**Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICS**

**Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Alliance**

**Tuesday 16 April 14:00 – 16:00**

**Via MS Teams**

**Minutes of the meeting**

**Attendees:**

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| Name | Role | Organisation |
| Professor Daniel King (Chair) | Professor of Organisation Studies | Nottingham Trent University |
| Isaac Till | Communications and Engagement Assistant (Minute taker) | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB |
| Steve McCue | Senior Strategic Development Manager | NHS Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland ICB |
| Joanne Ryder | Head of Engagement and Insights | NHS Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland ICB |
| Ruthe Sawyer | Social Prescribing and Community Development Project Manager | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB |
| Andrew Robinson | Transformation Delivery Partner | Nottingham CityCare |
| Katie Swinburn | Engagement Manager | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB |
| Alice Blount | Senior Insights and Engagement Officer | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB |
| Amanda Chambers | Green Space Programme Manager | Nottingham CVS |
| Asia Asghar | Active Wellbeing Outreach Worker & Community Campaign Officer | Nottingham Muslim Women’s Network |
| Prema Nirgude | Head of Insights and Engagement | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board |
| Andrew Towning | Public Health Practitioner | Nottingham City Council |
| Catriona Sibert | Regional Relationship Manager - Midlands | NSPCC |
| Celina Adams | Service Director | The Toy Library |
| Bev Weston | Partnerships and Community Development | Disability Nottinghamshire |
| Carol Burrell | Community Wellbeing Coordinator | Canal & River Trust |
| James Cook | Strategic Lead | Active Partners Trust |
| Jules Seblin | CEO | Nottingham CVS |
| Kerry Devine | CEO | Improving Lives |
| Lesley Watkins | Project lead | Mansfield CVS |
| Lisa Lenton | Chief Executive | SHE UK |
| Louise Casey Simpson | Deputy CEO | Newark and Sherwood CVS |
| Lynn Tupling | Chief Executive | Bassetlaw Action Centre |
| Nick Cutts | Chief Executive | Opus music |
| Sandra McNair | Assistant Director for the Midlands | NSPCC |
| Amanda Chambers | Green Space Programme Manager | Nottingham CVS |
| Una Key | CEO | Ashfield Voluntary Action |

**Apologies:**

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| Katie Swinburn | Engagement Manager | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB |
| Richard Vakis-Lowe | Regional Account Manager | Dementia UK and Admiral Nursing |
| Liz Silver | Chair | Nottinghamshire Disabled People’s Movement |
| Olatomide Fadipe | Local Systems Influencing Officer (Nottingham/Nottinghamshire) | Alzheimer's Society |
| Andria Birch | CEO | Bassetlaw CVS |

