

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Alliance

Highlight Report

Meeting Held: Tuesday 3 October 2023 at 2 pm – 4 pm Via MS Teams

Introduction

The purpose of the VCSE Alliance is to enable every citizen to enjoy their best possible health and wellbeing by bringing together local representatives of national and regional VCSE organisations working countywide to provide services to citizens and infrastructure organisations. The VCSE Alliance will act as a single point of contact to enable the generation of citizen intelligence from the groups and communities that they work with. This intelligence and insight will be shared across the ICB and ICS to ensure that the experiences and views of citizens are considered in the design and delivery of health and care services, enabling a two-way flow of information. Furthermore, where citizen intelligence has influenced changed, this will be shared back with citizens. If citizen intelligence has not resulted in a change, the rationale for this will be clearly stated to citizens.

The VCSE Alliance is an essential part of how the system operates at all levels. This includes involving the sector in governance structures and system workforce, population health management and service redesign work, leadership and organisational development plans.

3 October 2023 Update

Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership Board Meetings

There was a discussion around the flow of information from the VCSE Alliance to the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and Integrated Care Board (ICB) Board meetings. The Chair referenced a previous [presentation](#) delivered to the VCSE Alliance which runs through the flow of information within the system and how system partners feed into this.

One of the main priorities of the ICP is the development and approval of the Integrated Care Strategy. The frequency of the ICP meetings will be less frequent now the Integrated Care strategy has been agreed. It was recognised that there

should be more of an inclusive VCSE voice present in the ICP meeting and that the meeting was heavily health-related.

The Alliance was asked how to most successfully get the VCSE voice heard and work more effectively as a system. Examples were given of the impact of bringing to life real examples and case studies as well as the latest [podcast](#), [blog](#) and work within the City. Information was given by CVS colleagues working across the City and County and also on thematic reviews produced by the ICB Engagement Team which bring together insights including patient stories and case studies.

As the Chair of the VCSE Alliance was unable to attend the next ICP meeting on Friday 7th October 2023, members were asked if they would be available to deputise.

Terms of Reference and Strategic planning event

The current Terms of Reference (ToR) were developed by members over a year ago. It was recognised that the Alliance has evolved since then and there is an opportunity to develop the ToR to reflect the current membership and set a direction for the future.

It was suggested that a face to face strategic planning event be organised. Members were asked if they would like to be involved in the planning of this event and any suggestions around how this should run. The aims of the event would be to develop a strategy and goals for the coming year. All Members were in agreement to help and will await further clarification on whether it would be half or full day event.

VCSE Alliance Deputy Chair

The decision to appoint a Deputy Chair was raised with members, all agreed to follow the process to appoint a deputy chair. Members from the CVS organisations were interested in working together to select a possible candidate.

Programmes of work:

NHS England Research Engagement Network (REN) bid

A presentation on the successful outcome of the NHS England Research Engagement Network (REN) was received.

The £98,000 funding requires all system partners including the National Institute for Health and Care research organisations (NIHR) to come together in partnership during a 6-month programme of work. The 3 themes include mapping existing research, building on capacity with 6 community researchers from diverse backgrounds and developing a knowledge exchange hub. Job descriptions and person specifications for the project roles will be drawn up and shared with the Alliance. Members were asked to put forward people for the roles and to cascade the opportunities with their networks.

A discussion followed around ensuring the roles will be the most beneficial as well as consideration of rural areas. The Chair suggested developing a steering group looking at the most deprived areas to ensure the population of these areas are included. Information contained within the specifications were broad to allow inclusivity and not specific to any group.

National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA): Nottingham CVS Project

Information was given on NAVCA's (National body for infrastructure) work with [Assura](#) who would like to fund 6 days of a consultant's time to help develop the Alliance. Additionally, there will be a £75,000 grant available for smaller community organisations with a specification of what best fits health and inequalities across the system. This project is ongoing, and members will be updated with developments.

VCSE/3rd Sector commissioning working group

The VCSE Sector Commissioning Working Group is due to meet on Friday 13th October 2023. This newly formed working group has been set up how commissioning is undertaken. The [framework for addressing practical barriers to integration of VCSE organisations in integrated care systems](#) is relevant to this work. The project timeline will not be until 2024-25.

Risk to the VCSE Sector

A potential risk to VCSE colleagues was raised regarding many organisations utilising financial reserves and operating in an unsustainable financial position with the potential of services ceasing towards the end of October 2023 putting the public at risk due to lack of services. A further risk is that various contracts are due to end

in March 2024, resulting in workforce issues with staff leaving for more stable employment. There was an ask to raise these issues at the ICP Board meeting.

Actions such as more timely and expedient system decisions were suggested as well as recognition of managing projects with day-to-day costs and raising this risk at an upcoming Strategic Planning and Integration Committee. Other suggestions included having joined up conversations to help manage and safeguard resources, taking matters on a case-by-case basis and having a long-term ambition of recurrent funding commissioning. Members were reminded that the ICB Programme Director for Finance and System Efficiencies would come back and engage with VCSE members to give sight on the health inequality and innovation funds at a future meeting.

It was suggested that the first place to raise this issue would be in the Chair's report to the ICB Board meeting.

Visits from Independent Chair of the ICS, Dr Kathy McLean

A request was shared with members for the Independent Chair of the ICS, Dr Kathy McLean to visit their organisations. Members were asked to contact the Engagement Team if they had any sessions they feel would be beneficial for Kathy to visit.

Summary

In summary, the October VCSE Alliance meeting addressed information flow between the VCSE Alliance, ICP and ICB board meetings. There was a discussion on updating the Terms of Reference to better align with the current Alliance. Plans for a strategic planning event were proposed, aiming to develop a strategy and goals for the coming year. The appointment of a Deputy Chair and updates on the NHS England Research Engagement Network (REN) funding were discussed and NAVCA's work with Assura was shared. The meeting also touched upon the newly formed VCSE Sector Commissioning Working Group, potential risks to VCSE colleagues, and a request for the Independent Chair of the ICS to visit member organisations.