women with great opportunities to make friends, grow in confidence and learn about the Christian faith. The girls and young women develop in confidence, taking on leadership roles, and live life to the full. We run an annual camp, regular sleepovers, and we work with the local community. Parties, games, crafts and water fights are some of the activities the girls take part in. As well as an annual awards night, bowling, BBQs and fun days out. Along with our weekly activities we train our young people to become leaders.

Our group is multicultural and neurodivergent, and our community runs solely on voluntary power.

## **Persistent Pain Service, PHU NHS Trust**

The Portsmouth Persistent Pain Peer Volunteer Group make an outstanding collective contribution to the Persistent Pain Service. They have demonstrated exceptional dedication, compassion, and professionalism in supporting individuals living with persistent pain.

The volunteers bring a warm and welcoming presence to our group sessions, helping to create an environment in which participants feel safe, listened to, and respected. Their ability to foster a strong sense of inclusion and understanding has been incredibly valuable, particularly for those who may feel isolated, anxious, or unsure when first engaging with the service.

A particularly powerful aspect of their contribution is their willingness to share their own lived experiences of persistent pain. By speaking openly and vulnerably about their journeys, they offer hope, reassurance, and relatability to those earlier on in their own paths. This generosity helps to normalise patients' experiences, reduce feelings of isolation, and foster a sense of possibility for the future.

Together they help create a supportive and uplifting atmosphere that benefits both participants and staff. Their thoughtful interactions and ability to connect with individuals at different stages of their pain journey have a meaningful and lasting impact.

Their dedication, teamwork, compassion, and openness deserve recognition, their contribution is deeply valued.

## **Victoria Park Volunteers**

The volunteer team at Victoria Park bring incredible commitment and dedication to the park and local community.

Since the beginning of the year, the group has collectively contributed more than 100 volunteer hours every month, achieving a goal that was set at the start of the year and consistently working hard to maintain despite challenges such as poor weather and cancelled sessions.

The group is made up of a diverse range of volunteers who generously give their time, skills and expertise.

Regular volunteers lead guided walks, maintain the park grounds and support community activities, while corporate volunteer groups join us for one-off projects such as litter picks, planting and environmental improvements.

Others contribute specialist skills including photography, digital promotion and event support, helping to showcase the park and engage the wider community.

What makes this group particularly deserving of recognition is the collective spirit and enthusiasm they bring.

Volunteers come and go as their circumstances allow, yet together they continue to strengthen and grow the group, ensuring the park remains a welcoming, vibrant and beautiful space for everyone to enjoy.

# Community Award

*Supported by Comserv Property Services*



This award celebrates individuals and teams who have made a real impact on their local community. They often modestly underestimate how much of a difference they make, but their contribution is immeasurable.

## **Individual Award**

### **Dennis David, Charles Dickens Community Orchards and Portsmouth & Southsea Tree Wardens**

Dennis has volunteered for the Charles Dickens Community Orchards for over 10 years. He has been the mainstay in planting 116 orchards around the city, thinking about the local people and how he could help in the future.

The orchards provide free fruit for local people which is particularly important during a cost-of-living crisis and helping to improve the environment in Portsmouth.

Dennis works together with volunteers from organisations across the city to maintain, feed and water the orchards for future generations to come.

Dennis has also been a member of the tree wardens for over 10 years. He volunteers and collaborates with many organisations, and many thousands of trees have been planted because of his volunteering. This has helped to increase tree coverage in Portsmouth and mitigate climate change.

Dennis is a very reliable, dependable volunteer who comes up with some amazing ideas which are put into practice with the help of the Tree Council.

Thank you very much Dennis for all that you have done to make our city a better place to live and help future generations live a better life.

## **Layak Muhit, Sylhet District Association Wider Bangladeshi Community**

Layak has been consistently supporting the Bangladeshi community in Portsmouth for over 20 years.

He has also had a more detailed role with the Bangladesh Welfare Association and Sylhet District Association in Portsmouth for the last 4 years.

In the last 2 years over 1,000 families and individuals have benefited from his dedicated volunteering, including support with financial, housing, social, domestic and consular needs.

He has tirelessly dedicated his time for an average of over 20 hours each week to help with the needs of the community for whom English is a second language. His close work with the elderly Bangladeshi population has been outstanding and he often goes the extra mile to look out for those struggling with social interaction and isolation.

