



FAQ

LEAD VOLUNTEERING ORGANISATION

A New Quality Standard for Volunteer Infrastructure



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



As a new quality standard for modern volunteer infrastructure organisations, we recognise there will be many questions for organisations to evaluate if LVO is right for them. This document collates the frequently asked questions and their answers.

We hope this is helpful. If you need any further information, please get in touch with us:

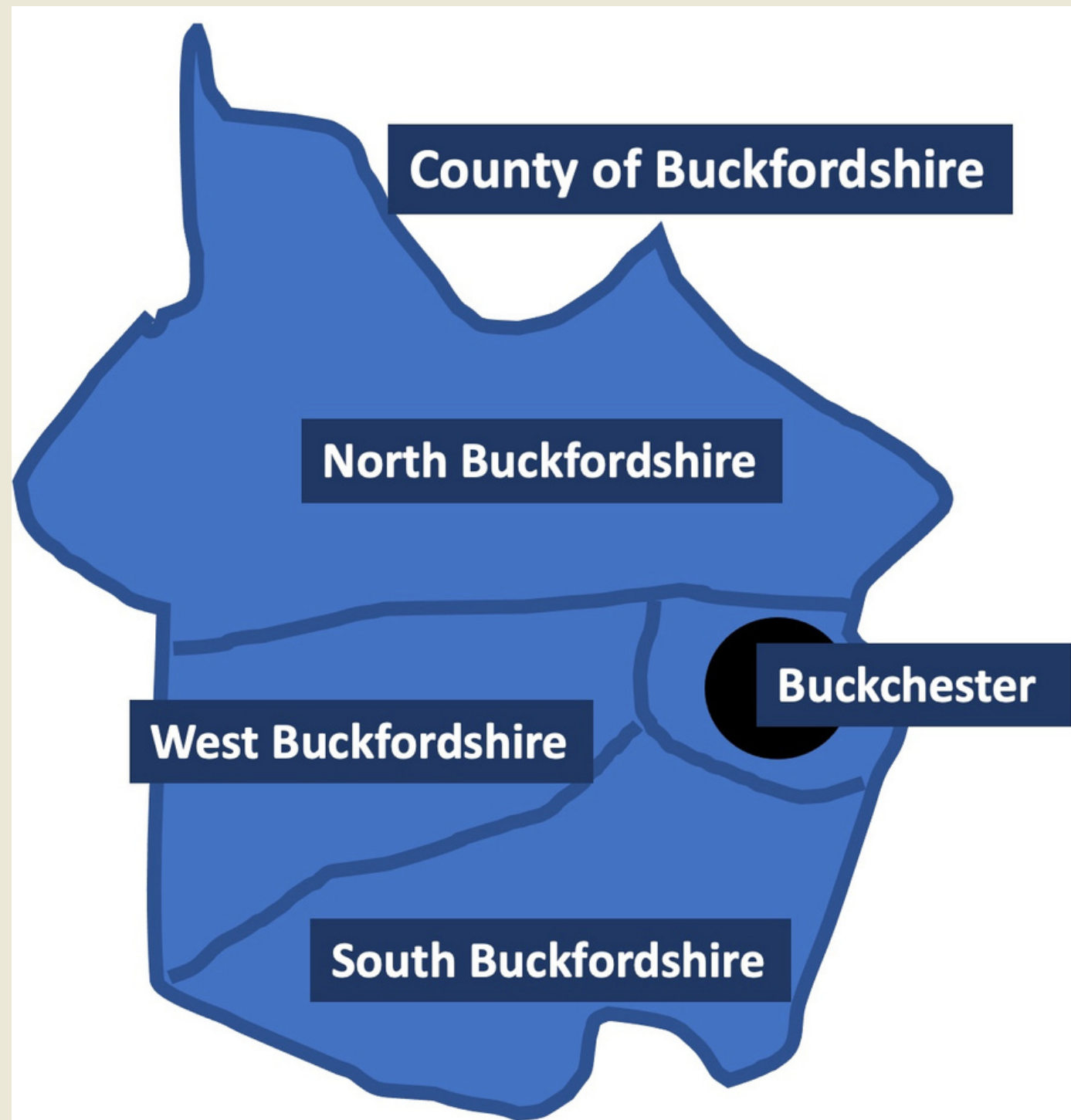
enquiries@works-4u.com



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1 EXCLUSIVITY EXAMPLES

