**Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICS**

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

**Tuesday 4 May 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 |
| Alex Ball | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Director of Communications and Engagement |
| Alice Blount | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Senior Insights and Engagement Officer |
| Andria Birch | Bassetlaw and Bolsover CVS | CEO |
| Bev Weston | Disability Nottinghamshire | Partnerships and Community Development |
| Caroline Panto | Nottinghamshire County Council |  |
| Catriona Sibert | NSPCC | Regional Relationship Manager - Midlands |
| Celina Adams | The Toy Library | Service Director |
| Chris Pienaar | Autism East Midlands | Head of Partnerships |
| Dale Griffin | Nottingham City Council | Project Manager for Nottingham Health and Wellbeing Community Champions Programme |
| Darren York | Base 51 | CEO |
| David Bentley | Charity Railway Children | Training Participation manager |
| Favour Ibekwe | Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust | Strategic Planning Manager |
| James Cook | Active Notts | Strategic Lead |
| Jess Ball | The Place (Change Grow Live) | Outreach Worker |
| Jules Sebelin | Nottingham CVS | CEO |
| Katie Swinburn | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Engagement Manager |
| Karen Whitlam | Citizens Advice North Nottinghamshire | Chief Executive |
| Kirsty Veitch-Sorsby | Tackling Loneliness Collaborative | BCVS |
| Louisa Matthews | Nottingham Women’s Centre | Chief Executive |
| Lorca Russell (minutes) | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Engagement Officer |
| Naomi Robinson | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Deputy Head of Joint Commissioning |
| Nick Cutts | OPUS Music | CEO |
| Sabrina Taylor | Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire | CEO |
| Sally Beswick |  |  |
| Simon Cartwright | Transforming Notts Together | Chief Officer |
| Tarah Perkins | Your CVS | Senior Health Engagement |
| Teresa Parsons | Alzheimer's Society | Community and Volunteering Regional Lead |

**Apologies:**

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| Di Trinder | Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire | Dementia Clinical Director |
| Donna Cumberlidge | Citizens Advice Nottingham and District | Chief Officer |
| Isaac Till | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Communications and Engagement Assistant |
| Jackie Insley | Sherwood and Newark Citizen Advice Bureau | Chief Officer |
| Jordanne Wright | Nottingham Recovery Network | Health Promotion Worker |
| Kajal Bain | Arthritis Action | Engagement & Events Coordinator |
| 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 |
| Lisa Lenton | SHE UK | Chief Executive |
| Lynn Tupling | Bassetlaw Action Centre | Chief Executive |
| Prema Nirgude | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Head of Insights and Engagement |
| Samantha Cassanova | Notts SVSS | Community Engagement and Partnership Specialist |
| Sarah Collis | Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire | Chair |
| Sarah Fleming | NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB | Head of Programme Delivery |
| Steve Morris | Bassetlaw CVS | Head of Bolsover CVS Development |
| Suzannah Bedford | City Arts | Director |
| Una Key | Ashfield Voluntary Action | 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 4 March 2025 meeting |
|  | One correction was made to the minutes of the previous meeting by Andria Birch regarding BCVS funding. The funding referred to was funding of all 11 organisations in Bassetlaw supporting the 3,000 patients.  Daniel King reviewed the action long and noted that some mapping of organisations and the development board session were on the agenda. There is an invitation for the CYP board to update the group. All other actions are ongoing, please check the log for progress. |
| 3. | Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS Update |
|  | 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 and is updated monthly.  The report is split between “Managing today”, “Making tomorrow better”, and “Developing the ICS” (See enclosure “At a glance status report April 2025”).  It was highlighted that access to care in terms of 4 hours waits in accident and emergency is getting better. Similarly, long waits for operations and tests are coming down from 52 weeks but not yet at the 18-week NHS standard. There have been record months with a 5/10% increase in available appointments in primary care. Citizens still feel it’s too difficult to access appointments at times. The continuing programme of collective action, where GPs are working to rule on various things, may impact on the care patients receive.  There are known quality issues in mental health services linked to 2023 attacks in Nottingham and also for maternity services in acute hospitals.  In terms of money, savings were delivered across all the NHS spend, achieved by March 2025, this was implemented without impacting on frontline services. The same level of savings need to be made for 2025/2026.  