Layak has always gone the extra mile to help those less fortunate and struggling with hardship. He has been recognised within the community for his outstanding dedication and commitment to helping others and has always shown his kind-hearted nature through his sympathetic and empathetic personality.

## **Jan Probert, Friends Without Borders**

Jan Probert is a real asset to Friends Without Borders, an independent charity which has supported people seeking asylum and refugees in Portsmouth for the last 30 years.

Jan has always been very helpful and knows how to contact all the relevant agencies to access help, ranging from enrolling in school to meeting groups for Dads.

Jan is the go-to person for information for fellow volunteers, and she does it with a ready smile. Alongside the weekly drop-in sessions, she also runs the Allotment, which is such a lovely outlet for people who have experienced trauma. She also raises funds for both activities through plant sales.

Jan is a great people connector and has lots of ideas. Recently, she started a rhyme time group for mums with toddlers, which the mums enjoy as much as the children, improving their English along the way.

Jan has a calm and steady personality. Nothing ruffles her feathers, and she always has a ready smile. She's also very kind and concerned about people's welfare, checking in on some of our more vulnerable service users, and her fellow volunteers.

After serving the community through her volunteering for almost 10 years, her fellow volunteers believe she deserves recognition.

## **Team Award**

### **Terry and Denise Bryant, Royal British Legion, Poppy Appeal**

Terry and Denise have made an outstanding commitment to the Poppy Appeal. For 10 years they have delivered the appeal for Cosham, giving their time, energy and care year after year to support the Royal British Legion and the Armed Forces community. Their efforts have continued to grow, with the Cosham appeal exceeding £50,000 in recent years.

Their achievement is a testament to their dedication, organisation and determination. Terry and Denise deliver more than 300 tins and poppy trays to local businesses, ensuring that communities across their area have the opportunity to take part in remembrance and support the Poppy Appeal.

They set up and close each collection point in their patch, organise teams of volunteers, maintain stock levels and support collectors throughout. Their work requires careful planning, long days and a huge amount of personal commitment, all of which they give willingly and consistently.

Terry and Denise also support other districts when needed. Their willingness to help others, share their experience and strengthen the wider appeal makes them an invaluable part of the local Poppy Appeal team. Through their hard work, reliability and passion, Terry and Denise have made an extraordinary contribution. Their fundraising has raised vital funds for the Armed Forces community, while their presence in Cosham helps keep remembrance visible and meaningful for local people.

## **Community Cookery Volunteers**

The Community Cookery Volunteers are the heart of our community, they have created far more than a place to learn cooking, they have created a place where people feel seen, welcomed, and cared for. Last year they contributed over 3000 hours of volunteering.

Week after week, they give their time selflessly to support others, helping people who may be experiencing loneliness, financial hardship, low confidence, or poor mental wellbeing. Their warm and encouraging approach helps people feel comfortable, valued, and capable, sometimes for the first time in a long while.

They have brought people together, built friendships, restored confidence, and created a true sense of belonging within the community. For many participants, these sessions have become a lifeline - a place where people can laugh together and feel part of something positive. Their dedication consistently goes above and beyond expectations. They lead with compassion, dignity, and genuine care for every individual they meet.

They are true heroes armed with wooden spoons, endless patience, and a remarkable ability to smile through questionable knife skills. They are serving up confidence, friendship, and laughter. Our community is stronger, happier, and definitely better fed because of them. And remember - if anything goes wrong... just call it "rustic" and carry on.

## **Netball in the Community**

Netball in the Community is a Portsmouth based project, inspiring players of all abilities and creating opportunities for women and girls to play netball for over 8 years. This happens alongside fundraising for local good causes, including Portsmouth NHS Hospitals Trust, Home Start and Stop Domestic Abuse. The commitment, passion and unrivalled determination to lead by example is awe inspiring.

Netball in the Community is not frightened to call out regularly experienced sexism and misogyny and raises awareness of these issues with regular lobbying of Portsmouth's decision makers and those at the top of Portsmouth leisure organisations.

Netball in the Community creates opportunities for all women and girls in Portsmouth, from trailblazing Mums & Tots sessions which overcome the barrier of childcare, to Walking Netball sessions, delivered in collaboration with England Netball, for a more mature audience.

