DVA Forum

July 2023

The Derbyshire VCSE sector Alliance

Content

The Derbyshire VCSE sector Alliance

- The Moving Forward Together event
- The VCSE Memorandum of Understanding
- The VCSE Alliance
- Summarise enablers and areas of work
- Commissioning and Procurement
- Some opportunities to be involved

Moving Forward Together Event 26th June

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- 220 participants from all sectors
- Key decision makers and commissioners from statutory partners
- Launched the Memorandum of Understanding
- Explored key challenges/support areas for the VCSE sector
- Explored the key “Start Well, Stay Well, Age Well/Die Well” themes of the Integrated Care Strategy
- Generated thoughts, ideas and interest in engagement
- Currently being written up in Conference Report

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Memorandum of Understanding

- Integrated Care system says VCSE sector key partner, (health inequalities, prevention, underpinning, new approaches, flexibility, engages communities etc)
- Challenges in building this relationship; culture, sector diversity, understanding, commissioning, data sharing
- National Guidance and NHSE expectation that MoUs developed in each system
- MoU should set out how the VCSE is embedded in the ICS as a partner
- Each system MoU looks different
- VCSE Alliance; short, sharp, measurable and practical

Process

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- Shared through VCSE networks, forums and infrastructure
- Shared with LPAs, City/County Place, IPE, MH/ND/LD Delivery Board
- Discussed with and approved by VCSE Alliance
- ICB Approval 15th June
- Launch at VCSE/System Event 26th June
- ICP Approval 17th July

Now adopted and should apply in any ICS partnership activity

Feedback Examples

- Breadth of sector at outset in all planning cycle stages
- “We” statements, collective responsibility to make it work
- Language
- Lived and expert experience
- Power dynamics
- Co-production
- Sustainable relationships
- Impact on system work

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Principles, Culture and Behaviours (1)

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Working together

- We will value everyone's experience and expertise equally,
- We will acknowledge and work to our respective strengths,
- We recognise the power dynamics that sometimes exist between partners and recognise that It is ok as partners to constructively challenge and disagree,
- We commit to collaborative working as equals, will follow commitments through and walk the talk,
- We will work to the values of co-production including co-design and co-learning,
- We will learn from each other, from what we do and from what happens elsewhere,
- We will work together to build sustainable VCSE sector services and organisations,
- We will be outcome focussed and willing to cede leadership to where it works best,
- We will take time to understand and take account of the ways different organisations and sectors work,
- We will work together to identify and remove barriers to joint working.

Principles, Culture and Behaviours (2)

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- <u>Working within the system</u>
  - We will be creative and work differently to best engage VCSE organisations of all sizes, being careful not to undermine diversity through structure.
  - We will promote more integrated and joined up ways of working,
  - We will ensure that the breadth of the VCSE sector has the opportunity to be involved in all stages of the planning cycle at the earliest point. We recognise that VCSE organisations don't always fit neatly into structures and systems!
  - We will take a strengths-based approach building on existing assets
  - We will seek to put communities of place, shared interest and condition at the centre of our work.
  - We recognise the independence of VCSE organisations including the right to campaign,
  - We will commit the time and resources that are necessary to develop effective relationships,
  - We will look to build sustainable relationships with approaches that are proportionate to the sizes of organisation involved,
  - We will take the risks necessary to innovate and do things differently,
  - We will recognise and work with VCSE Alliance and infrastructure systems, processes and structures, recognising that there are many different perspectives.
  - Collaborative working should generate more accessible and effective services for those who use them. Evaluation should show whether this is happening.

Outcomes

Strategies, plans and initiatives provide the opportunity for wide VCSE sector involvement at the earliest opportunity at all stages. This is demonstrated in initiatives such as Team Up, Social prescribing, Living Well and the roll out of Start Well, Stay Well, Age Well/Die Well activity.
Strategies, plans and initiatives reflect this involvement through new approaches and increased VCSE activity and engagement.
Qualitative intelligence from community engagement is shaping priority setting and design with the VCSE sector at the heart of the Insight approach.
VCSE representation on key existing and emerging system structures
Local VCSE infrastructure is embedded as a core partner within Local Place Alliances
Evidence of changes to procurement and commissioning that promote more collaborative approaches, build on existing assets and generate sustainable relationships.
Evidence of co-production approaches
Continued development of the VCSE Alliance and its relationship with other infrastructure
Clarity around how VCSE infrastructure functions can be focussed and delivered for the benefit of the Integrated Care System using existing investment.
Understanding of the nature of the VCSE workforce, the challenges it faces and a cross sector system plan of action to address these.
Cross sector data sharing protocol in place
Small grants available at Local Place Alliance level to support small community-based groups that contribute to initiatives such as social prescribing, hospital discharge and TeamUp

