

**Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICS
Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Alliance
Tuesday 4 March 14:00 – 16:00
Via MS Teams**

Minutes of the meeting

Attendees:

Name	Organisation	Role
Daniel King (Chair)	Nottingham Trent University	Professor of Organisation Studies at Nottingham Trent University
Isaac Till (Minutes)	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Communications and Engagement Assistant
Alex Ball	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Director of Communications and Engagement
Alice Blount	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Senior Insights and Engagement Officer
Amanda Chambers	Nottingham CVS	Green Space Programme Manager
Andria Birch	Bassetlaw CVS	CEO
Catriona Sibert	NSPCC	Regional Relationship Manager - Midlands
Celina Adams	The Toy Library	Service Director
Dale Griffin	Nottingham City Council	Project Manager for Nottingham Health and Wellbeing Community Champions Programme
Darren Fleetham	Nottingham County Council	Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board Manager
Donna Cumberlidge	Citizens Advice Nottingham and District	Chief Officer
Hazel Buchanan	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Associate Director for Health Inequalities and Strategic Clinical Programmes
Jackie Insley	Sherwood and Newark Citizen Advice Bureau	Chief Officer
Jess Ball	The Place (Change Grow Live)	Outreach Worker
Jules Seblin	Nottingham CVS	CEO
Kai Pitman	Nottingham County Council	Community Development Project Officer
Karen Jardine	Notts SVSS	Campaigns and Communications Manager
Karen Whitlam	Bassetlaw Citizens Advice	Chief Executive
Kate Baxter	Children's Bereavement Centre	Chief Executive
Kerry Devine	Improving Lives	CEO

Louisa Matthews	Nottingham Women's Centre	Chief Executive
Lorca Russell	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Engagement Officer
Lynn Tupling	Bassetlaw Action Centre	Chief Executive
Michell Freer	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Transformation Manager Nottingham City Place
Naomi Robinson	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Senior Joint Commissioning Manager
Prema Nirgude	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Head of Insights and Engagement
Sabrina Taylor	Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire	CEO
Samantha Cassanova	Notts SVSS	Community Engagement and Partnership Specialist
Sharron Reynolds	Ladybrook Enterprise	Chief Executive Officer
Simon Cartwright	Transforming Notts Together	Chief Officer
Stuart Cooper	Stroke Association	Engagement Lead (Midlands)
Tarah Perkins	Newark and Sherwood CVS	Development Worker
Teresa Allan	Alzheimer's Society	Local Services Manager
Velma Hamilton	Stroke Association	Engagement Officer

Apologies:

Una Key	Ashfield Voluntary Action	CEO
Louise Casey-Simpson	Newark and Sherwood CVS	CEO
Richard Vakis-Lowe	Dementia UK and Admiral Nursing	Regional Account Manager
Suzannah Bedford	City Arts	Director
Rose Humphries	POhWER	Head of Service
Marcus Pratt	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Programme Director Finance and System
Chris Pienaar	Autism East Midlands	Head of Partnerships
Jenni Johnson	Endometriosis UK Nottingham Support Group	Support Group Leader
Bryony Smith	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Health Inequalities Project Manager

1.	Welcome and Introductions - Chair
	Daniel King, Professor of Organisation Studies at Nottingham Trent University, welcomed everyone to the VCSE Alliance Meeting, 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 7 January 2025 meeting

	<p>Daniel King reminded people to enquire about Kathy McLean, Chair of both NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB as well as NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB, coming to visit their organisations.</p> <p>All other actions are ongoing, please check the log for progress.</p> <p>Minutes from previous meeting agreed as accurate.</p>
3.	<p>Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS Update</p>
	<p>Alex Ball, Director of Communications and Engagement at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, gave an update on the Integrated Care System (ICS) through an “at a glance” report. It gives a snapshot overview of how the System is performing against different priorities. It is updated monthly.</p> <p>The report is split between “Managing today”, “Making tomorrow better”, and “Developing the ICS” (See enclosure “At a glance status report February 2025”).</p> <p>Alex highlighted the access to care priority area, and how this has been assisted by new protocols in ambulance transfers, and improvements in wait times for planned operations. He also highlighted the quality of care area, he explained that there are ongoing investigations into different services in Nottinghamshire, including maternity and mental health crisis provisions. Alex also added that although money is challenging for the current financial year, the ICS is on track to deliver what they needed to, and they are looking ahead to plan the next one.</p> <p>On the “making tomorrow better” section, Alex highlighted neighbourhood health, he said that a lot of work is being done to grow tailored health services so that people can access care where they live and work. This will be a large part in creating an effective wrap-around service for older people, as well as those who are frail.</p> <p>Regarding the “developing the ICS” section, Alex pointed out that the Place Based Partnerships will be a significant part of making progress and transformation. He said that the provider collaboratives need to develop further to increase efficiency.</p> <p>Overall, Alex surmised that while the work of the ICS is improving, there is still a lot of room for further gains to be made.</p> <p>Financially, as the ICS reaches the end of the financial year, it remains on track to the commitments made to NHS England and Department of Health. This year they have had to make around £250 million in savings, which will likely have to be repeated next year. Alex added that these savings have been achieved without creating a significant impact on frontline services which is positive.</p>

