

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

**Minutes of the meeting**

**Attendees:**

Name	Organisation	Role
Alex Ball	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Director of Communications and Engagement
Andria Birch	Bassetlaw CVS	CEO
Asia Asghar	Nottingham Muslim Women's Network	Active Wellbeing Outreach Worker & Community Campaign Officer
Bev Weston	Disability Nottinghamshire	Partnerships and Community Development
Celina Adams	The Toy Library	Service Director
Chris Pienaar	Weconomics Release Charity	CEO
Daniel King	Nottingham Trent University	Professor of Organisation Studies at Nottingham Trent University
Jackie Insley	Sherwood and Newark Citizen Advice Bureau	Chief Officer
Joanna Cooper	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Assistant Director of Strategy
Kathleen Thomas	Alzheimer's Society	
Katie Meakes	Alzheimer's Society	Local Systems Influencer
Kate Baxter	Children's Bereavement Centre	Chief Executive
Katie Swinburn	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Engagement Manager
Kirsty Veitch-Sorsby	Tackling Loneliness Collaborative	Tackling Loneliness Collaborative Lead
Laura Armitage	Nottingham CVS	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Lorca Russell	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Engagement Officer (minute taker)
Louise Casey	Your CVS	CEO
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

Pam Rumbell	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Organisational Development Facilitator – Community Care
Rachael Rees	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Head of Primary Care Network and INT implementation
Sarah Paine	Nottingham CVS	Green Social Prescribing Programme Lead
Simon Cartwright	Transforming Notts Together	Chief Officer
Tarah Perkins	Your CVS Nottinghamshire	Development Worker
Teresa Parsons	Alzheimer's Society	Community & Volunteering Lead
Tina Bowen	Improving Lives	CEO
Una Key	Ashfield Voluntary Action	CEO

### Apologies:

Beverley Frost	Rainbow Parents Carer Forum	Chief Executive Officer
Darren York	Base51	Chief Executive Officer
Prema Nirgude	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	Head of Insights and Engagement

1.	Welcome and Introductions - Chair
	Chair of VCSE Alliance, Daniel King 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 previous meeting (Notes originally circulated 8 September 2025)
	All other actions are ongoing as per the log.  Minutes from previous meeting agreed as accurate.
3.	Knowledge and insights from members.
	<p>Kirsty Veitch-Sorsby from the Tackling Loneliness Collaborative (TLC) provided an update on the TLC which has grown to 301 members. The TLC has new links to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Loneliness and Social Connection. This will involve monthly subgroup activities and opportunities to share local insights with policymakers. Kirsty is keen to understand what is working well and what the gaps are and made the offer of highlighting areas of concern on behalf of the VCSE Alliance to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Loneliness and Social Connection.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Contact Kirsty with any questions to present for discussion at the All Party Parliamentary Group for Loneliness and Social Connection <a href="mailto:kirsty.veitch-sorsby@bcvs.org.uk">kirsty.veitch-sorsby@bcvs.org.uk</a>.</p> <p>Chris Pienaar from Wecononomics updated on the 13 Community Local Alchemy Pilot 2006, ran by East Midland Development Agency.</p>

	<p>The pilot examined at which methodologies could be introduced to improve access to economic strategy and was discussed at a previous VCSE meeting during a neighbourhood strategy conversation. Learning from the document fed into the economic strategy that was produced. Chris is available to present on the pilot. The key individuals involved in the pilot are currently being contacted for further information on the evaluation.</p>
4.	<p><b>The Future Role of the VCSE sector and Risk to the VCSE Sector</b></p> <p>Alex Ball, Director of Communications and Engagement, led on a discussion about how the future role of the VCSE sector can be shaped.</p> <p>A presentation was shared highlighting documents and announcements from NHS England and the Department for Health and Social Care from January 2025 to date. The key shifts in how NHS care will be delivered and an overview of the local clustering arrangements was also outlined.</p> <p><b>NHS National context timeline January 2025 to date</b>  January: 2025/26 Priorities and operating planning guidance  May: Model ICB Blueprint  June: NHS Oversight Framework 2025/26  July: Review of patient safety across the health and care landscape  July: “Fit for the Future” 10 year Health Plan for England  September: Model Region Blueprint</p> <p><b>Shifts in how health and care will be delivered as outlined in the NHS 10 Year Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From analogue to digital</li> <li>• From hospital to community</li> <li>• From treatment to prevention</li> </ul> <p><b>Local context clustering arrangements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All ICBs have been informed that they need to reduce their management costs by 50%. The savings will be made up of programme costs (associated with frontline care delivery) and running costs (including pay, supplies and services needed to run the ICB).</li> <li>• The cost reductions will be based on a reference cost per head of population of £19, which has been applied to all ICBs in England.</li> <li>• National colleagues have confirmed we can progress our agreed cluster of Derby and Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (DLN) ICBs.</li> <li>• The Executive Team for DLN have been appointed.</li> </ul> <p>Daniel King Chair, described ongoing discussions about ensuring VCSE sector representation within the new cluster, including potential rotational roles and the importance of maintaining local voices and</p>

trusted relationships across diverse geographies and building on strengths. The group were invited to examine the role of the VCSE in the ICB moving forwards, recognising the strengths of the VCSE sector; the strength of local connection, trusted relationships and being adaptable and responsive, adding value and doing things differently to the NHS and having a strong and professional workforce supplemented by volunteers. The aim is to collectively put forward thoughts and solutions for a good working model.

