**Overview of CVS Inverclyde**

**Our Story**

CVS Inverclyde was originally set up in 1996 (then called Inverclyde Voluntary Sector Forum) by local voluntary organisations to support them and to represent their interests. In 2001 IVSF joined the national network of CVS (Council for Voluntary Service) organisations and was re-named as CVS Inverclyde.

We are a membership organisation with membership open to people and voluntary organisations that share our aspiration to challenge inequalities and promote a strong society in Inverclyde.

Our Board of Trustees are elected from the membership to whom they are accountable.

**Our Vision -** A Confident, Inclusive and Successful Inverclyde

**Our Mission -** Championing the role of citizens, communities and the voluntary sector

**Our Values**

* Quality
* Integrity
* Innovation
* Collaboration
* Leadership

**Our Work**

Our work covers three areas:

1. ***Community Strength***

Inverclyde's people and communities are empowered, resilient and recognised for their strengths.

* we encourage and support the use by the public and voluntary sectors of asset-based approaches such as co-production and resilience building
* we help communities recognise and utilise their own strengths to achieve success
* we promote and encourage active citizenship and community involvement in decision making
* we connect people to activities and services; getting them more involved in their community

1. ***Voluntary Action***

Inverclyde's voluntary organisations and volunteers are effective, sustainable and valued

* we encourage and support people to find volunteering opportunities
* we give advice and support to voluntary organisations on their effectiveness
* We help voluntary organisations to network, collaborate and collectively influence
* we promote and share information about the voluntary sector and volunteers

1. ***Social Change***

Inverclyde is a nurturing environment, where all are included and everyone has opportunities

* We encourage people to show compassion and neighbourliness
* We challenge and support society to become more inclusive
* We support the collaborative development of activities and services
* We build the wealth and resources available to communities

**About the Third Sector**

Local people have the skills, knowledge and energy to change their communities for the better. When they come together to form a community group or voluntary organisation these strengths can be realised and the result is communities that are better places to live.

We call these community groups and voluntary organisations the ‘third sector’ and there are over 300 of them in Inverclyde. The sector includes both small teams of volunteers and large organisations employing staff. CVSI are a membership organisation representing the interests of these groups.

Politicians and the public sector are increasingly recognising that the old assumption that the state is the solution to our challenges is flawed and that involving communities and third sector organisations effectively in the planning and delivery of services will increase their effectiveness.

We work closely with public sector bodies to respond to local priorities – bringing an understanding of the areas of our work – such as community action and volunteering – and how it can contribute to creating positive outcomes.

**Our Key Partners**

We work closely in partnership with a number of public sector agencies. Our key partnerships are with:

***Scottish Government*** whofund our role as a Third Sector Interface (TSI). We are part of a network of TSI’s across Scotland.

***Inverclyde Alliance*** the local Community Planning Partnership. CVS is a member of the Alliance alongside all public sector agencies and the private sector. Community Planning agrees the local priorities for the area and creates structures for partners to work together to achieve them.

***Inverclyde HSCP*** who are responsible for the delivery of public funded health and social care services locally. The HSCP is the single biggest commissioner of third sector services locally and is a partnership of Inverclyde Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

**Our Projects & Services**

In order to realise our mission and best support the sector we have a number of connected programmes of work.

* **Third sector advice services –** networking for third sector organisations and their partners to build relationships and foster collaboration. Advice, training and one-to-one support and coaching on specialist areas of support including funding, governance, quality, social enterprise, community engagement and much more.
* **Inverclyde Life –** connecting Inverclyde’s citizens to the local activities and services that will best enable them to achieve their desired outcomes. This includes both a portal and a team of Community Link Workers based within GP surgeries.
* **Voluntary Action –** support to third sector organisations so that they have the right foundations in place to deliver quality services.
* **Volunteer Inverclyde –** encouraging and supporting volunteering throughout Inverclyde. Our online portal enables organisations to recruit and manage volunteers.
* Inverclyde Youth Volunteering Project (IYVP): Promoting and developing youth volunteering across Inverclyde to improve outcomes.
* **Arts & Cultural Development–**in partnership with Inverclyde Council and the third sector.
* **Networks & Partnerships–** Resilience Network, Best Start in Life Network, Leaders Network, Social Enterprise Network and others to develop initiatives such as our groundbreaking Challenge Stigma programme.
* **Community Link Workers –** Commissioned by NHS GGC to work across Inverclyde’s GP practices to support patients with non-medical issues by offering a listening ear and helping hand to guide them to services that support their wellbeing.
* **Grant Maker** – administering and distributing funding to the local third sector on behalf of local and national partners.
* **Community Wealth –** building the assets, wealth and income of local people, communities and third sector organisations to challenge to poverty and deprivation.
* **Enterprising Project for Investing in Communities (EPIC):** Supporting the creation and development of social enterprises within the area to boost innovation and economic growth.

# Working at CVS Inverclyde

The organisation is committed to its people and is accredited with Disability Confident, Flexible Working, Healthy Working Lives, Carer Friendly and the Living Wage.

The Board CVS is a third sector organisation itself and is governed by the Board of Directors who support the CEO to implement the strategic objectives.

The Team CVS is a small staff team that work together closely to deliver services.

**Salary:** Salaries are paid in arrears at monthly intervals on or about the 28th of each month directly into your bank account.

**Flexibility:** Subject to ensuring that the needs of the charity and the role are met, CVSI endeavours to meet the flexible working needs of its employees.

**Holidays:** Our holiday year runs between 1st April and 31st March. Holiday entitlement is [5.6] weeks, or 35 days which are inclusive of the [8] normal bank holidays. Holiday entitlement is pro-rata for part-time employees.

**Pensions:** You will automatically be enrolled into our Pension Scheme after you have been employed by us for three months.

**Probationary period:** 3 months.