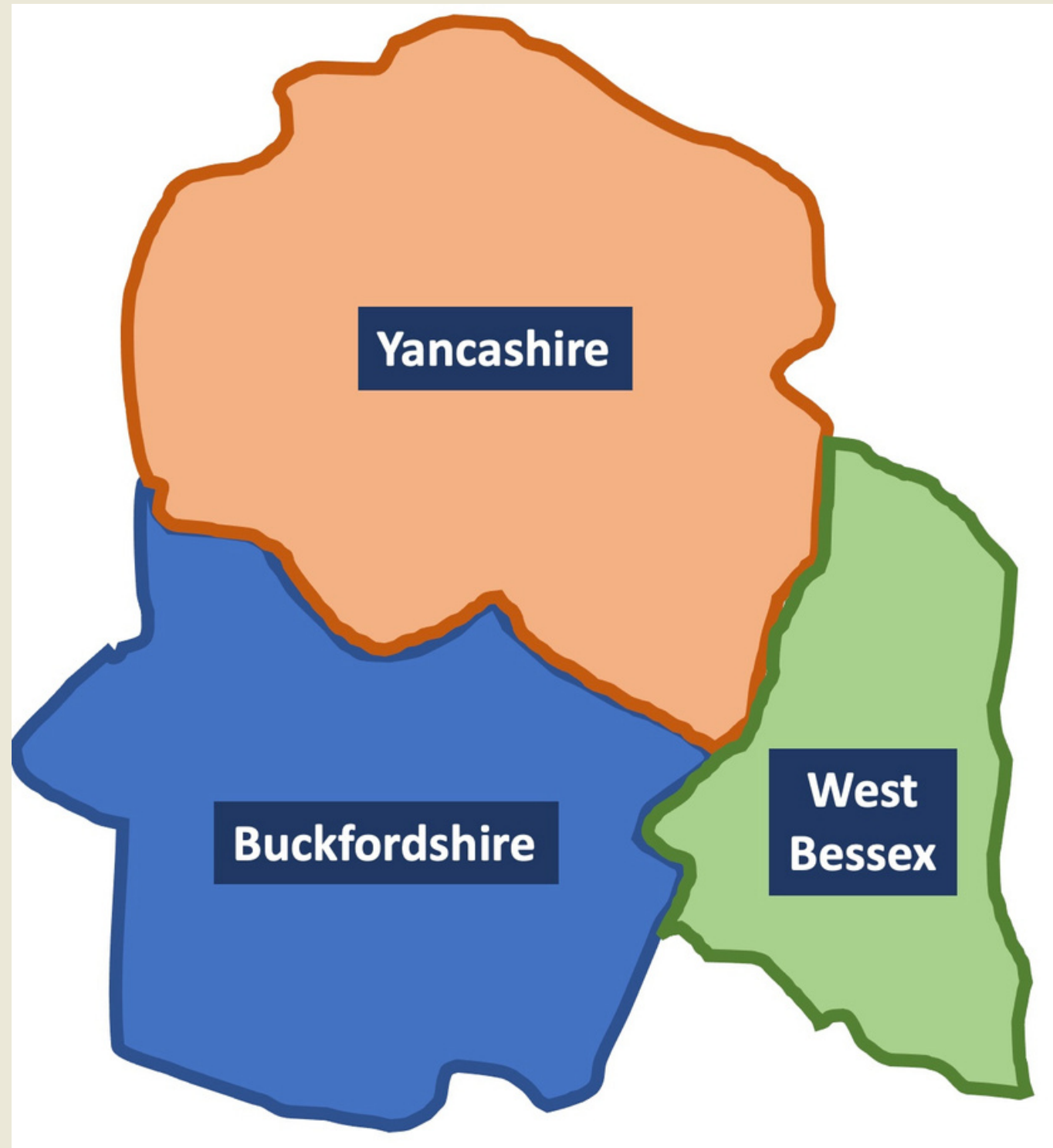


Depending on area, multiple exclusivity examples are possible:

- 1 Org leads volunteering for an entire county, therefore LVO accreditation for all of Buckfordshire is possible
- 1 Org leads for North Buckfordshire and different org leads for both West and South Buckfordshire, therefore LVO for North Buckfordshire is possible as well as a combined LVO for West & South Buckfordshire.
- LVO county-wide Buckfordshire accreditation already awarded to an organisation, but Buckchester Volunteer Centre want & can legitimately demonstration LVO just for the town of Buckchester.

