

Health & Social Care Voluntary Sector Forum

Wednesday 22nd May 2024
9.30pm – 12.45pm

The Post Mill Centre, South Normanton, Alfreton DE55 2EJ



1. Derbyshire Voluntary Action Business

a. Minutes of the last Health & Social Care Voluntary Sector Forum held on 14 Feb 2024

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

b. Matters Arising

There were not any matters arising.

2. Looking After Yourself

Dr Melanie Hani, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Practitioner for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector, Derbyshire County Council

Dr Melanie Hani explained that boundaries are limits people set in order to create a healthy environment, and without boundaries emotional and physical chaos can occur. Within the voluntary sector boundaries are constantly moving e.g. building closures, funding cuts, suicidal clients etc. Boundaries are important for health and wellbeing and help us protect our energy and prioritize our time & wellness.

There were group discussions about 'What boundaries are and why they are important', and 'Ways to keep boundaries in the workplace'.

PRESENTATION - [Looking After Yourself - Boundaries](#)

3. Trauma Informed Derbyshire

Lizzie Watt, Public Health Lead, Derbyshire County Council

Derbyshire County Council Public Health are collaborating across the system with education, health and care providers to work towards a trauma informed county.

Lizzie explained the definition of trauma - trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as harmful or life threatening. While unique to the individual, generally the experience of trauma can cause lasting adverse effects, limiting the ability to function and achieve mental, physical, social, emotional or spiritual well-being.

Trauma-informed practice aims to increase practitioners' awareness of how trauma can negatively impact on individuals and communities, and their ability to feel safe or develop trusting relationships with health and care services and their staff.

Derbyshire County Council Public Health are supporting the development of a better understanding of the impacts of trauma across the life course and how being trauma informed can help us all to promote recovery, reduce inequalities and improve the life chances of all who live and work in Derbyshire.

PRESENTATION – [Trauma Informed Derbyshire](#)

[Opening Doors: Trauma Informed Practice for the Workforce video](#)

4. Think Fest! 2024 – Songs that saved our lives

Ellie Marie Scott, The Georgia Bird Foundation

ThinkFest! is Derbyshire's first mental health style festival that opens up conversations and awareness around mental health, suicide and wellbeing in Chesterfield town centre. This year, it will be back at Vicar Lane on Saturday 25th May from 10am-3pm with an exciting line up of entertainers, workshops and panels. Ellie shared with the Forum the running order for the day and invited everyone to come along.

5. Derbyshire County Council Consultation on Discretionary Funding

Jacqui Willis, Chief Executive, Derbyshire Voluntary Action

Jacqui explained that a proposal to consult on future sustainability of Adult Social Care Discretionary Grants had been passed. As had the proposal to consult on the cessation of Strategy and Policy discretionary grant funding (20 VCSE grants).

Derbyshire County Council state that their in house services (Home from Hospital, Live Life Better etc.) will mitigate these proposed cuts.

Consultation open from 12 weeks from 28th May to 20th August. Report to Cabinet sharing the findings of the consultation in January – March 2025.

Jacqui will be challenging the Compact agreement which is supposed to give the VCSE 6 months' notice of changes or ending of contracts, but the timeline set out only allows for 3 months.

Jacqui outlined the work that Derbyshire Voluntary Action will be doing, beginning with an assessment of members affected and then the wider voluntary sector, then collecting impact information e.g. case studies and identifying support.

A VCSE alliance survey for groups facing funding cuts has been put together by Wynne Garnett, Programme Lead, VCSE Alliance - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/5R0CKM/>

There were group discussions around the following questions:

- a. Consequences and wider implications to the VCSE of loss of discretionary funding; that is funding which is not a statutory responsibility of Derbyshire County Council.
- b. As statutory services pressures increase, what implications does this bring to a voluntary sector at stretched capacity?

6. Evaluating the VCSE Memorandum of Understanding in Derby/Derbyshire

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was launched in June 2023 and set out cultures, behaviours, aspirations and actions necessary for the Integrated Care System, the Integrated Care Board and the VCSE sector to work effectively together as partners. It was recognised that for the MoU to be effective, it would need to be evaluated annually. We will be creating a space to facilitate conversations on the seven key questions relating to VCSE engagement priorities outlined in the MoU

The evaluation tool will be shared to allow the opportunity to provide feedback.

7. Date of next Forum: 17th July 2024

A list of attendees can be provided on request.