The reach is wide ranging with many participants joining the Netball in the Community army as volunteers, officials, umpires and coaches - inspired to upskill and contribute through their own participation. The netball simply wouldn't happen without this amazing team of volunteers.

# Interval

Thank you very much to CCADS Theatre for providing tonight's entertainment. Founded in Portsmouth in 1992, this talented multi award winning group are a major force on the local theatre scene.

Details for their upcoming production of A Christmas Carol are below, along with a QR code which links to tickets for this production. Details of all their upcoming shows can be found on the CCADS Theatre Facebook page.

Thank you to CCADS for generously donating your time to entertain us tonight!



# People Helping People Award

*Supported by Liquid Friday*

## LIQUID FRIDAY

The People Helping People Award celebrates volunteers who give their time to support others directly, whether that's offering a listening ear, lending a hand with everyday tasks, or being there for someone when they need it most. Often the people they help are strangers at first, yet the kindness they show can change someone's week, or even their life.

### Individual Award

#### **Dawn Bainbridge, Age UK Portsmouth**

Since 2022, Dawn has been volunteering as a befriender for Floss, a 79-year-old widow who lives alone with very limited family nearby.

Through weekly visits, she has become an essential source of companionship, reassurance, and practical support. Her consistent presence has significantly reduced Floss's social isolation, bringing comfort and stability into her life.

She goes far beyond what might typically be expected of a volunteer. In addition to offering friendship and emotional support, she has helped Floss to continue living independently at home. More recently, as Floss's health has declined, she has accompanied her to hospital appointments, providing both practical assistance and emotional reassurance so that Floss feels safe, supported, and less anxious.

She is also mindful of the wider family, keeping Floss's sister who lives some distance away updated and reassured, helping to ease her concerns.

Dawn gives her time generously and reliably. Her impact has been profound, improving Floss's wellbeing, confidence, and overall quality of life, while demonstrating the true value of kindness and companionship.

Her compassion, reliability, and willingness to go above and beyond make her an outstanding volunteer.

## **Steven Harris, Tribe Southsea**

Steve has been a pillar of strength for the men's group Tribe Southsea, a wellbeing and peer support community that brings men together through connection, conversation, cold water immersion and mutual support.

He helps organise and run the weekly Sunday morning sessions on Southsea Beach, creating a welcoming, supportive environment where men can come together, connect and improve their mental wellbeing.

Men experiencing things like loneliness, anxiety, depression, stress, grief or isolation benefit from the positive impact of these sessions. He has helped many men build confidence, improve their mental wellbeing and develop meaningful friendships.

Steve has used his own life experiences to help create positive opportunities for other men to find support, connection and belonging. His volunteering extends beyond the weekly meetups and includes planning, communication, supporting members between sessions and helping the group continue to grow. He has also formed an online group where he arranges social meet ups and events monthly.

Steve genuinely cares about the wellbeing of others and has created sessions that bring men together through conversation, breathing exercises, cold water immersion and peer support.

He welcomes newcomers, helps people feel comfortable and encourages meaningful connections between members. He has built a community where men know they are not alone. His consistency, compassion and commitment have positively influenced countless lives.

## **Flight Lieutenant JJ Todd, 1189 Portsmouth Royal Air Force Cadets**

Flt Lt Todd has been the Commanding Officer at 1189 RAF Air Cadet Squadron for many years, using his leadership to enable the squadron to develop young people from across the city to prosper and thrive.

Flt Lt Todd gives his free time to ensure the squadron is open and appropriately staffed for two evenings every week and gives up his free time on weekends. He also provides support and guidance throughout the week when the squadron isn't parading. Flt Lt Todd has taken 1189 Squadron from having fewer than ten cadets registered to having more than fifty. Without him the city would not have an RAF Air Cadet squadron.

He helps young people develop confidence, leadership, resilience and life skills, from learning how to operate a parachute, aviation skills to adventure training and STEM skills. The cadets also have fun and gain skills from team sports such as 5 a side football tournaments and Clay Pigeon shooting. The Squadron attend community events and take part in important commemorations such as the Remembrance Day and VE Day Parades.

Flt Lt Todd was previously a Royal Navy medic, serving in Afghanistan and training medic recruits.

## **Team Award**

### **Big Hopes Big Future Volunteers, Home-Start**

Big Hopes Big Future supports families with children aged 3-4 years old who will be starting school the following academic year in Portsmouth.

