

# 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:

- We had a VCSE Assembly Strategy Group meeting in November, with a focus on Place Based working and the Health Inequalities work stream. The meeting notes can be found on the VCSE Assembly web page with the updates and newsletter.
- I had the pleasure of attending the launch for the East Suffolk Marmot Place. It was great to meet some VCSE sector leaders in the room. There is an advisory group and steering group which includes VCSE sector organisations, which is great to see and next steps and engagement is to be launched shortly. I will share any relevant information when I receive it.
- I attended the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Partnership meeting and Health and Wellbeing Board.
- On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, I was invited to join a roundtable discussion with Prof Sir Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer, to talk about the state of health and wellbeing in rural towns and villages. It was a chance to advocate for the VCSE sector, especially smaller, grassroots organisations who deliver such important frontline work in rural communities. I was able to highlight to Chris many issues including funding, lack of infrastructure, transport and lack of access to services amongst other things. This was followed up with an email to Chris, along with an offer in 2026 to facilitate a return to Norfolk and Waveney, with a VCSE led agenda. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Lucy from Harleston Information Centre, Lucy Hogg at Voluntary Norfolk, Ben at Equal Lives, Ruth at NCAN and Clare at Community Action Norfolk for all the insight and support at such short notice.
- I have done a host of meetings with sector colleagues, including Ruth at NCAN regarding the work of the Anti Poverty Alliance.
- I also attended a Homes for Cathy event, hosted by Broadland Housing Association, which brought system partners together tackling homelessness and it was lovely to see a host of VCSE colleagues there.
- I was invited along to a workshop regarding the Acute Hospitals Group, which was very insightful and highlighted via data, the need for better integration with community services, including the VCSE sector. I spoke with Lesley Dwyer, who is the CEO of the Norfolk Acute Hospital Group and am looking to help facilitate some sessions with VCSE partners, to see how we can help support this work moving forward.
- We held our second VCSE Assemble webinar, and great to hear from Norfolk Adult Social Care about new ways of working and also the ICB on Community Engagement. The video is on the VCSE Assembly webpage with relevant updates.

Another busy month, but hope this gives a snapshot into my work. 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.

Finally, wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best Wishes

Tim

Chair, VCSE Assembly