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| 1. | | Welcome and Introductions - Chair |
|  | | Daniel King welcomed everyone to the VCSE Alliance Meeting and encouraged members to introduce themselves within the chat function of the meeting and introduced the topics for the day as on the agenda. |
| 2. | Notes and actions from the 6 February 2024 meeting | |
|  | Celina Adams did attend although noted as not attended in previous minutes. Aside from this, the minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as fair and accurate.  **Action Log**  Items 1-3 No discussion  Item 4. Bespoke emails have been sent out to Faith Groups and Organisations. Asked how members are engaging with these groups and to share information.  Different organisations mentioned that they have good links with faith group and if the ICB drafted some content they can share on its behalf.  Items 5-6 No discussion  **ACTION** – ICB to draft copy to be shared with faith groups to promote the Alliance and share with members.  It was added that work was still being done towards assigning a deputy for the VCSE Alliance. | |
| 3. | Learning from other systems – Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland’s (LLR) VCSE Alliance | |
|  | Steve McCue, Senior Strategic Development Manager at NHS LLR ICB, introduced the model being used for the LLR VCSE Alliance. He provided a strategic overview of the VCSE Alliance and the ICB/ICS main aims. (See enclosure “Notts ICB Alliance presentation 16.04.24” with these minutes).  Steve explained the background and context of the VCSE Alliance formation, and its benefits and highlighted the similarities between Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire – for instance variances of deprivation within the areas and the effect this has on health inequalities. He also spoke about the importance of having a varied group of organisations within a VCSE Alliance.  Jo Ryder, Head of Engagement, and Insights at NHS LLR ICB, started by talking through a diagram of how to create sustainable social impact through social seeding. (See slide 4).  She also presented a slide on [LLR’s Insights, Behaviours, and Research Hub](https://leicesterleicestershireandrutland.icb.nhs.uk/be-involved/vcse-introduction/vcse-alliance/insights-hub/). A place where insights are stored and can be searched to see what information is currently held on a given topic. Any of the LLR VCSE members can join. She showed the Hub’s forum, and explained its uses for holding varied conversations that are relevant to the VCSE sector, including those around new job openings, or looking for guidance on projects or help with funding. LLR use their Opportunities Hub to channel funding opportunities through their Alliance to make sure they are used to the best of their abilities, rather than in a pre-prescribed way which may not lead to the best outcomes possible due to being misdirected.  Jo Ryder highlighted the LLR website for the VCSE Alliance which has a directory of members and opportunities for members. She also described the next steps their Alliance will take and that they are looking into creating task and finish groups.  [A recording of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland’s VCSE Alliance presentations can be watched here.](https://youtu.be/xuePFGthF7E)  Steve McCue added that instead of having a member on the board, they instead bring the board to conferences and meetings to ensure the group is represented, which is a better fit for their system.  The conversation was then opened up for questions.  It was discussed that LLR did hire external paid staff throughout the first year to promote the Alliance and get it off the ground. This has now moved in house.  Steve and Jo highlighted that the VCSE sector is now part of conversations and planning from very early on in the commissioning process, whereas before it would be more as an afterthought. The voluntary sector is heavily involved when larger works take place, such as formal consultations.  There was discussion about whether Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB will be hosting an Opportunity Hub – it was decided this is something that is possible to look into and for members to express how they would like the VCSE Alliance to evolve.  Further discussion followed about the moderation of forums on the groups. This work is done by members of the ICB, but permissions can be given to any member to do so.  Daniel King thanked both of the guests for coming to the meeting. | |
| 4. | Research Engagement Network (REN) programme update | |
|  | Lesley Watkins, Project Lead at Mansfield CVS, began by explaining the REN programme is aimed at reducing duplication of engagement work and centralising all the knowledge and insights gained. By doing this, a stronger, more comprehensive, and diverse population will be involved in research going forward.  The programme is about to finish its first stage, which involves interviewing and mapping the interviews of those who have previously been engaged in research. After this they will be developing a network of research champions and connectors. The knowledge will be brought together in a searchable hub or library that can be accessed to exchange insights.  Jules Sebelin added that the interviews have been carefully designed and conducted in a way that does not fatigue communities. There has been a focus on talking to the right people and not just repeating conversations.  It was added that a byproduct of the work done so far is further connections outside the project have been created. In turn, this has improved external projects across the system. | |
| 5. | Patient engagement on Virtual Wards | |
