**Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICS**

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

**Tuesday 1 July 14:00 – 16:00**

**Via MS Teams**

**Minutes of the meeting**

**Attendees:**

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| 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  |
| Andria Birch | Bassetlaw CVS | CEO |
| Celina Adams | The Toy Library | Service Director |
| Jackie Insley | Sherwood and Newark Citizen Advice Bureau | Chief Officer  |
| Jamie Wakefield | Home-Start Nottingham | CEO |
| Jules Seblin | Nottingham CVS | CEO |
| Katie Meakes | Alzheimer’s Society | COO |
| Kerry Devine  | Improving Lives  | CEO |
| Kirsty Veitch-Sorsby  | Tackling Loneliness Collaborative  | Tackling Loneliness Collaborative Lead |
| Majit Bajwa | Al-Hurraya | Operations Manager |
| Nick Cutts  | Opus music  | Chief Executive  |
| Paula Graham | Bassetlaw Action Centre | Health and Wellbeing Manager |
| Prema Nirgude | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Head of Insights and Engagement |
| Sabrina Taylor | Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire | CEO |
| Sharron Reynolds  | Ladybrook Enterprise  | Chief Executive Officer  |
| Simon Cartwright | Transforming Notts Together | Chief Officer  |
| Tom Carter | Alzheimer’s Society | Local Services Manager |
| Tarah Perkins | Newark and Sherwood CVS | Development Worker  |
| Una Key | Ashfield Voluntary Action | CEO |

**Apologies:**

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| Chris Harris  | Broxtowe Womens Project  | Partnership Manager |
| Diana Vogtel | Canal & River Trust  | Community Engagement Manager |
| Katie Hall  | Nottingham CVS | PDU Programme Manager  |
| Kerry Peppard | The Centre Place - LGBT+ Service Nottinghamshire  | Clinical Lead |
| Lesley Watkins | Mansfield CVS | Project Lead |
| Linny Beaumont | Canal & River Trust  | Director  |
| Marcus Pratt | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Programme Director Finance and System |
| Sarah Fleming  | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Programme Director of programme delivery |
| Steve Morris  | Bassetlaw CVS | Head of Bolsover CVS Development  |
| Karen Whitlam | Bassetlaw Citizens Advice | Chief Executive |
| Victoria Tewson | The Robin Cancer Trust | Community Engagement Officer |
| Kajal Bain | Arthritis Action | Engagement & Events Coordinator  |
| Rose Thorpe | Muddy Fork | General Manager |
| Louise Casey | Your CVS | CEO |
| Donna Corah | Relate Nottingham | Chief Executive Officer  |
| Lisa Lenton | SHE UK | Chief Executive |
| Darren York | Base51 | Chief Executive Officer |
| Louisa Matthews | Nottingham Womens Centre  | CEO |

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| 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 6 May 2025 meeting  |
|  | ICB board meeting has gone past so this will be moved to completed. All other actions are ongoing as per the log.Minutes from previous meeting agreed as accurate.  |
| 3. | Knowledge and insights from members |
|  | Prema Nirgude, Head of Insights and Engagement at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, shared an update on changes being made to the Integrated Care Board. The ICB was given a task to cut its management costs by 50%. As part of this, it will be clustering with Derby and Derbyshire and Lancashire ICBs to achieve the cost per population saving, which has been signed off by NHS England and the relevant ministers. A chair will be assigned for this cluster which will be the first step in finalising the structure of the new organisation. Daniel King added that he had met with his counterparts in the VCSE Alliance from the other areas to be clustered to compare where there are similarities in the work being done.Prema said that the 10 Year Health plan is due to be published on Thursday. She said that there is not going to be a lot of learnings from it, as a lot has been confirmed prior to this point, and she encourages Alliance members to keep an eye out from it. She offered for members to ask any questions they may have and it can be included in a later meeting.Sabrina Taylor, CEO of Healthwatch, brought up that there was a leak through the media that HealthWatch may be being scrapped. As nothing has been confirmed they are continuing business as usual until the relevant legislation has been passed which would be needed to cease the service. She gave an ask for other Alliance members to think about how the patient voice can continue to be heard locally and nationally.Una Key, CEO of Ashfield Voluntary Action, added that working across the wide regional area suggested is very difficult due to their differences. She feels that Nottinghamshire are often overlooked in favour of the two larger neighbours of DD and L. This will be important if Alliances are merged that the Nottinghamshire Voice is not lost. Simon Cartwright, Chief Officer of Transforming Notts Together, said that there will also be synergies across some of the issues across all three counties. He asked if there was any information on what is happening to PBPs. Prema agreed to contact him about this outside the meeting. Daniel pointed out that there may be a chance for Alliances to feed into the agenda of the development going forward because of the focus on local work. Andria Birch shared three updates from Bassetlaw CVS:1. A local cost of living survey was conducted across Bassetlaw and Bolsover, echoing the BCSE barometer but with a district-level focus. 60 organisations responded, and the results are being analysed.
2. VCSE impact data for the risks around reducing funding in Bassetlaw has been published and shared across the system. A link to it was shared in chat: [BPBP VCSE Providers Health Impact Report 2025](https://www.bcvs.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-06/BPBP-VCSE-Providers-Health-Impact-Report-2025%20v1.01.pdf)
3. Infrastructure organisations are beginning to build cross-county relationships, with joint meetings to be arranged between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire counterparts.

