

Norfolk and Waveney VCSE Assembly

CHAIRS UPDATE DECEMBER 2025

Hi all,

As promised I wanted to make sure you get updates on my work over the past month:

January 2026 has been a productive month focused on strengthening the VCSE sector's influence within the Integrated Care System:

Strategic Engagement & Leadership

- **Acute Hospitals Collaboration:** Met with Lesley Dwyer and David Roberts to discuss how the new acute hospitals group can partner with the VCSE sector. This initial conversation was positive, with a shared goal of bringing a stronger VCSE voice into strategic planning.
- **Finance & Contracts:** Held an introductory meeting with Howard Martin, the new Director of Finance and Contracts. We outlined the Assembly's work and discussed how our diverse sector can help the ICB deliver high-quality health and social care outcomes.

Governance & Policy Development

- **Assembly Structure:** The VCSE Assembly Board agreed to submit a paper to the committee detailing the Assembly's structure and core aims.
- **Place-Based Integration:** A draft paper regarding Place-based working and VCSE integration across the Integrated Care System (ICS) is being prepared for the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). This will be co-produced alongside Assembly members and ICS colleagues.
- **National Advocacy:** Attended the Alliance 42 meeting to discuss the national policy standpoint on ICB integration. We challenged current NHS England structures, highlighting the need to involve local organisations rather than relying solely on large national charities.

Local Impact & Health Inequalities

- **TB Workshop (Lowestoft):** Helped to facilitate a second session that significantly increased involvement from VCSE colleagues. This has led to the creation of working groups to co-produce solutions for the system. Statutory colleagues also gained valuable insights into Waveney's VCSE forums and organisations.
- **Health Inequalities Working Group:** Following a session with workstream leaders, it is clear there is more to do. We are advocating for the VCSE Assembly to take a lead role. A paper with recommendations to include more VCSE voices in working groups will be presented to the Health Inequalities Leadership Group in early February.

As always, I am always happy to speak to colleagues from across our sector, about the VCSE Assembly and its work, please feel free to email me.

Best Wishes

Tim

Chair, VCSE Assembly