Volunteers are matched to a family and visit them at home for 12 weeks, working together on school readiness. Visits may include working on speech and communication, following simple instructions, recognising own name in print or supporting the family with toilet training.

The impact on the families supported is huge. A parent may be concerned that their child struggles to sit and complete an activity but, with the support of the volunteer, their gentle approach and continuous encouragement, by the end of the support the child can happily sit and finish the activity and often asks to do more.

Seeing progress, whether big or small, reassures parents or carers and they feel more confident about their child starting school.

The children being supported can often be shy when the volunteer starts visiting but by the end of the support they are waiting for the volunteer to arrive and don't want them to leave.

Big Hopes Big Future volunteers are truly dedicated and go above and beyond to ensure children and their families are as school ready as possible and feel confident and ready for the transition.

## **Portsmouth Youth Justice Volunteers**

Portsmouth Youth Justice Volunteers are a dedicated network who provide invaluable support to children and young people involved in the justice system. They work closely with young people to build positive, trusting relationships, offering guidance and mentoring, to help them make safer and more constructive choices. They consistently demonstrate empathy, patience, and a non-judgemental approach.

Their volunteering directly benefits children who are often vulnerable, disengaged, or facing multiple challenges. Many of them have experienced trauma, exclusion, or instability. The volunteers provide them with consistent, positive adult support. Families, victims, and the wider community also benefit from their work in helping reduce reoffending and promoting safer outcomes.

The impact of their work has been significant. Young people supported by these volunteers have shown increased confidence, improved engagement, and a greater willingness to consider the consequences of their actions.

They are helping young people feel heard, valued, and supported. Their involvement has contributed to stronger relationships between young people and services, and in some cases, reduced offending behaviour.

Through their encouragement and belief in young people's potential, they help them to see opportunities for change and a more positive future. Their dedication, compassion, and commitment to supporting some of the most vulnerable young people in the community is truly inspiring.

## **Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide**

SoBS is a charity that provides peer support for people who have been impacted by a suicide loss. Volunteers in peer support roles have all lost someone to suicide too, so it is a big ask to take on this role.

People who have gone through an incredibly traumatic and life-changing experience hold space for others who are experiencing that same trauma. Rita, Cindy, and Tina launched the Portsmouth support group, and use their own personal tragedies to bring light and life back to their community.

They have consistently gone above & beyond, attending Let's Get Talking About Suicide events and lighting the Guildhall up in SoBS purple for Survivors of Suicide Loss Day.

They have begun planning to make the group self-sustaining, and they've already started planning events to raise awareness and break stigmas around suicide and suicide loss - including a gig!

Their monthly group has a core group of regular attendees and is growing thanks to their warm and person-centred approach. These ladies tap into something deeply painful and use it to connect to others and build a ladder of hope.

They're engaged, dedicated, community-driven, reflective, and beautifully human. They radiate an infectious desire to bring their community together & create space for systemic change.

# Health Award

*Supported by HIVE Portsmouth*



The Health Award recognises volunteers who support people's physical and mental health across Portsmouth. They might be keeping someone company in hospital, supporting people through illness or bereavement, or helping others feel less alone. Their time and care make a real difference to people's wellbeing, and often to how they cope during some of the hardest moments in their lives.

## Individual Award

### **Alice Cowell, Community Day Rehab, Society of St James**

Alice has been volunteering with Community Day Rehab for the past 2.5 years, supporting both the 8-week programme and the Community Women's Group. She has made a significant contribution to the recovery journeys of countless clients through her compassion, professionalism, and dedication.

Alice volunteers every week, despite also running her own business, demonstrating her strong commitment to supporting others. She has a natural ability to adapt to different situations and quickly builds positive, trusting relationships with clients. Her friendly and approachable nature, combined with her professionalism, helps clients feel comfortable, valued, and understood.

One of Alice's greatest strengths is her ability to connect with people through sharing appropriate real-life experiences, helping clients relate to discussions and feel less alone in their recovery. She has developed strong connections with many individuals who often seek her out when they are feeling upset or overwhelmed, knowing they will receive a listening ear and genuine support. Alice is reliable, empathetic, and unwavering in her commitment. She is an invaluable member of our team and a truly deserving nominee whose contribution has helped many people feel supported, connected, and empowered in their recovery journey.