On the “making tomorrow better” section, it was highlighted that a lot is linked to money. There is progress on the Neighbourhood Health Service bringing together local NHS services, local authority services, VCSE partners and others which aims to provide wrap-around care for communities. There are also service transformations, partly to help deliver financial savings and because the pathways are fragmented and not the smoothest for citizens.  The ICB have agreed priorities for prevention and are committed to the Health Inequalities Fund for 25/26 delivered in line with priorities.  There are challenges around the overall NHS workforce for example staff being employed on temporary or bank arrangements rather than substantive posts, so there is some work to be done in that space.  Regarding the “Developing the ICS” section, there was a positive Integrated Care Partnership meeting in March where a light touch refresh of the Integrated Care Strategy was agreed, whilst we await the NHS Ten Year plan to be published later in the year.  **A Changing NHS Landscape**  Various parts of the health and care system are currently going through change.  NHS England and Department of Health and Social Care are to combine and reduce by 50% with NHS England being abolished by October 2025 (subject to legislation).  NHS providers are also required to reduce by 50%, the growth in their corporate costs since 2019.  Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) are to reduce their management costs by 50%. ICBs are to focus on Strategic Commissioning. Development of Neighbourhood Health remains a priority.  The Ten Year plan for Health is expected in late spring/summer 2025. Conversations about local government reform are still live.  **NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board Changes**  Within the 50% reduction ICBs are being asked to focus on Strategic Commissioning, Neighbourhood Health (informed by Ten Year Plan). A ‘Model ICB’ document has been released to ICBs. By the end of May, the ICB will need to submit their plan for how it will deliver the mandate and reduce management costs by 50%. This will involve careful thinking about what scale to deliver the functions required. Alex spoke through a diagram of the Strategic Commissioning Cycle.  The group were offered an opportunity to ask questions.  Daniel King highlighted that NAVCA the body that represents local infrastructure organisations has formed a group called Alliance 42 which is getting people connected in with VCSE alliances to share information and has a very active Whatsapp group.  A national event hosted by NHSE about the Ten Year Plan was also mentioned by Daniel King. The event looked at how the VCSE sector can play a part in the three key shifts. The tone was about accelerating what is already happening and the need to do things a little quicker.  Chris Pienaar, Autism East Midlands, asked whether discussions regarding Strategic Commissioning have touched on facilitating local organisations growth and collective working.  It was confirmed that this hasn’t happened so far, but it was agreed that it would be a beneficial approach to work with local partners more flexibly. At the moment we are at quite a high level and the hope moving forwards is that those conversation will take place.  Simon Cartwright, Transforming Notts Together, asked whether the East Midlands mayoralty will have an impact on the future of the ICP.  Alex Ball replied that the importance of the mayoral strategic authority is underscored in policy and guidance, so will be critical going forwards. The CEO’s of ICBs in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and Derby and Derbyshire met several times with Mayor Claire Ward and various ICB colleagues are meeting with EMCCA (East Midlands Combined County Authority). Joint working is starting to emerge from those partnerships. Links are being made with health and work, health and transport and spatial planning and housing delivery. Strategic Authorities have been asked to develop growth plans, the plan for EMCCA is entitled an Inclusive Growth Plan. Combined authorities will become an important part of the landscape.  Simon Cartwright shared that the church has been involved in the conversation as part of the Inclusive Growth agenda. They’re hosting a conference on 9th October with Claire Ward coming to engage and coproduce with faith communities.  Karen Whitlam, Citizens Advice North Nottinghamshire, shared the news regarding the funding withdrawal of some of the Macmillan advice services which CA have been funded for, for a number of years to provide financial support, particularly for those with a short term diagnosis. Karen questioned whether there was a need for more impact reports and future discussions on how people with cancer are supported by CA to link in with the focus on cancer within the strategic commissioning cycle. Alex noted that he has used cancer services to illustrate the commissioning cycle rather than needing improvement however confirmed that any insightful reports are helpful and can be added to the Insights Hub.  Sabrina Taylor, Healthwatch, asked about the prevention of inequalities section on the ICB priorities “at glance report “and wanted to know whether green indicated that it was completed and all issues were solved. Alex clarified that the green category indicates progress made. The ICB have agreed an investment plan for the Health Inequalities Fund for the financial year which is new compared to last year. In the NHS Joint Forward Plan focus areas have been identified. A wider plan around prevention linked to health inequalities is being developed. The ICB is making progress against its own priorities and ambitions however, work continues on prevention. |