Simon Cartwright noted the instability caused by shifting government direction. He highlighted the regional conference being organised in partnership with Derbyshire colleagues to strengthen cross-county collaboration. Simon also shared an upcoming event on 17 July in The Meadows, focused on faith communities and social prescribing. The event will include a presentation from the author of a national report on the topic, responses from ICB representatives, and workshops exploring local PCN engagement. He emphasised the need for a more localised approach to social prescribing. He also shared details of an event on 9 October, called "Together for the Region" where Mayor Claire Ward and the EMCCA team will be keynote speakers. To book for the event on 9 October visit: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1416357386069?aff=oddtdtcreator](https://transformingnottstogether.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5f46b71df5c8f91d274d5cd05&id=e9f719c7f1&e=d06d3ef5d7)Kirsty Veitch-Sorsby shared a positive update from the Tackling Loneliness Collaborative, which now has around 270 members and is hosted by Bassetlaw CVS. She announced the launch of a new website acting as a directory for organisations and resources, including recent World Health Organisation research on social connection. Kirsty also introduced the “Friendly Connector” initiative—a proactive programme to helping people access local support before they reach the stage of needing social prescribing. The initiative is being piloted in Ashfield, with plans to expand to Bassetlaw and Clifton, supported by academic evaluation from Nottingham Trent University. The Tackling Loneliness Collaborative Website can be found at [www.tlcnn.org.uk](https://www.tlcnn.org.uk)Sabrina Taylor shared that Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire has published its annual report, showcasing the organisation’s work over the past year. She also invited members to attend their upcoming annual showcase event in Worksop, which will explore the report through presentations and discussions. [Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Annual Report 2024–2025 | Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire](https://hwnn.co.uk/report/2025-06-27/healthwatch-nottingham-and-nottinghamshire-annual-report-2024-2025)[HWNN North Notts Annual Showcase and Roadshow | Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire](https://hwnn.co.uk/event/2025-07-15/hwnn-north-notts-annual-showcase-and-roadshow-0) |
| 4.  | ICB Board Development session feedback and discussion |
|  | Daniel King introduced this section and provided context on the recent ICB Board Development session, where the VCSE Alliance was invited to present alongside discussions on neighbourhood working. Daniel, Jules Sebelin, Simon Cartwright, and Prema Nirgude represented the Alliance and shared insights on the value of the VCSE and faith-based sectors.Jules Sebelin, CEO of Nottingham CVS, spoke about the Severe Multiple Disadvantage (SMD) programme, highlighting how you can have cross-sector model involving large and small voluntary or statutory organisations. She also spoke about the embedded practitioners across housing, healthcare, probation, and policing which they deliver services over. She emphasised the programme’s return on investment, particularly in reducing A&E admissions for the homeless, even reducing reoffending, so savings are wider than healthcare, and its potential as a model for future partnership working right down to grass roots level changes.Simon Cartwright spoke about the historic role of faith communities in health and care and advocated at the meeting to work for a renewed partnership between faith and health today. He discussed the importance of integrated neighbourhood working and the potential of chaplaincy in primary care to support holistic wellbeing. He also raised the need for better feedback loops between GPs and social prescribing services.Daniel King reflected on the opportunities emerging from the ICB Board Development session, particularly around data and the role of the System Analytics and Intelligence Unit (SAIU). He noted that the SAIU holds a wealth of data and insights, and there is a growing opportunity to better connect this with the intelligence held by VCSE and faith-based organisations. Daniel has begun conversations to explore how this connection can be strengthened and suggested that, despite changes in geography and system configuration, the SAIU’s role appears to be a stable element in the evolving landscape.He also highlighted the ongoing challenge of how the VCSE sector is perceived. Some within the system view the sector as fragmented or confusing, but Daniel argued that this diversity is a strength, not a weakness. He encouraged members to frame the sector’s complexity as a feature of its grassroots nature and adaptability, rather than a flaw.Daniel pointed to the upcoming 10-Year Plan as a potential opportunity to shift the system’s focus more seriously toward prevention and the social determinants of health. He emphasised the importance of articulating the sector’s return on investment in these areas and making the case for its integral role in improving health outcomes.He also reiterated the importance of local voice and representation, especially