We know different areas have complex arrangements that have evolved over time so please talk to us if you are not clear what is possible.

2 EXCLUSIVITY EXAMPLES



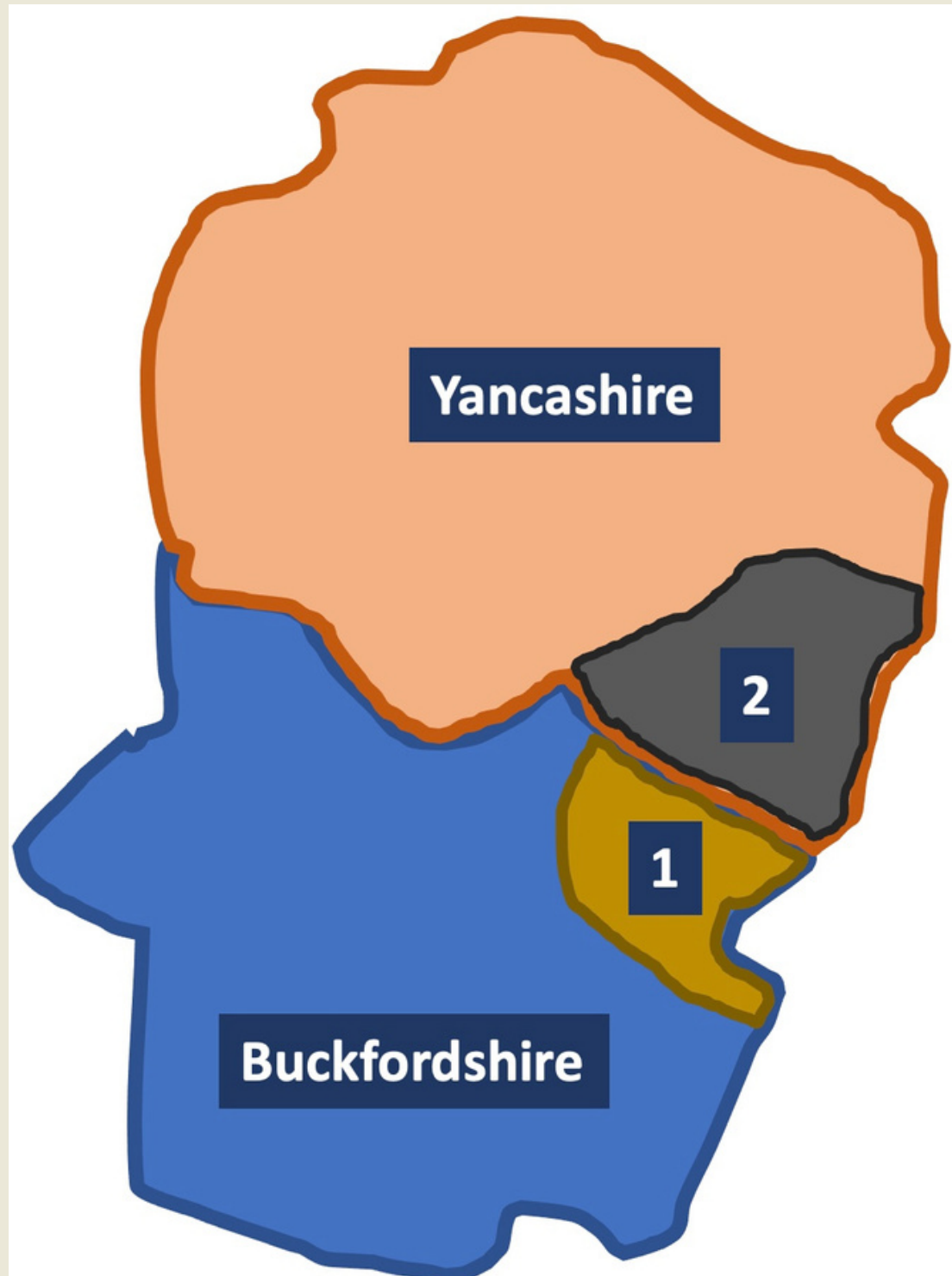
Largest possible area for a single LVO is a County, London Borough or other City area.