|  | Andy Robinson, Transformation Delivery Partner, Nottingham CityCare, gave a presentation on the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Virtual wards.  He started by explaining how there has been a recent focus on engaging with voluntary and third sector groups from CityCare recently, after having to end a patient engagement group as it was not representative and therefore not fit for purpose.  Virtual Wards allow safe-to-discharge patients to get hospital-level care at home, helping them have faster, more comfortable recoveries and also freeing up beds. The ICB intends for there to be 40-50 beds on the virtual wards per 100,000 people in the population, currently there are 254 in Nottinghamshire, spread mostly over a Mid-Nottinghamshire & Bassetlaw virtual ward, and a South Nottinghamshire & Nottingham City virtual ward.  Andy Robinson explained that virtual wards can either be Step-Down (people being discharged from hospital) or Step-Up (people who traditionally would be admitted into hospital but can instead be safely looked after from their home or residency). Virtual wards have a maximum 14 day stay, but the average is around 7 days. It provides a much more pleasant patient experience, according to feedback from those who have been in a virtual ward.  He said that CityCare are aware that they need to be more pro-active in their patient engagement to better understand the experience of being on a virtual ward, and they are aiming to develop their links with charities and third sector organisations to support patients in their homes.  Many people will have unmet needs when they are discharged to a virtual ward and this could be where linking in with VCSE organisations come in.  [A recording of Andy Robinson’s presentation on virtual wards can be found here.](https://youtu.be/p68jP3p1jQQ)  The conversation was then opened up to questions.  There was a discussion around focusing on whether people from diverse communities or those who do not primarily speak English are using the virtual wards or if are they involved in the engagement for their development. Virtual wards are open to anybody, but patient engagement has not been very well developed at the moment, but this is one of the focuses going forward and will aim to be inclusive.  It was asked how the market for voluntary organisations to step in to aid with those on virtual wards could be established. Often there is a roadblock to the VCSE sector getting involved in these initiatives due to funding and resources. The availability and enthusiasm would be present, but without resources will not be achievable.  There is also discussion currently going on within CityCare regarding how medically fit people on virtual wards are, and what can be done to make sure, any voluntary organisations involved, were not put in high-risk situations.  There is a desire from the Alliance to be part of the conversation going forward. Currently, engagement on virtual wards is inconsistent and this means the virtual wards are missing a wealth of information from that available within the VCSE sector. For example, how to get virtual wards to work best locally.  A link was drawn to a South Derbyshire CVS project in assisting discharge from hospitals, which has happened over the last years. A concern was given that those who can join virtual wards are only ones who can go home – this may still lead to bed blocking. Many homeless people or those with no accommodation would not be able to be discharged through the Step-Down process.  Similarly, the need to take a holistic view to support people in discharging was discussed. Especially supporting the types of issues that may not be immediately obvious - for example, someone discharged to a virtual ward may need to heat home more which could be unaffordable.  It was brought up that where homecare within the family or community is more represented, such as within South Asian communities, there is often a lack of awareness of virtual wards and how they work, so more work needs to be done there.  The importance of being mindful and respecting the religious and cultural aspects that come with the programme, such as staff going into people’s homes was also discussed. These elements have a major impact on patient experience and the logistics of the programme in certain communities.  Andy Robinson explained that these considerations are done already for other community services, but more insight can be gained to make sure the embedded services are provided in the best way.  The group asked about the specific characteristics of those already using the service as it would be helpful in sharing more helpful insights. Further information would provide focus to the VCSE Alliance’s steering and discussions.  Conversation closed with a question around where the information and data go. Will it be used to avoid recurrent questions being asked around underserved communities. Although it was too early to say exactly, it would be used to guide future research. | |
| 6. | Integrated Mental Health Transformation | |