## **Francesca Ford, Hepatitis C Trust**

Francesca has been volunteering with the Hepatitis C Trust for a year now and has been a reliable and consistent volunteer in the Portsmouth area.

Francesca supports the testing and treatment of Society of St James recovery hub clients at the Hep C clinics. Her work helps the community, the NHS and the local drug service in the quest to eliminate Hepatitis C from England by 2030.

Francesca has been and continues to be outstanding in what she does, supporting staff and engaging clients in and around Portsmouth. Her own journey from addiction to recovery has been remarkable and she is an inspiration to others trying to turn their lives around. She continues to pursue her personal development goals and it's our belief that she will soon be ready for her next step of employment in the health and social care sector. She truly deserves to be recognised for her dedicated and valuable contribution.

## **Christina Holden, Endometriosis South Coast**

Christina is an exceptional volunteer whose dedication, leadership, and commitment have had a significant impact. Despite being a full-time university student and working part-time, Christina has volunteered for three years. She has consistently gone above and beyond in every role she has undertaken. She oversees the development and delivery of multiple support groups. She also runs the Bournemouth University Students' Union Endometriosis South Coast Society. In addition to this, Christina supports our Events teams and assists our Community Outreach team whenever needed.

Christina travels from Bournemouth to Portsmouth each month to fulfil her volunteering commitments. Her reliability and consistency are second to none. When Christina takes on a task, it will be completed to an exceptionally high standard.

Christina works tirelessly to ensure our support groups are welcoming, inclusive, informative, and well organised. Through her efforts, members of our community have access to educational resources, peer support, and safe spaces where they feel heard and understood. Christina goes above and beyond what is expected of her. She gives her time selflessly, takes initiative, embraces leadership responsibilities, and demonstrates an unwavering commitment to supporting people affected by endometriosis. Her contribution has been invaluable, and the difference she has made cannot be overstated.

## **Team Award**

### **Headway Portsmouth and SE Hampshire**

The incredible volunteers at Headway support social inclusion sessions at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth. Week in, week out, they show unwavering commitment, consistently turning up and giving their time to support individuals living with acquired brain injuries. They are an integral part of every session, bringing warmth, enthusiasm, and genuine care to everything they do.

The volunteers take the time to get to know each service user personally, joining in with activities, encouraging participation, and offering a listening ear to anyone who may be struggling. Their presence creates a welcoming, supportive environment where individuals feel valued, understood, and included.

Quite simply, these sessions would not run to the high standard we pride ourselves on without them. Their dedication, compassion, and reliability make a lasting difference to the lives of those we support. This nomination is a heartfelt recognition of their hard work and commitment, and a way of saying how truly valued and appreciated they are.

### **Solent MS Therapy Centre**

This team of volunteers dedicate their time, week in week out, each committing at least half a day a week on an ongoing basis - the longest standing member of the team has been volunteering at the Centre for 40 years! They operate an Oxygen Chamber (an ex naval diving bell) which provides therapeutic benefit for people living with Multiple Sclerosis and other neurological conditions.

Many of the volunteers have MS or other health conditions themselves. They also help and support the Centre with various fundraising activities. We are a small self-funding charity and around 150 people from Portsmouth and the surrounding areas benefit from Oxygen Therapy, and without our amazing team of volunteers the Centre simply could not run. We, the staff, and the members of the Centre would like to share our sincere thanks to this amazing team of volunteers, they thoroughly deserve to be recognised for their ongoing commitment and dedication.

## **The Wellbeing Club Podcast**

The Wellbeing Club Podcast is a groundbreaking initiative designed by young people, for young people - creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive space to discuss emotional wellbeing.

The volunteers have been involved in every stage of the project and also take part in recording episodes at our local radio station, Express FM, ensuring the content truly represents the voices of young people.

They have created a platform where young people's experiences, opinions and ideas can be heard, helping young people feel less alone, encouraging conversations around mental health, and providing relatable information and support.

The podcast explores key topics such as bullying, social media, loneliness, anxiety, puberty, and mental health diagnoses, while also providing practical support, expert insight, and resources. This project is not just about storytelling; it's about creating lasting change.

They have developed confidence, communication, teamwork and leadership skills while seeing their ideas become a real community resource. Without their commitment, creativity and enthusiasm, this project would not have been possible or had the same positive impact.