However, Alex said that the budget is set going into this financial year, as well as expectations on the System, which was not the case at the start of 24/25. He added that there is more freedom with ringfenced budgets which can be applied more specifically locally. There are also fewer priorities that have been specified by central government. He said they can be simplified down to four main areas:

1. Improve access to planned operations.
2. Improved access to emergency and ambulance.
3. Improving access to general practice and dentistry.
4. Accelerate mental health access.

Alex also said that there are planned changes at NHSE, including a new Chief Executive and a new chair. The Secretary of State has signalled that they want to make NHSE more streamlined as a smaller organisation working closer together. This is likely to pass powers down the line to ICBs, which will have more control locally.

Alex said that a lot will be seen when the 10 Year Plan is released in Spring, and that it will be a big year for delivery and making a difference to the population of Nottinghamshire.

Conversation was then opened for wider discussion.

Daniel King asked about what the changes and opportunities will mean for Alliance members. Alex said that the three shifts included in the 10 Year Plan (Analogue to Digital, Hospital to Community, and Sickness to Prevention) provide exciting opportunities to think about the work of the VCSE sector and finding new ways of working using what there is available in the System.

Velma Hamilton, Engagement Officer at the Stroke Association, asked when there will be results from the NHS 10 Year Plan Survey. Prema Nirgude, Head of Insights and Engagement at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, said that a report has been submitted which covers what was heard locally through work done by the Engagement Team. She said that it we will likely get the results when the government's plan is published.

Daniel also asked how members will be able to get involved in shaping the discussions when the plan is out. Alex responded that members from the Alliance who are interested in being a part of those discussions locally will be invited to do so.

Stephen Cooper, Engagement Lead at the Stroke Association, asked if greater numbers of Personal Health Budgets will be awarded to individuals because of the plan, delivering greater flexibility in provision? Alex said that personalised care will be a focus but highlighted that there must be a balance between creating bespoke packages and ensuring the System works efficiently.

	<p>Simon Cartwright, Chief Officer at Transforming Notts Together, asked if the increased role for the Department of Health and Social Care may lead to greater joint working between social services and health. Alex said that this will lead to closer working between the department of health and NHSE rather than the Department of Local Government which oversees social care. However, the two being more aligned will make for easier overall cohesion between all aspects of social care too. However, as there will be fewer councils locally going forward, working overall will also be more aligned and therefore break down some more barriers between health and social care.</p>
4.	<p>Knowledge and insights from members</p>
	<p>Andria Birch, Chief Executive Officer of Bassetlaw CVS, reported that the East Midlands Combined Authority is putting out a funding call which will focus on 10 areas to benefit from £3m over two years. Expected to be allocated in the Autumn. Feedback is being fed through Alliance and infrastructure organisations. The outline business case is to be approved. Daniel King added that this will be a good opportunity for local charities to build social capital and inclusive growth.</p> <p>Andria Birch also fed back on the frailty board, four asks came from this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work to be done to present the qualitative and quantitative outcomes of work by the VCSE in a more accessible way. 2. Proposal to develop a joint statement through Notts Together on its collective contributions. 3. An invitation to discuss cross-system collaboration for standardised metrics on the building blocks of health. 4. Discussions about the need to do work differently to save resource. <p>She also said that there has been a 6-month extension to funding for BCVS while a longer term funding plan is created, which is positive news.</p> <p>Michelle Freer, Transformation manager at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, said that heart issues and concerns are of high prevalence across Nottingham city, so they have created a series of workstreams and projects happening across the patch. This includes health hubs which have been set up and they are keen to hear from voluntary and faith organisations on how they can integrate their work and support people and communities to get their blood pressure checks, reduce isolation, and support the communities to reduce negative cardiovascular outcomes.</p> <p>Jules Sebelin, CEO of NCVS, said they have been able to attract funding through the core 20 + 5 Connectors programme which will get small grants into the hands of small voluntary organisations who can help people manage their own conditions or do preventative work.</p>