| 4. | Knowledge and insights from members |
|  | Simon Cartwright updated on a gathering with senior ICB colleagues, Muslim, Sikh and Church of England and wider Christian leaders, . High level conversations were had about the existing work and joining the links between faith and health. The group will meet every six months. An operational sub meeting may form to meet more regularly and feedback to the higher-level group.  Darren York, Base 51, highlighted the demand the service has for counselling and therapeutic services for young people. Base 51 are open to linking in with other organisations to help meet the demand going forward. Members to contact Darren: d.york@base51.org.uk  Andria Birch, BCVS, updated that the EMCCA outline business case for the Community Development Fund was passed at the EMCCA board meeting. No news on VCSE rep to EMCCA.  The continuation of the Shared Prosperity Fund was extended for a year but looks different in different parts of the county.  Karen Whitlam shared that there is a challenge around the reform in benefits, people are increasingly concerned about how changes will affect people, further detailed here: [Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pathways-to-work-reforming-benefits-and-support-to-get-britain-working-green-paper/pathways-to-work-reforming-benefits-and-support-to-get-britain-working-green-paper)  Karen also highlighted the Move More in May campaign in Bassetlaw which has become increasingly popular year on year. Walks have been organised in local parks including the Wellbeck fun run, 10k walk on Sunday and lots of local activities. Invite to sign up here: <https://movemoreinmay.org.uk/2025-sign-up/>  Jules Sebelin, NCVS, updated that the Social Enterprise Accelerator programme has been extended through UK SPF, please signpost entrepreneurs to NCVS. Community Recovery Fund of £100,000 over two years is available for applicants wanting to hold activities around community cohesion. A further £15,00 fund will be available shortly for small projects.  Andria Birch shared that the Frailty board will be stood down and merged with the Community Transformation Board to avoid duplication. The board will be focussing on clinical priorities. There is good progress being made in relation to frailty. Links to insights on loneliness and frailty drawn from Professor Clifford Stevenson’s work will be shared when available.  Monday 2nd - Sunday 8th June is volunteers week, a lot will be happening to recognise and celebrate with volunteers so please engage with that.  Louisa Mathews, Womens Centre said that they are awaiting the government outcomes of sentencing for women. The wider determinants of health are related to the drivers of offending in women. Louisa is interested in being involved in conversations around prevention spaces and the link with health. The women’s centre was covered on Sky News: [Should some women offenders be spared jail? Female inmates reveal impact of prison | UK News | Sky News](https://news.sky.com/story/should-most-women-offenders-be-spared-jail-sky-news-talks-to-female-inmates-about-the-impact-of-prison-13361534)  Sabrina Taylor, Healthwatch, are running their first stakeholder event about the recent report on Pharmacies and Pharmacy access, please share within your network and register to attend if you wish. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-pharmacy-hot-topic-report-stakeholder-event-tickets-1323500027209?aff=oddtdtcreator>  VCSE Barometer- Focussing on wellbeing of staff and volunteers, everyone is invited to take part. <https://nbsntu.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6YDg6HCJzPSwZCe> |
| 5. | Trends and challenges for service users |
|  | Andria Birch – Seeing an increasing demand for support from members. Following the outcome of the election result, fear and anxiety from migrant and minority ethnic communities has been noted. Everyone was urged to reassure and support communities.  Chris Pienaar acknowledged the phenomenal cuts to the NHS and highlighted that there are also cuts to VCSE Sector. Organisations are relying on reserves to survive. He asked whether there is a focus lobby to look at the additional charges to the VCSE sector. It was acknowledged that there is a challenge hitting lots of organisations and relates to next agenda item.  Andria Birch responded to Chris and referenced the national campaigns, the result is being awaited on. Barometer data is useful for VCSE sector but lacked a Nottinghamshire footprint and there are concerns about the averages coming out which don’t reflect the local picture. |
