**Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICS**

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

**Tuesday 2 September 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 |
| Chris Pienaar | Autism East Midlands | Head of Partnerships |
| Dale Griffin | Nottingham City Council | Project Manger for Nottingham Health and Wellbeing Community Champions Programme |
| Danny Hewis | Nottingham Mencap | Deputy CEO |
| David Bentley | Railway Children | Learning, Development & Participation Manager |
| Fiona Callaghan | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Place Partnership Director |
| Ian Boyd | Self Help UK | Managing Director |
| Jackie Insley | Sherwood and Newark Citizen Advice Bureau | Chief Officer |
| James Cook | Active Partners Trust | Strategic Lead |
| Jamie Wakefield | Homestart Nottingham | CEO |
| Jules Seblin | Nottingham CVS | CEO |
| Karen Whitlam | Bassetlaw Citizens Advice | Chief Executive |
| Kate Baxter | Children’s Bereavement Centre | Chief Executive |
| Lynn Tupling | Bassetlaw Action Centre | Chief Executive |
| Michelle Freer | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Transformation Manager |
| Naomi Robinson | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Senior Joint Commissioning Manager |
| Nick Cutts | Opus music | Chief Executive |
| Prema Nirgude | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Head of Insights and Engagement |
| Sharron Reynolds | Brighter Mansfield | Chief Executive Officer |
| Tarah Perkins | Newark and Sherwood CVS | Development Worker |
| Una Key | Ashfield Voluntary Action | CEO |

**Apologies:**

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| Louise Casey | Your CVS | CEO |
| Marcus Pratt | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Programme Director Finance and System |
| Apollos Clifton-Brown | Framework | Director of Health and Social Care |
| Chris Harris | Broxtowe Womens Project | Partnership Manager |
| Victoria Tewson | The Robin Cancer Trust | Community Engagement Officer |
| Bev Weston | Disability Nottinghamshire | Partnerships and Community Development |