	<p>Some Alliance members are attending a health and wellbeing board to present work occurring in communities. Part of this is being done by the East Midlands Voluntary Sector Alliance to try and support members and wider partners to access national funding, because as a region, the East Midlands accesses less than 50% per capita of national funding.</p> <p>Further contributions can be sent through to isaac.till@nhs.net</p> <p>ACTION: Those who are able to help Michelle Freer’s programme with supporting City communities to attend cardiovascular health checks to reach out to her at: michelle.freer6@nhs.net or nnicb-nn.citylocalityteam@nhs.net.</p>
5.	Trends and challenges for service users
	<p>Karen Whitlam, Chief Executive at Bassetlaw Citizens Advice, introduced this section as a chance to discuss the current trends and challenges facing the sector.</p> <p>She said that this would be a great opportunity to see if there were any commonalities in the struggles and what work is being done, or could be done, to counter them. Karen raised difficulties around benefits allowances and refugees and asylum seekers which came from a meeting of those working in Mansfield and Bassetlaw.</p> <p>This item will be an ongoing agenda feature going forward to see how members can collaborate on the issues raised.</p>
6.	Risks to the VCSE sector
	<p>Following the risk register being shared in the January Alliance meeting, Prema Nirgude shared the minutes with the ICB Governance Team, as a result the risk register has been updated accordingly. She added that the upcoming board development session has been identified as a real opportunity to begin to tackle some of the issues raised on the register.</p> <p>Prema asked if there was anything new that needed to be added or amended regarding the risk register.</p> <p>Andria Birch raised the Local Authority review will impact VCSE organisations, but we are as yet unsure of how that will look, so it must be on the radar.</p> <p>Simon Cartwright also raised that there needs to be more regional collaboration across the whole combined authority to make the most of the new links and joint leadership.</p>
7.	Nottinghamshire County Council Adult Safeguarding Board

Darren Fleetham, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board Manager at Nottingham County Council, attended to speak to the group about the Adult Safeguarding board to boost their VCSE collaboration, engagement, and membership.

Darren shared a presentation on what the Nottinghamshire County Council Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) looks like and share some key asks. (See enclosure "Darren Fleetham - SAB slidedeck")

The board has a strategic role, it works to prevent abuse and neglect from taking place. A brief description of their responsibilities can be seen on slides 2-5.

The board publishes an annual report, and plan, as well as conducting safeguarding reviews. Darren also shared some slides highlighting their statutory membership, the independent chair and the structure of the SAB, see slides 6, 8, and 9.

In their January Development Day, they highlighted some strategic priorities, including Culture, Severe Multiple Disadvantage (SMD), and Neglect. They also focused on Transitional Safeguarding and Co-production.

Darren asked the Alliance how the SAB can better engage with the VCSE sector, so they can benefit from its experience? And what next steps would look like/what can the Alliance commit to? They would be interested in having VCSE representation on the board meetings, which are quarterly.

Those who have any thoughts on this can reach out to Darren at: darren.fleetham@nottscc.gov.uk

Conversation was opened to discussion.

Prema Nirgude asked if there was a safeguarding board for children and if so, how they work with VCSE sector. Darren said he would have to ask if they had direct representation of the sector on the children's board.

Jules Sebelin, CEO of NCVS, said that NCVS had a place on the SAB board previously, but it became difficult to make contributions due to the focus on specific cases. However, she has said that their team is involved in the L&D side of the business. Darren said that the board meetings are very strategic, so this may not be as much of an issue, he said that VCSE orgs are welcome to join specific workflows or work at a higher strategical level.

Celina Adams, Service Director The Toy Library, said that the children's safeguarding board is invitation only, so she does not think that VCSE has a seat there.

ACTION: Those who have any thoughts on how they can help the Nottinghamshire County Council Safeguarding Adults Board can reach out to Darren at: darren.fleetham@nottscc.gov.uk

8. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Community Directory

Kai Pitman, Community Development Project Officer at Nottinghamshire County Council, shared a presentation around the development of a new amalgamated online directory for communities/citizens. (See enclosure “VCSE Alliance Kai's Community Directory Explanation”)

The new directory will join the existing directories currently offered across Nottingham/Nottinghamshire, including AskLion, Nottshelpyourself, and local authority sites. It will hold all the same information as the current platforms including, local organisations, events, and services, in one place and offers some new improvements. The new web page is expected to go live in April 2026.

The new directory aims to simplify access to the entries on the system, ensure information is kept up to date, and provide a better way for service providers to store and share their data.

The platform will use an Open Data model which means the information can be accessed, shared, and used freely. Organisations can update the publicly available listing on the database and their website will be automatically updated, reducing the need for duplication of work. Training will be provided for organisations interested in using the site.