| 6. | Risks to the VCSE sector |
|  | There is a risk of instability to the VCSE sector due to the potential funding cuts, national insurance contributions and minimum wage, national living wage risks. Challenges where contracts do not meet operating costs.  Andria Birch mentioned two more risks to include in the document. First risk is also a risk to primary and secondary care due to the high number of services and interventions supported by VCSE sector which are reducing and will have an impact on primary and secondary care.  Under the second risk there is a related risk where funding for additional roles reimbursement scheme, that was used for prevention work is now eligible to be used for clinical roles, thereby reducing the resource to the VCSE sector. |
| 7. | VCSE Representation at ICS Boards and Forums |
|  | To understand who is involved in boards across the ICS the group were asked to complete a sheet to capture which boards VCSE Alliance members attend, how frequently and their role. It is an active document; entries can be made following the meeting. <https://app.mural.co/t/vcsealliance9123/m/vcsealliance9123/1746009297506>  **ACTION**: Please complete all entries by 20 May. |
| 8. | VCSE Alliance/ICB Board development session |
|  | There will be a board development session on 11 June with senior executive members of ICB and partner members from local authorities, secondary care and mental health providers. This will provide a valuable chance to showcase the work of the VCSE sector highlighting opportunities and challenges.  Suggested agenda:   1. “Who we are”- overview of the sector, its components and key role in Prevention. 2. Three examples of where it is working well. 3. Three examples of where our current way of working together prevents delivery. 4. How services are commissioned could evolve to maximise opportunity.   The group were asked who could help develop the examples and who is available for the session in June.  Jules Sebelin – NCVS are taking over the Placed Based Partnership executive session in May to run focused on the progress and challenge for green social prescribing projects. This could be shared if helpful.  Andria Birch – To take back to VCSE Voices, Health Inequalities Partnership Forum and Strategic Leaders group to develop an example.  The diversity of examples is important and to also link to the three ICS principles:   * Prevention is better than cure * Equity in everything * Integration by default   Louisa Mathews asked a question about the gaps the ICB board have that would enable them to move more quickly in terms of decision making and investment. As well as providing VCSE sector examples, it was agreed to take the question to the board.  Simon Cartwright said he was happy to contribute examples around faith engagement and Nick Cutts, OPUS Music, noted that it would be good to remind the ICB that engagement in cultural activity has a massive impact upon health and wellbeing, with good examples in Nottingham/shire.  There was also a discussion around submitting hospital discharge as an example.  **ACTION: Please submit examples by the 20 May.** |
| 9. | VCSE Alliance work programme |
|  | Daniel King 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.  Any ideas members would like to put forward can be e-mailed to:  nnicb-nn.engagement@nhs.net or shared at the agenda setting meeting 2pm on 3 June. |
| 10. | AOB |
|  | Catriona Sibert, NSPCC, updated on the Children and Young Peoples Board along with Caroline Panto, Public Health Registrar at Nottinghamshire County Council. The board is new and has been working on its aims and ambitions, it’s chaired by the local authorities and is designed to take action rather than a discussion space. It also aims to provide a voice for children and young people.  The board are setting a strategy for children and young people which is being led by Caroline. NHSE have stipulated that the ICS needs to have a strategy to identify key priority areas, this is the first one for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Looked at partners to see where the ICS can improve the health and happiness of children and young people. Partner engagement has been carried out and they have looked at data indicators enabling a mapping exercise which has been completed. Creating engagement resources with youth team to reach out to young people for facilitators to roll out. The group was asked to share the engagement resources to gather feedback from children and young people.  Katie Swinburn, ICB, offered to link in around the work the ICB has carried out with Children and Young People, specifically the Shadow Orienteering event feedback.  Sabrina Taylor raised that following the Supreme Court ruling on legal definition of woman it would be pertinent for some group members and representatives to meet and discuss how we can support communities. |

Date of Agenda setting meeting: 3 June **2-2.30pm**

Date of next meeting: 1 July **2-4pm**