Going Forward

- Cross Sector Annual Review
- Fed in to Integrated Place Executive and Integrated Care Partnership
- Should be intrinsic to the work and behaviours of all partners

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The VCSE Alliance

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Established in December 2021, required in ICS guidance	Open to VCSE infrastructure, networks and any individual VCSE organisation, (120 members)	Provides access point at system level	Provides forum for discussion, collaboration (topic focused)
Promotes, raises awareness of VCSE sector	Facilitates connections	Nominates and supports VCSE delegates in the ICS structures (19 people filling 24 spaces on 14 formal structures)	Cascades information; virtual platform, use of infrastructure, networks etc

Enablers

Culture	Workforce	Commissioning	Engagement	Infrastructure	Data/Insight
Challenges Understanding Power Relationships Risk	Recruitment Volunteering Development Funding Stability Succession Well-being Progression		System structures Co production Full cycle engagement Person centered Place and Interest	Collaboration Tendering Infrastructure focus	Shared data Soft intelligence Build on success
Actions	Workforce Strategy Group Recruitment Talent Management Mary Seacole NHS + Trustees NHS Elect		Social media Insight Tool development Patient Participation Local Place Alliance Pathway involvement Mental Health Alliance	Infrastructure review Tendering Collaboration	Data protocol Share data to VCSE Link to Population Health Management

Procurement and Commissioning

- **Increased Insight & Understanding of VCSE sector**
- **Accessibility:** Ensuring all opportunities are accessible to VCSE sector providers including considering the use of small grants, EOIs etc.
- **Timescales:** Providing as much time as possible for VCSE sector providers to apply including sufficient time to explore collaborations and partnerships etc
- **Cyber Essentials:** An understanding that Cyber Essentials can make contracts unviable for many VCSE sector providers because of the high costs / IT expertise.
- **VCSE Leadership Costs:** An appreciation that VCSE sector leaders are often approached by different parts of the system to participate in meetings with no recognition that there is a financial/capacity implication.
- **Co-production:** Embedding and providing standard resources / training etc. to facilitate best practice in co-production / co-design in the commissioning cycle.
- **Achieving a 'Joined Up' Care Derbyshire:** There should be collective thinking planning and communication between JUCD Commissioning Teams.

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- **Contract Lengths & Full Cost Recovery:** Longer contract periods would be helpful in recruiting and retaining staff and providing sustainability. A full cost recovery model that ensures VCSE organisations can provide adequate resources to support delivery is required.
- **Cultural Change**: The power dynamic between VCSE and statutory sector is still sometimes unhelpful.
- **Support & Training for VCSE Sector Readiness:** Having support in place with the formation of collaboratives, partnerships etc. is viewed as being helpful to supporting the engagement of VCSE sector. Training and support with funding bids / contracts as well as other key activities e.g. connecting with other VCSE providers, governance, evaluation and horizon scanning would also be beneficial.
- **Place Based Commissioning Decisions**
- **Data Sharing: Shared access to JUCD databases**
- **Transparency & Trust**

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Commissioning Next Steps

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- Cross System Meeting with NHS, Adult H&SC, Public Health Senior Leaders, Commissioners & VCSE Reps to explore solutions to the issues raised.
- MH, ND & LD Alliance Meeting

Some areas to get involved!

- Start Well
- Stay Well
- Age Well/Die Well (TeamUp, End of Life Care Board)
- Local Place Alliances
- Support Needs
- Mental Health Alliance
- Low Level Support Services
- Commissioning
- Insight Tool development
- VCSE Alliance
- Mary Seacole/NHS Elect
- Pathway development
- Virtual Platform
- Use your VCSE delegates

The Derbyshire VCSE sector **Alliance**

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