Kai then shared a real life example of what Open Data is, using weather as an example. (See slide 6 in enclosure “VCSE Alliance Kai's Community Directory Explanation”) and shared a diagram on how an Open Data model would work for the new directory (See slide 7).

He also shared a slide breaking down the timeline of the project. The tender is about to be advertised. (See slide 8). They want to enter a co-design process this year too. A slide on who the project is planning to engage with was also shared.

A slide on how members can stay in the loop with the project's progress, including details on how you can ask a member of Kai's team to meet with any community groups (See slide 9).

Kai then asked how it would be best for him to keep the sector up to date, members should feed back to him at kai.pitman@nottscc.gov.uk to let him know.

	<p>Conversations were then opened to discussions.</p> <p>Prema Nirgude asked about the co-design stage, and who they would be interested in working with. Kai said that it would be focused across workforce, residents etc, and then within that would be further broken down into categories of children, adults, and those with lived experience. They want to hear from as many as possible. Prema then suggested that members from the Alliance may be able to help in connecting those to be involved.</p> <p>Hazel Buchanan, Associate Director for Health Inequalities and Strategic Clinical Programmes at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, highlighted how the project can link with making every contact count, and that frontline staff will be able to quickly find support for patients through the platform, therefore it must be robust.</p> <p>Simon Cartwright raised that faith groups are often forgotten in these large projects, so he offered to pick up a conversation to cover this offline.</p> <p>Andria Birch asked if groups would have to keep their own entries up to date, how the directory will link into those where there are local directories, and how it will link cross boundaries to Derbyshire. Kai said that the idea will be to get the buy in where organisations update the central new directory which they can then link into their own CRM databases, so that they still only have to update one place, but other orgs have access to the data.</p> <p>Karen Jardine, Campaigns and Communications Manager at SVSS, added that the integration of CRM databases works simply with open data models. She also added that their organisation’s website has a lot of accessibility features, including screen readers etc, and this should definitely be considered in the development of the new directory. She shared some examples of the software they use with Kai.</p> <p>ACTION: Members who have opportunities for Kai to get information on the new directory into the community to contact him at kai.pitman@nottscc.gov.uk</p>
9.	Engagement with Carers
	<p>Lorca Russell, Engagement Officer at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, informed members that the Engagement Team has recently been awarded some funding to gain a deeper understanding of carers in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and particularly those with multiple forms of inequality and people with protected characteristics. The project is set to conclude by 31 March 2025.</p> <p>She highlighted other current projects, including a listening event by Notts Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, as well as the local Carers</p>

	<p>Strategy, which has ongoing work to hear from specific groups of carers.</p> <p>A task and finish group was set up to discuss what the listening events should look like. It was agreed that going to existing groups would be preferable to reduce the strain on carers. An extra listening event has been arranged for those who can make it on 18 March at Nottingham City Library. The team will ensure that those who contribute are able to hear about the outcomes from the engagement work.</p> <p>A report following the listening events will feed into the Joint Carers Strategy and be made available to those who partook and other interested stakeholders.</p> <p>Lorca added that she would invite members to connect with her over how they can support the project in any way.</p> <p>Conversations were then opened to discussions.</p> <p>Samantha Cassanova, Community Engagement and Partnership Specialist at SVSS, asked if there has been any success reaching out to carers from the black community. She added that a local community space has been shut down, but they are moving to a new location, as well as a luncheon club which is in the city for elders in the black community, she also added that the international community centre hold a lunch club.</p>
10.	VCSE Alliance work programme and ICB board development session
	<p>Prema Nirgude spoke through the work programme. It includes a list of upcoming agenda items and actions, as well as future items for scheduling which arise during agenda setting meetings.</p> <p>Prema asked what priorities the VCSE Alliance would highlight in regard to the points raised by Alex. She proposed that some sort of agreement could be offered at the ICB Board Development Session which will provide a framework which will be more easily understood.</p> <p>Prema also asked if any members would like to work with her to create a plan for what will be brought to the session. If so, they should reach out to her at prema.nirgude@nhs.net.</p> <p>ACTION: Those who are interested in shaping the discussion for the ICB Board Development Session to reach out to prema.nirgude@nhs.net.</p>
11.	AOB

	<p>Andria Birch asked for metrics to be shared regarding what the ICB colleagues will look for in 24/25 impact reports so they can be shared with local VCSE Organisations.</p>
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Date of Agenda setting meeting: **2-2.30pm Tuesday 1 April 2025**

Date of next meeting: **2-4pm Tuesday 6th May 2025**