



Bassetlaw Voices Notes

Monday 24th February 2025

Attendees

Lee Eddell	LE	Deputy Director, Bassetlaw Place
Andria Birch	AB	CEO, BCVS
Helen Azar	HA	Senior transformation manager, head of health inequalities, Bassetlaw Place
Becky Law	BL	BCVS
Steve Williams	SW	Oasis
Jo Humphries	JH	Nottinghamshire Women's Aid
Eunice Karikari	EK	Nottingham Energy Partnership
Kate Baxter	KB	Children's Bereavement Centre
Darren Huart	DH	BCVS
Daniel Ashford	DA	Notts Talking Therapies
Madeleine Ault	MA	Retford MS Group
Angela Dainty	AD	BPL
Karen Whitlam	KW	Citizens Advice North Notts
Sarah Bray	SB	RVS
Jayne Bullock	JB	BAC
Georgia Crossland	GC	Centreplace
Kawthar Namakula	KN	Nottingham Energy Partnership

General news and updates

AB flagged that there had been some news shared by MP Jo White in the Bassetlaw Place and Health Inequalities Partnership Forum on 12th February.

Following information that Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB (NNICB) is currently considering whether to disinvest from the VCSE sector in Bassetlaw (remove all funding) for 25/26, BCVS published a Statement on Risks to Bassetlaw Communities in January 2025.

<https://www.bcvs.org.uk/bcvs-statement-risks-bassetlaw-communities-january-2025>

This was brought to the attention of Jo White, who raised it with N&N ICB and a 6-month extension to existing Place Grant funding was recommended.

LE confirmed that papers recommending this 6-month extension had gone to the Commissioning Review Group who met today (24th Feb) and recommended the papers go forwards to the Executive Board who will make the final decision. No timeline available.

No other news around any VCSE funding decision is currently available.

ICB will review how they invest in VCSE across the whole of System – review takes place between now and October.

SB RVS have already started their staff redundancy process, incoming referrals likely to have to stop by Friday 28th Feb.

SW commented that as Oasis aren't currently funded through Place grants, any extension would not support his organisation as there is no opportunity for new applications. Asked to be kept in mind for any other funding pots as demand is likely to rise if other services such as RVS are making redundancies.



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LE: Cancer workshop coming up to be hosted at Aurora – 18th March.

Soon starting to relook at next years Place Plan – will be aligned to ICB priorities (frailty and long-term conditions) & will build in wider economic and social factors based around the creation of integrated neighbourhood working.

AD: All BPL sites are now covered with a level 4 cancer pre and rehab specialists.

HA: Ask to add HIFF notes to these notes to save verbal duplication.

JB: BAC have been successful with 3 years of Motability funding for a new minibus which will be received in April 2025. Funding also enabled a new coordinator and administrator.

Also spoke about recent challenges with recruitment, though these gaps are now filled. Volunteer recruitment remains a challenge.

SW: Seeing more homeless people at Oasis than ever before – may be a result of recent cost of living challenges. Rise in need for all support services – double for food boxes, befriending service is at capacity.

Oasis are currently trying to purchase the land the Edge sits on and safeguard it for the community in the long term.

KB: Good news that the Childrens Bereavement Service have been successful with 3 years of lottery funding to develop the group work. Also HAF funding for summer residential camp.

Challenges for them are around recruitment of staff and volunteers. Seeing more complex cases with greater need for higher level counselling support.

Challenge in Bassetlaw in part because counselling volunteers are likely to be in their counsellor training – links to Nottm Universities which are situated in the South of the county.

Had to pause work to promote the organisation in a bid to bring in more volunteers due to the uncertainty over funding.

JH: Changed the way people access the service – now run drop ins at Farr Centre in Worksop Weds pm and Fri am.

Employed Crisis and intervention workers – can refer in to other services – support much quicker.

NCC funding around co-production and survivors voice work across Notts – includes male / female / children / young people survivors – experience and journey – what needs to change. Health / safe accommodation / family impact. Looking for people who are not in crisis now and able to talk about the journey they have been on.

DA: Ongoing challenge – to coordinate work to produce largest reach. Working with police, DWP, Oasis. Combined mens campaign with employers campaign offering support for their staff in workshops and information sharing.

Making case study videos and looking to develop different types of webinars to further promote services and encourage engagement.

KW: Following recent increase in calls and referrals – staff worked extra and now back to 2-day turnaround to respond to people.



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Ongoing increase from refugees and asylum seekers – connecting across statutory and VCSE to explore resources and support available. Staff training to understand differences in benefits processes for this group.

Citizens panel focusing work around council tax reduction as well as digital & rural exclusion. Will share out some surveys – please do complete.

Good volunteer recruitment – just recruited 10 new volunteers in Bassetlaw. More challenging to get volunteers in Mansfield.

EK: Warm homes local grants coming out soon – low carbon heating upgrades. Continue boiler replacements, priority services registration, food vouchers, fuel vouchers, water bill discounts.

Provide workshops into groups to inform and support with services access.

AB: EMCCA – waiting to hear about the results of the work around inclusive growth. Proposed community development fund that will target several specific areas across the region. BCVS lobbying hard for Bassetlaw to be included in those areas.

Impact measurement – Plinth – much work being done behind the scenes. 30 organisations have been piloting use through the community grants monitoring.

Launched EMVA to help Bassetlaw and wider VCSE to access national funding within the EMCCA footprint

BCVS 5-year strategy in development – important that we prioritise how best to serve and support our VCSE members in this strategy

Sit on the frailty board who are meeting this week. Board is led by Victoria McGregor Riley. Aims to work together across system to prevent and reduce the impact of frailty and the cost of frailty.

VCSE alliance due to meet next week (official interface between ICS and our sector) group should be involved in what's coming next in relation the framework for future ICB VCSE funding. Worth noting that I sat in a working group of the VCSE alliance that developed a commissioning framework for investment in the VCSE with Notts Healthcare Foundation Trust. This was presented last November to the VCSE alliance following 12 months of sector codesign. Hopefully the ICB will build on this rather than start again.

DH shared slides taken from EMVA video which can be found [HERE](#) Around 60 organisations have joined so far. Next step will be to go through a due diligence process using Plinth. Then we will be able to develop collaborative geographic or thematic bids into EMCCA and national funding opportunities through horizon scanning and Grant finder.

AB: For last 2 years, Bassetlaw has benefitted from community grants through the Shared Prosperity Fund. EMCCA due to take over that fund and likely to devolve that down to BDC level. Meeting in the next few days to understand what's happening with that fund next and will update once we know more.

Towns fund money (previously called levelling up) prospectus due to be published soon. Main expenditure now pushed back to 2026 and BCVS will continue to advocate for funding to come into the VCSE sector.