They have demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving the wellbeing of other young people.

The Wellbeing Club helps bridge the gap between young people, professionals, and families, transforming the way emotional wellbeing is understood and supported in communities. This is the first step in an evolving journey to ensure that young voices are not just heard but truly listened to.

# Arts, Culture & Heritage Award

*Supported by Delivered Social*



The Arts, Culture & Heritage Award celebrates volunteers who help keep Portsmouth's creative and cultural life thriving. From museums and historic sites to music, theatre, community arts and groups that celebrate the many cultures that make up our city, these volunteers help people learn, connect and feel proud of where they live.

## Individual Award

### Hazel Belcher, Mary Rose Trust

Hazel has been an exceptional and dedicated volunteer at the Mary Rose Museum since 2014. She has become a much-loved and integral member of the volunteer team, contributing her time and energy for 4 - 5 hours twice a week without fail. Hazel warmly greets visitors and brings history to life. Her kindness, enthusiasm, and unwavering positivity ensure that every visitor feels welcomed and valued. Her natural ability to connect with people, always accompanied by a genuine smile, leaves a lasting impression.

Hazel is autistic and has minor learning difficulties, yet she approaches her volunteering role with remarkable commitment, pride, and professionalism. She demonstrates resilience, independence, and a deep sense of purpose, embodying the very spirit of volunteering. She is not only a valued team member but also an inspiring example of inclusion in action.

Over the past year, Hazel has shown extraordinary courage and strength in the face of life-changing challenges. Despite this difficult period, Hazel remained positive and determined, which reflects her incredible spirit. Hazel's journey has been one of perseverance, bravery, and unwavering dedication.

Hazel is truly an outstanding volunteer. She enriches the museum community and embodies the values of compassion and dedication.

## **Liz Lord, Portsmouth City of Languages**

Since retiring from teaching languages in local schools and teacher training for a variety of higher education establishments, Liz has been volunteering her experience and expertise for the promotion and sustainability of languages, culture and education in the City.

She singlehandedly runs Portsmouth City of Languages, liaises with partners and stakeholders, organises events, lobbies our councillors, MPs and Department for Education to improve language provision and sends regular updates.

She works tirelessly every day to improve our young people's cultural and linguistic competences. She works with the University of Portsmouth, with colleagues at Portsmouth City Council in EMAS, Music and Business, with the Solent Languages Network and supporting language provision in Primary schools.

She sets the agendas for the steering group and partners group meetings and writes up the minutes. The annual celebration of languages and cultures for schools' event which takes place each March brings together 100s of young people acknowledging the power of languages and culture in our city.

## **Gintarė Uleviciute, Lithuanian Community of South Coast**

For more than 11 years, Gintarė has dedicated thousands of voluntary hours to enriching Portsmouth's cultural life and strengthening community connections through arts, education, heritage and cultural participation.

She has built and led a wide range of community initiatives that bring people together, celebrate cultural diversity and create opportunities for people of all ages to engage with arts and heritage. Her work includes organising cultural festivals, educational programmes, family events, youth activities, traditional crafts workshops, music performances and community celebrations that are open and accessible to the wider Portsmouth community.

Gintarė has also established programmes that help children and young people connect with their language, heritage and identity. She has helped hundreds of children develop confidence, cultural awareness and a sense of belonging. She coordinates volunteers, secures funding, develops partnerships, organises events, supports families and mentors young people.

The impact of her work can be seen in stronger community connections, increased participation in cultural activities, greater visibility of minority communities and new opportunities for residents to learn from one another.

Her dedication has changed the lives of many people. Whether inspiring young people to become future community leaders or helping older residents overcome loneliness and isolation, her work creates meaningful opportunities for participation, connection and belonging. Her contribution continues to strengthen Portsmouth as an inclusive, welcoming and culturally vibrant city.

## **Team Award**

### **LCT 7074 Volunteer Brigade, The D-Day Story**

The volunteers of Landing Craft LCT 7074 at the D-Day Story demonstrate exceptional commitment, passion and professionalism in preserving and sharing one of the most powerful stories of the Second World War.

As the last surviving Landing Craft Tank from D-Day it holds an irreplaceable place in our national heritage, and it is thanks to this remarkable group of volunteers that her legacy continues to inspire thousands of visitors each year.