In the example shown, if one organisation was the lead volunteering organisation in each of the 3 counties shown, an accreditation would be needed for each county, i.e. 3 separate LVO accreditations. Different evidence would, obviously, need to be shown for each area which means separate management and assessment costs.

If an organisation can argue that a significant proportion of evidence is essentially the same for more than one area of the standard in the different delivery locations then a discount on additional LVO accreditations could be possible.

Please talk to us if you are not clear what is possible.

3 EXCLUSIVITY EXAMPLES



An organisation operates as the lead volunteering organisation in two sub-areas of two different larger local authority areas, marked 1 and 2 on the image.

The organisation delivers 1 and 2 under separate contracts from the respective local authority in each area. This single organisation delivers 1 and 2 using the same brand.

Therefore they could make the case for either:

(i) Combined LVO covering 1 and 2

OR

(ii) Two separate LVOs, but heavily discounted (e.g. 80%) for the second LVO if they can demonstrate evidence provided will be mostly the same as for the first.

4 HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?



This is a new standard, but we estimate that it should not take longer than 2 months to prepare all of the evidence to meet the 5 areas of the standard. For larger organisations with more resources it may be quicker and for others with limited capacity it may take longer.

There is no deadline or fixed timeline for carrying out this accreditation, we work to your schedule, not you working to ours.

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HOW IS EVIDENCE SUBMITTED?



All organisations going through the accreditation process will have their own secure private space to upload documents and relevant evidence.

Each area of the standard will have its own folder and a simple spreadsheet to complete of documents submitted.

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CAN PARTNERSHIPS GET LVO ACCREDITED?



Potentially yes.

If the local circumstances are that there is not one lead organisation but that it is genuinely shared across a partnership, then LVO could be obtained but the accreditation badge will be marked as a partnership, Lead Volunteering Partnership (LVP).



7 IF I GET VCQA COULD ANOTHER ORGANISATION GET LVO IN MY AREA?

In principle, no.

However, if there were a circumstance where the VCQA accredited organisation was not the lead volunteering organisation then this might happen. The main pillar to the LVO quality standard is that if an organisation cannot demonstrate they are the lead volunteering organisation for an area they will not be able to achieve accreditation.

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HOW DO YOU SEE LVO DEVELOPING?



The LVO quality standard has been launched for volunteer infrastructure organisations with the understanding of their needs and challenges. We hope that LVO will develop so that holders will use it to raise their status and profile locally, regionally and nationally.

As the work of holders may evolve in the future, the standard will adapt to ensure it remains relevant.

One area of development is in the area of emergency volunteering and the potential of establishing a clear network of Lead Volunteering Organisations who, with proper resources/funding, will be able to lead the volunteering response in an emergency.

We will evaluate as we go and will be completely open to change to meet the needs of holders.

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WHO IS WORKS4U AND WHY ARE THEY OFFERING THIS QUALITY STANDARD?



Works4U is a not-for-profit social enterprise that specialises in employee volunteering. It was formed in 2009 in Hammersmith, a subsidiary of the Hammersmith & Fulham Volunteer Centre, and is a 100% self-sustaining enterprise from its services provided to corporates.

It is able to launch LVO on a not-for-profit basis as it is also launching an Employee Volunteering Accreditation (EVA), aimed at businesses and corporates. The aim is to make LVO not only a more relevant quality standard for volunteer infrastructure organisations, but also to make it affordable in these economically challenging times.

Works4U is internationally recognised for its work having been invited to the United Nations and has won Best Hammersmith Business awards. In 2022 it set up and runs the national Employer Supported Volunteering network to help share useful information, resources and best practice.



GET IN TOUCH

If you want to begin the process or want to get in touch to find out more and see if LVO is relevant for you, please get in touch.

Begin process and general enquiries: enquiries@works-4u.com

More information & informal discussion:

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