Joanna Cooper is working with colleagues across the ICB cluster. The 10 year plan signalled a different approach to strategy and operation with a longer term operational plan. Guidance is still to be received but expected to be a triangulation of intelligence gathered through networks, planning guidance and referring to the three shifts in NHS 10 year plan. Ensuring there is a long term vision that works for local communities. The aim is to build on all learning across the cluster footprint. Joanna Cooper will attend a future meeting with an update on progress.

The following questions were put forward to the group for an open discussion.

- How do we want to define the VCSE sector's role in delivering the three shifts set out in the 10 Year Health Plan?
- What is our long-term vision for the VCSE sector's contribution to population health, and how do we think this should be reflected in commissioning intentions?
- How can we embed the insights from the VCSE sector in the strategic commissioning cycle?

Sarah Paine from NCVS enquired as to whether changes would result in money flowing back into the VCSE sector and if so, as a sector how they may need to organise themselves differently to be able to respond.

Daniel King responded that moving to clusters may mean that there will be a larger footprint with a small number of people commissioning. ICBs have developed principles in how they would like to work with the VCSE sector. There is a potential to move to a larger contract and thought needs to go into how smaller organisations are protected.

Simon Cartwright Transforming Notts Together, suggested that one way to look at engaging could be at three levels, neighbourhood, place and system level with themes at the system level.

Asia Asgarth Nottingham Muslim Women's Network highlighted the importance of including the voice of individuals from diverse communities. For representatives who have the expertise and established relationships with communities to uphold and reflect the

	<p>voice of diverse communities when implementing strategies and policies.</p> <p>Chris Pienaar Wecononomics reflected on the differences and similarities in the Derby and Derbyshire and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire VCSE Alliance. Derby and Derbyshire's approach was to work through the strategy and identify where the influence of VCSE sector could be significantly uplifted to work together for change identifying where the VCSE sector could be represented including formal roles with an application process.</p> <p>Una Key Ashfield Voluntary Action raised concerns about funding issues where the ICB has ringfenced money but unable to release it yet until further guidance relating to the whole ICB organisational restructure. There are concerns that this will result in redundancies for the sector. Proposals to commission very small services were not seen as viable. There are further financial impacts where the local authority has withdrawn community funding which now sits with the Mayor. The priority areas for the ICB do not exactly align to the Mayoral boundaries. With the VCSE sector facing an uncertain future and reduced workforce an interim financial plan in place whilst the structure take place would have been beneficial. There is a concern that small organisations will diminish at a great loss to the sector.</p> <p>Lousie Casey Your CVS Nottinghamshire, echoed Una Kays views where a lot of small organisations have reported that several groups and organisations are experiencing a loss of funding and likely to fold for example Relate.</p> <p>Andria Birch Bassetlaw CVS was also in support of the above views and is involved in meetings supporting organisations with closure plans which has increased since last year.</p> <p>Asia Asghar Nottingham Muslim Women's Network reiterated the pressure of cuts and its long term impact on the voluntary sector. That its important to ensure that the voice of small organisations and communities are heard and considered now and fed through the system so that these groups are still in existence throughout the length of 10 year plan.</p>
5.	VCSE Data Metrics
	<p>Rachael Rees Head of Primary Care Networks and INT implementation and Pam Rumbell Organisational Development Facilitator shared a presentation about the work of the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and the plan to develop data metrics.</p> <p>Integrated Neighbourhood Working brings partners together in a specific community to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the co-ordination and access of services for people</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working to address the wider determinants of health and wellbeing in the area.</li> </ul> <p>It's important to know that INT's are making a difference and insights can be drawn from data related to reduction in ED admissions/bed days, LOS, GP attendances, increased EOL recording. And also, from Social Care e.g. reduce long term residential &amp; nursing home placements, emergency placements, increased 'home first' discharges, Tec enabled car.</p> <p>In addition, the INT team would value the mechanism to monitor the impact on the voluntary sector. Rachael and Pam would welcome opportunities either meet 1:1 or arrange a task and finish group to develop 1 or 2 metrics to measure the voluntary sector impact and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How we might monitor INT and VCSE involvement to support INT delivery</li> <li>What could the metrics be?</li> <li>How we collect this information?</li> </ul> <p>Asia Asghar, Katie Meakes, Neil Clurow, Louise Casey. Kathleen Thomas, Simon Cartwright and Sarah Paine expressed an interest in being involved.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Members to reach out directly to Pam Rumbell and Rachael Rees, please contact: <a href="mailto:rachaelrees@nhs.net">rachaelrees@nhs.net</a> or <a href="mailto:pamela.rumbell@nhs.net">pamela.rumbell@nhs.net</a>.</p>
6.	<p>Risks to the VCSE sector</p> <p>Views shared in item 4 will be reflected in the ICB risk register. Alex Ball will make sure that the risk will continue to be clearly visible within the ICB.</p> <p>Una Key suggested that to mitigate the risk, a transitional fund would be welcomed by the VCSE sector to cover the period where 2025/26 funding contracts end and guidance and direction to the ICB is yet to be available.</p> <p>Sarah Paine NCVS offered to share the model used in Bristol where they are commissioning differently and able to release funds more efficiently. <a href="#">Brokerage Framework - BNSSG Healthier Together</a></p> <p>Chris Pienaar Wecononomics, underlined that this is an unprecedented situation where services are being cut. A plan to meet with decision makers to discuss and define what is possible and work from a strengths based perspective to put forward proposals, was suggested.</p> <p>Celina Adams from the Toy Library, stated that the strength of the VCSE Alliance is to demonstrate how the VCSE can contribute to</p>