Through their tireless efforts, the team ensures the vessel exists as a living, breathing educational experience. Volunteers dedicate countless hours to welcoming visitors, delivering engaging interpretation, maintaining the craft, and supporting events that bring history vividly to life.

Their enthusiasm and knowledge create meaningful connections between past and present, allowing audiences of all ages to better understand the scale, courage, and human stories behind the Normandy landings.

They do far more than recount historical facts; they actively keep the story of D-Day alive, ensuring that the bravery and sacrifice of those who served are never forgotten. The brigade operates as a cohesive, supportive community, embodying the very best of volunteering. Members bring diverse skills, backgrounds and experiences, yet are united by a shared mission to preserve history for future generations and honour those who came before us.

## **English Heritage Volunteers**

The outstanding volunteers at the English Heritage Royal Garrison Church keep the church alive and free for everyone to visit by greeting visitors, sharing the fascinating history of the church, answering questions, supporting events, supporting the conservation of the Church, and helping to ensure the site is presented to a high standard.

The impact of these volunteers is significant. Visitors leave with a greater appreciation of the site and often comment on how informative and engaging their experience has been. Through their efforts, they have helped strengthen community engagement with the church and encouraged more people to value and protect our historic properties.

The volunteer's reliability, willingness to help whenever needed and readiness to go above and beyond demonstrate an exceptional commitment to English Heritage. These volunteers embody everything that volunteering should represent - kindness, generosity, dedication and a genuine passion for what they do in their role. They consistently make a real difference to visitors, fellow volunteers and English Heritage as a whole.

Their contribution ensures that the Royal Garrison Church remains a welcoming, inspiring and educational place for everyone who visits. Their valuable time and effort coupled with the funds raised in order to keep the church conserved and open to everyone is immeasurable.

## **Stage One Youth Theatre**

Stage One Youth Theatre is a charity based in Portsmouth that provides high-quality training in musical theatre. The behind-the-scenes admin, set building, chaperoning, meetings and finances are all volunteer-led and goes completely unnoticed. These volunteers give hours each day to ensure young people can receive the highest quality training in singing, dancing and acting.

The difference they are making to young people's lives who dream of going into the performing arts industry is immeasurable. Many young people go on to perform professionally in the West End, on cruise ships, on UK tours and beyond as well as lots of teens currently training at professional dance and drama colleges.

Without the volunteers the company cannot run, and these young people would be without some of the best training offered in the city.

Amongst the volunteer team are set builders who spend most evenings in the storage unit building set for our productions, admin assistants who communicate with parents, children and the community about the company, chaperones who ensure the rehearsals can run safely and a very committed team of trustees and committee members who ensure the company is running as it should for the young people.

Stage One Youth Theatre are an incredible addition for the local community which just couldn't operate without the amazing volunteers!

# Young Volunteer of the Year

*Supported by Irwin Mitchell*



This award is for young volunteers who have made a positive impact on their community. We understand that there can be challenges for young people to volunteer, therefore this award recognises their passion, motivation and commitment.

## Individual Award

### **Alfie Bannister, Pompey in the Community**

Despite still being at school, balancing exams, and managing personal commitments, Alfie consistently gives his time to support a wide range of Pompey in the Community programmes and activities twice a week.

His reliability, positive attitude, and willingness to help wherever needed have made him a highly valued member of the team. Alfie's volunteering includes football community sessions, holiday courses, and secondary schools programme.

Many young people benefit from Alfie's volunteering. Through his support, encouragement, and positive role modelling, participants are able to enjoy a welcoming and engaging environment where they can develop their own confidence, skills, and enjoyment of sport.

The impact of Alfie's volunteering has been significant, both for the organisation and for his own personal development. Over the last few months, he has had tremendous growth in his confidence, leadership abilities, coaching skills, and communication. Alfie's contribution has shown that age should never be a barrier to volunteering and has set a fantastic example for other young people considering getting involved.

Alfie has embraced every opportunity presented to him, developed significantly as a young leader and volunteer, and has had a positive impact on both participants and staff alike. His dedication, growth, and genuine desire to support others make him an outstanding role model and a worthy recipient of this recognition.

## **Libby Mell, Identical School of Dance**

Starting at the age of 18, Libby has given up her time every week for over 4 years to support all the children and adults at Identical School of Dance, an inclusive dance school in Portsmouth for children and adults with disabilities and additional needs.