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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 |
|  | All other actions are ongoing as per the log.  Minutes from previous meeting agreed as accurate. |
| 3. | Knowledge and insights from members |
|  | Michelle Freer, Transformation Manager at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, shared an update on the Know Your Numbers blood‑pressure campaign running 8 -16 September in Nottingham City. She noted a full comms pack is available with downloadable posters, leaflets, an activity plan, videos for social, and more (see meeting enclosures). Members were invited to share content and contact her for any additional support.  Jules Sebelin, CEO of NCVS, flagged Nottingham CVS’s Sector Forward conference on 13 October at the Motorpoint Arena, attendance limited for VCSE organisations, during the session there will be a workshop on building a VCSE provider collaborative.  A public‑sector‑inclusive celebration is planned for December to celebrate the organisation’s 150th birthday, at the Council House in Nottingham on 4th December from 1 until 4pm.  Sharron Reynolds, CEO of Brighter Mansfield, announced that Ladybrook Enterprise has formally rebranded to Brighter Mansfield, with Companies House and Charity Commission changes completed. Over the coming period this will include new email addresses and a new website, but current emails will continue to work during transition. She clarified the charity’s remit remains Mansfield District and surrounding areas. |
| 4. | Integrated Neighbourhood Working |
|  | Fiona Callaghan, Place Partnership Director at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, shared a presentation on the development and implementation of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs).  She explained that the Local Care Together Board comprises four workstreams:   1. Primary Care Transformation (access and service shape), 2. Proactive Care (e.g., respiratory, diabetes, care homes, end of life). 3. Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) 4. A strengthened focus on prevention (especially secondary prevention).   These workstreams are designed to help the long-term NHS priorities and achieving the goals set out in the NHS 10 Year Plan.  The aim of INTs is person‑centred, wrap‑around support across NHS, social care, VCSE and neighbourhood assets all working together. The five core components of success in neighbourhoods over the next 10 years will be: data‑driven population health management, modern general practice, community health services, Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) working, and neighbourhood‑level urgent care support.  Fiona explained the purpose of INTs and the professionals that sit within them, including GP surgeries, community nurses and therapists, pharmacists, optometrists, dentists, acute specialists, local mental health teams, care navigation services, social care, local councils, local voluntary and community groups, housing and employment services, domestic violence support services, police, fire and rescue.  Early rollout is underway across Ashfield/Mansfield/Newark & Sherwood (go‑live end of June) with active learning; South Notts is focusing initially on Broxtowe/Eastwood; City work has started in Nottingham City East PCN (reviewing 200 patients for wrap‑around needs); Bassetlaw is building on existing models with improved social care interface.  Conversation was then opened to discussion.  Una Key, CEO of Ashfield Voluntary Action, raised that a “digital by default” expectation (as seen in national plans) is not immediately achievable given low NHS App uptake, over the year that the programme is expecting. Fiona agreed, saying this more reflects the 10 Year Plan transformation, rather than the work being done in the one year timeframe.  Jules Sebelin asked about practical support such as “buddies” to get people from home to community activities and when details will come on this. Fiona said commissioning intentions at neighbourhood level must include clinical and social/community elements. work discussing this is underway.  Andria Birch, CEO of Bassetlaw CVS, asked what tangible difference the public will notice by year‑end, or if the benefits will be mostly behind the scenes. Fiona said the near‑term NHS imperative is to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions by keeping care closer to home, acknowledging the challenge of public messaging while services change.  Danny Hewis, Deputy CEO at Nottingham Mencap, highlighted GP access challenges and the continuing importance of human contact (walk‑in/telephone) alongside digital routes. Fiona recognised the complexity and need for continual challenge and improvement.  Chris Pienaar, Head of Partnerships at Autism East Midlands, described Derbyshire examples where walk‑in hubs and toolkits help people help themselves quickly, relieving pressure on GPs/schools. |
| 5. | ICB Board update on VCSE Alliance |
|  | Prema Nirgude, Head of Insights and Engagement at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, shared a discussion paper to support the development of the next update to the Board of the ICB, scheduled for 11 September. She summarised the evolving national context - Model ICB Blueprint (strategic commissioning; deliberative dialogue; user‑led design/design thinking), NHS 10‑year plan (patient voice central to service design and delivery), and Dash review (CQC to assess how ICBs/providers listen and respond). Locally, she highlighted how the Alliance’s trusted links into communities position the VCSE to generate insight and support coproduction.  Prema then shared some discussion points:   * How can the VCSE Alliance ensure that the lived experiences of local communities - particularly those facing health inequalities - are consistently captured and shared with system leaders? * What mechanisms can be put in place to integrate VCSE - generated insight into ICB board discussions, service design, and commissioning processes? * How can the VCSE sector work with NHS partners to align qualitative insight with quantitative data, creating a richer picture of the health needs of people and communities? * How can the ICS establish clear feedback channels so communities know how their input has influenced decisions and outcomes?   Conversation was opened to thoughts and comments.  Andria Birch asked if there was an opportunity for the scope of the paper to be expanded, to focus more on codesign, commissioning, and the ICP/ICS development and impact, as opposed to focus entirely on voice. Prema confirmed the paper will draw from all recent Alliance discussions.  Celina Adams, Service Director at The Toy Library, asked if whether the ICB sees the VCSE sector as contributing to its work, through data sharing, service delivery, patient voice, or health communications, or if the ICB expects VCSE organisations to carry out specific “task and finish” projects, in which case funding becomes an issue. Prema said it is a combination of these two, with some work requiring the prior and other the latter. She also clarified that the discussion points were only raised to provide a structure for the conversation.  Chris Pienaar referenced an old programme called Local Alchemy and similar community‑centred approaches that systematically draw in local expertise with standardised methods.  Jules Sebelin highlighted how small grassroots groups are typically set up by those with lived experience who had poor experiences of navigating the health and care system, and the need for infrastructure organisations and support from the system to take learnings from them and support their voice.  Sharron Reynolds asked if Alliances remain mandated. Prema said that it is uncertain at the moment, but in the Model ICB blueprint there is reference to the work done by VCSE sector, so it is likely that some form of Alliance will continue. Daniel King added that based on conversations he has been involved with, this topic has not been ironed out yet.  Una Key raised that more can be done by volunteers to free clinical capacity. Fiona Callaghan proposed the Board paper includes evidence of current VCSE delivery routes: procurement wins, collaborations with NHS providers (e.g., Notts Healthcare), neighbourhood models (e.g., Best Years Hub), and the emerging Bassetlaw grant blueprint to engage VCSE at scale. |
| 5. | Risks to the VCSE sector |
|  | Prema Nirgude introduced the agenda item by noting the ICB operational risk register entry for VCSE sustainability remains as an elevated risk, and meeting feedback from July was added to its entry. She also added that despite the risk number being lowered that this does not mean the ICB is taking the risk less seriously.  Una Key advised Prema contacting Helen Smith from South Nottingham Place-Based Partnership as they have updated their risk register to reflect that even large, long‑standing charities can fail. The wording was changed to suggest that organisations are funded according to the compact agreement (including full‑cost recovery/fair payment expectations).  Andria Birch reiterated concern that a reduced score can be seen as the ICB thinking the situation is improving when many VCSE risks, not only finance, but also are actually felt to be increasing. It was discussed that this may be a larger portion of the next VCSE Alliance meeting. |
| 6. | Work programme |
|  | There are no new items in the work programme to be raised. |
| 7. | Any Other Business |
|  | None |

Date of Agenda setting meeting: **2-2.30pm 30 September 2025**

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