in the context of neighbourhood working. The pairing of the VCSE presentation with neighbourhood-focused discussions at the board session showed the need to understand and support the join between the two.Finally, Daniel raised the question of how faith fits into the sector’s identity and work. He noted that while some alliances explicitly include faith in their names, others do not. However, the role of faith-based organisations remains a key part of the conversation and should be considered in future strategic planning.Prema Nirgude noted that the Board was receptive to the joint commissioning work led by Naomi Robinson and highlighted the opportunity to collaborate with the SAIU to better connect VCSE data and insights with system-wide intelligence.Andria Birch raised concerns about the lack of recognition for good practice beyond the city, particularly in Bassetlaw, in the presentation. She also mentioned that unlike in healthcare, there is no division between prevention and treatment in the VCSE sector. She highlighted the sector’s holistic, person-centred approach.Una Key shared examples of how the VCSE sector acts as a safety net for individuals who fall through gaps in statutory services, including those with complex needs or conditions like Tourette’s. She advocated for modelling partnership approaches around specific conditions to better support these individuals.Naomi Robinson suggested that joint commissioning could be a key enabler in shifting towards more holistic care pathways and proposed using the risk register as a strategic tool for dialogue.Sharron Reynolds called for a more proactive stance from the Alliance, suggesting that the sector should define its own agenda and funding structures rather than waiting for system changes. She emphasised the need to protect local engagement and build on existing good practice.Jules Sebelin added that while PCNs are being reorganised into larger structures, it is vital not to lose the strong neighbourhood-level engagement that has been built over the past two years.The discussion concluded with a consensus on the importance of local voice, the need to articulate the sector’s value more clearly, and the opportunity to shape the emerging system landscape through data, funding, and strategic engagement. |
| 5. | Risks to the VCSE sector |
|  | Prema Nirgude introduced the standing item on risks to the VCSE sector and shared updates to the risk register. Two new actions were added: one regarding engagement on the Bassetlaw VCSE grants programme, and another concerning the use of ARRS (Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme) funding, particularly the concern that it may be disproportionately allocated to GP roles at the expense of social prescribers and other community-based roles.Prema also noted that the overall risk score had been reduced by the ICB due to the actions, and that the outcomes of the risks are more localised due to them.Andria Birch expressed concern at the decision to reduce the risk score, arguing that the sector is facing increasing pressures. She emphasised that even if impacts are localised, they still affect the wider system.Multiple members, including Sharon Reynolds, Paula Graham, Sabrina Taylor, Una Key, Jackie Insley, Donna Cumberlidge, and Celina Adams, voiced agreement with Andria’s concerns, with Nick Cutts, Kate Baxter, and Tom Carter also agreeing in the chat.Naomi Robinson acknowledged the strength of feeling and suggested using the risk register as a tool for dialogue. She proposed that the Alliance could use the risk as a starting point for deeper conversations about commissioning and system-wide planning.Sharon Reynolds highlighted the burden of data collection on small organisations, noting that while data is important, the time and resource demands in using it a lot are significant. She called for better recognition of existing data and the need to balance reporting with frontline delivery.Jules Sebelin raised concerns about the potential loss of local engagement as PCNs are reorganised into larger structures. She stressed the importance of protecting neighbourhood-level work and ensuring that engagement built over the past two years is not lost.The discussion concluded with a strong consensus that the risk to the VCSE sector remains high and should be reflected more accurately in strategic planning. Members called for greater understanding of the sector’s role, better integration of local intelligence, and a commitment to maintaining the voice and value of the VCSE in the evolving system landscape. |
| 6.  | Work programme |
|  | There are no new items in the work programme to be raised. |
| 7.  | Any Other Business  |
|  | Mapping of members who are involved in different committees has been done. There needs to be a process to assign deputies for those who cannot attend. Daniel raised that a 16 July EMCA meeting will need to be deputised. Members who are available for that should contact Daniel.Andria Birch re-raised a call for members to show collective support. Sabrina highlighted that a full report has not been released, so it would be better to hold fire until that has been received and then to react appropriately.  |

Date of Agenda setting meeting: **2-2.30pm 29 July 2025**

Date of next meeting: **2-4pm Tuesday 2nd September 2025**