Looking after 40 students with different disabilities and needs can be challenging at times but Libby takes it in her stride. All the students adore her, she makes them feel valid and safe to dance and express themselves. The school could not run without her.

Libby supports all the shows, making props, costumes and chaperoning backstage. She never lets the kids down. She helps to create a place where children feel safe, confident, and celebrated, and where parents find understanding, support, and friendship too.

Libby has a heart of gold and volunteers with a smile on her face. All the families are so grateful and want her to know how important she is to every single student she looks after week in week out.

She deserves to know how valued she is for supporting children and their families who cannot access mainstream activities and clubs. Libby meets all their needs with incredible support and dedication. She does it because she cares and wants to see them succeed. She is very special.

## **Vincent Robertson, Pompey in the Community**

Vincent is just 9 years old, yet over the past 18 months he has demonstrated a level of compassion and community spirit that would be remarkable at any age. A passionate Portsmouth FC supporter, Vincent has become a familiar face at Fratton Park, regularly attending Pompey in the Community bucket collections and donating his own pocket money to support charitable causes.

Vincent has created and sold handmade sunflower vases to raise money for the Pompey Sleepout, raising over £250 so far. Every penny raised helps Pompey in the Community continue its vital work supporting vulnerable people across Portsmouth.

Vincent's actions have inspired people throughout the local community, proving that age is no barrier to making a difference. His fundraising story helps spread a message of kindness, generosity, and community spirit.

Vincent embodies everything that volunteering and community service should represent. He is selfless, caring, determined, and motivated by a genuine desire to help others. His actions have inspired those around him and demonstrated that even the smallest acts of kindness can create a lasting impact.

Vincent reminds us all of the power of generosity, compassion, and community. He is a true inspiration and thoroughly deserving of recognition. He has shown that one person can make a meaningful difference when they care about helping others.

# Volunteer of the Year Award

*Supported by Portsmouth City Council*



This award recognises a volunteer who has given their time, skills and experience to benefit the people of Portsmouth. They have shown dedication and commitment to their volunteering role, enhancing the service and inspiring others, and have done things that are above and beyond the usual role of a volunteer. The impact of their volunteering is huge on both individuals and the organisation.

Thank you for joining us tonight to celebrate the Portsmouth Inspiring Volunteers Awards 2026.

Every nominee in this room has given their time, energy and kindness to help others. Some have volunteered for decades. Some started this year. Some give a few hours a month, and some give almost every day. All of them have made a real difference to people in our city.

Volunteers are part of the fabric of Portsmouth. They run youth clubs and food banks, coach sports teams, sit on boards, befriend people who are lonely, support people with disabilities, clean up our beaches and parks, and help at events like this one. Much of this work happens quietly, without thanks or recognition. Tonight is our chance to change that.

Volunteering benefits the volunteer too. People tell us it gives them confidence, new skills, friendships and a sense of belonging. It connects people who might never otherwise meet, and it makes our communities stronger and more caring.

To every nominee: thank you. Whether or not you took home an award tonight, being nominated means someone noticed what you do and wanted to say so. That matters.

Thank you also to the people who took the time to write nominations, to our judges, and to our sponsors, whose support makes this evening possible, and to everyone who helped behind the scenes.



# MAKE DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE WITH THE BIG GIVE

This December, you have the opportunity to make twice the impact for people in Portsmouth facing poverty, isolation and hardship.

From **12pm December 1 to 12pm December 8 2026**, HIVE Portsmouth is taking part in The Big Give Christmas Challenge. During this week, every donation made through our campaign page will be match-funded, meaning your gift will go twice as far at no extra cost to you.

Whether it's £10, £100 or £1,000, your support will be doubled and make a real, tangible difference to local people in crisis.

Your donation could help support:

- Free school uniform provision
- Volunteering and community helpdesks
- Community development work
- Local volunteers
- Dedicated support for the city's voluntary and community sector
- Projects supporting
  - Mental health transformation
  - Avoiding hospital admissions
  - Quicker discharge from hospital



If you can help make this campaign a success by committing to donate within the match-funding window, we'd love to hear from you. Email [info@hiveportsmouth.org.uk](mailto:info@hiveportsmouth.org.uk) and together we can unlock vital match funds and help even more people in our community.