the 10 Year plan and recognised what it can deliver as part of early intervention.

Sarah Paine mentioned reframing the culture of the VCSE sector and expectations that it is free and to look at a resource review balance. To encourage ongoing investment, how to charge for services yet maintain affordability to ensure it is sustainable.

Simon Cartwright Transforming Notts Together, echoed that the Faith sectors is also expected to be delivered free. Suggested to think about how to collaborate, what a central hub may look like and how micro organisations can be part of it.

Andria Birch Bassetlaw CVS, suggested to look at successful models across the region and share good practice and learning to in turn support micro organisations to thrive.

Una Key pointed out that the geographical footprint may have similarities however, access to transport and local services will be very different across the patch. Models need to fit the local area it aims to serve and to that point it may be counterproductive to all come together as representatives of very different communities and geographical areas.

Naomi Robinson Senior Joint Commissioning Manager suggested mapping approaches across the cluster recognising that it's not joined up with local authorities and further work is needed alongside the council where VCSE commissioning aims and outcomes are overlapping. To also articulate a vision of what could be done differently whilst at the same time raising the risk of imminent sustainability.

Following the concerns raised at the meeting for the future of the VCSE sector. Alex Ball is keen for a practical set of suggestions for the sector to be developed either jointly or by VCSE representatives. Provide clear details about which contract is ending or services experiencing changes to demonstrate a clear picture so the ICB can understand what it is accountable for and have an awareness if it lies with a partner organisation.

Celina Adams suggested that CVS organisations lead on a meeting to discuss how the VCSE sector can best interact within this group.

**Action:** Develop a practical set of suggestions with concrete examples for the sector, to be developed either jointly or by VCSE representatives.

**Action:** Naomi Robinson to map approaches across Derby & Derbyshire, Lincolnshire & Nottingham & Nottinghamshire (DLN) ICB Cluster and Local Authority equivalents to the good commissioning guide.



7.	Work programme
	There are no new items in the work programme to be raised.
8	Any Other Business
	<p>Sarah Paine NCVS, offered to present and share findings on the learning around green space, data flow and value for money.  <a href="mailto:sarahp@nottinghamcvcs.org.uk">sarahp@nottinghamcvcs.org.uk</a>.</p> <p><b>Research Engagement Network (REN) grant funding available for VCSE organisations. Deadline for applications: Midday Monday 15 December 2026.</b></p> <p>The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire REN is part of a national programme designed to strengthen connections between local communities, researchers and health and care partners so all communities have the choice to have a say and take part in health and care research so everyone can benefit.</p> <p>The REN is seeking expressions of interest to deliver targeted health and wellbeing engagement activities with local communities across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire which additionally raise awareness of health and care research. Grants of up to £2,500 per organisation are available.</p> <p>The grants are to fund activities that not only provide immediate engagement opportunities but will also have a lasting impact — whether that's stronger relationships between local communities and researchers, increased community understanding and confidence in relation to research, or a simple resource that researchers and communities can continue to use in the future.</p> <p>Activities do not need to be large or complicated — the emphasis is on building trust and creating ongoing understanding between communities and researchers.</p> <p>To be considered, VCSE organisations need to be working with communities based in Nottingham and/or Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>Please visit <a href="#">Community Grants Expression of Interest</a> for further details and the link to the application form. In case of any queries, please email <a href="mailto:ncvs@nottinghamcvcs.co.uk">ncvs@nottinghamcvcs.co.uk</a></p>

Date of Agenda setting meeting: **2 December 2:30-3:30**

Date of next meeting: **2-4pm Tuesday 6 January 2026**