|  | Ruthe Sawyer, Social Prescribing and Community Development Project Manager at the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, gave a presentation on mental health commissioning.  She explained the Integrated Mental Health Commissioning team is a new team in 2024. Its aim will be to create a system wide approach to mental health in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. This will initially be a project for adult mental health services and pathways before moving on to young people.  They will then aim to create a three year Mental Health Strategy for the system which will outline the steps needed to get better outcomes from the local mental health services.  She explained the link between the plan and the VCSE Alliance through their priority of “Living Well in the Community.” The timeline of the transformation was shared and explained as well as the governance and the structures involved in actioning it, there will be a final plan submission for the Mental Health Strategy on 30th June.  She gave an offer for VCSE Alliance members to be represented at the Oversight Group (See enclosure “Mental Health Commissioning Presentation” slide 7 for offer specifics). Those who wish to join should reach out to Ruthe at [ruthe.sawyer@nhs.net](mailto:ruthe.sawyer@nhs.net) before 13th May.  There was also an offer for members to join one of the following workstreams related to the project.   1. Coproduction 2. Living well in the community 3. Data 4. Workforce and Culture   [Members wishing to join a workstream or share the invitation to other organisations can do so here](https://forms.office.com/e/LmyZJyvSVi).  Ruthe also shared a [link where Alliance members can share opinions on the best ways to engage and connect with wider VCSE organisations, which can be found here](https://forms.office.com/e/1k80YK8t48).  Members who wish to contribute need to fill this out before the 30th April.  [A recording of Ruthe Sawyer’s presentation on the Integrated Mental Health Transformation can be found here.](https://youtu.be/a7UuRH8eGvU)  Asia Asghar, Active Wellbeing Outreach Worker & Community Campaign Officer at Nottingham Muslim Women’s Network brought up that certain communities still have a lot of stigma with mental health which will stop people coming forward with mental health issues. What has proven to work in the past is to implement mental health through other unrelated workshops. Doing this can help communities engage in getting further support with mental health. She agreed to reach out to Ruthe Sawyer for more conversations outside of the meeting.  There was also discussion about the large number of insights available on Mental Health locally from a wide range of colleagues. Before co-production work is done this should be looked at to avoid duplicating the work.  Discussion mirroring the efforts from LLR to make the Alliance the place that new projects come to rather than usual groups was also had. The strategy will work to avoid a one-size-fits-all approaches, as they do not work.  **ACTION** – Members who wish to be involved with either: one of the Integrated Mental Health Strategy workstreams, or shaping how the team engages with VCSE organisations should follow the appropriate link by the 13th May or 30th April respectively. | |
| 7. | ICB Board meetings | |
|  | Prema explained that the recently written VCSE Alliance paper will be presented at the ICB board meeting on 9th May. This is the first formal update that the board will have had from the VCSE Alliance, and the total time will be around 20 minutes, and this is an opportunity to spend around 5 minutes to bring up some key messages.  The VCSE Alliance’s board paper has been created with member input over the last four to six meetings and has received broad approval from the group, with only some minor amendments to make.  There is now an opportunity for members to submit points to be included in this section of the meeting. They can do so by reaching out to the team at nnicb-nn.engagement@nhs.net  During discussion it was suggested to invite a member of the board to attend a future VCSE Alliance Meeting.  James Cook brought up that there is work being done in Derby & Derbyshire on how they articulate the value of their VCSE Alliance and sector in terms of the ICS priorities. It was suggested that this work could be linked up to bring Nottinghamshire people into it and in turn, the articulation could be used in Nottinghamshire to talk about the Alliance’s value.  **ACTION** – If anyone would like to be involved in this work, please contact James at: james.cook@activepartnerstrust.org.uk | |
| 8. | Knowledge and insights from members | |
|  | On Monday 22 April this year’s Partner’s Assembly is taking place. It is an opportunity for colleagues from across the ICS to get together and share ideas.  There was also an update on the Assura Work. This is a programme which primarily focuses on Queen’s Medical Centre, looking at barriers to the voluntary sector being fully embedded in discharge from hospital. There has been a bid submitted and is going through assurance processes now. People in the VCSE Alliance will be invited to partake in different stages in the future of the work.  The following link was shared on behalf of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue. It details how to make a safe and well referral for vulnerable people. [Make a Safe and Well referral - NFRS (notts-fire.gov.uk)](https://www.notts-fire.gov.uk/community/make-a-safe-and-well-referral/)  There was an announcement on behalf of the Alzheimer’s Society around their upcoming event on the 14th of May in London. VCSE Alliance members can get 15% off virtual or in person tickets by following the following link and using code ASAC24EXHIB15 at the checkout. The theme of the conference is “Making Dementia a Priority for All”. [Link to sign up to Alzheimer’s Society event on 14 May](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.alzheimers.org.uk%2Fdementia-professionals%2Fconferences-and-events%2Fannual-conference&data=05%7C02%7Cnnicb-nn.engagement%40nhs.net%7C5b4b9ac0725b4a095e7708dc5dedf62e%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638488523850913026%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KvI5q%2FE5oRl%2FSStFdjqApobM6mOLvE9Lg5nlDPj1Gjg%3D&reserved=0)  There was a final offer from Nottingham Muslim Women’s Network as a new member of the Alliance offering any insights they can help with and should contact Asia at: [asia.asghar@nmwn.co.uk](mailto:asia.asghar@nmwn.co.uk) | |
|  | AOB | |
|  | None to discuss. | |

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 4 June 2024, 14:00 – 16:00 via MS Teams**