



Norfolk and Waveney VCSE Assembly

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025

To receive these updates each month, please email: nwicb.vcseassembly@nhs.net

VCSE Assembly Webinar Event

The VCSE Assembly is launching its first sector wide event on **Wednesday 15th October, 10am-12pm**. This event will take place online, which should allow all organisations from across the region to engage easily.

The agenda is to be confirmed, but I will provide confirmation in September's newsletter.

Click the link to sign up: [VCSE Assembly Event October 2025](#)

Suffolk Local Government Reorganisation session

Suffolk County Council's Chief Executive Nicola Beach will be hosting a session on 22 August 2025, 1:30pm – 3:00pm at The Olive Centre (18 Clapham Rd South, Lowestoft NR32 1QS), to discuss the council's response to the Government's drive for local government reorganisation in Suffolk. She will outline why the council believes replacing all of Suffolk's six councils with one new unitary authority delivering all local and county wide services is the best option for our county and our sector.

We know that the VCSE sector, particularly those working in care and support, plays a crucial and highly valued role in supporting people across Suffolk. Your insights and experience are essential in helping the county council to shape its proposal for the future. We want to make sure your views help shape the direction of this important proposal.

If you have any questions ahead of the session or want to sign up for future updates, please email: communications.team@suffolk.gov.uk

New Date for Get Norfolk Working Event

On 11 June, we hosted a 'Get Norfolk Working' event with the local VCSE sector, which was attended by a broad range of organisations. The event generated a lot of energy and ideas, which we would now like to build on by inviting you to a follow-up event, scheduled for Thursday, 18 September. This replaces the previously advertised event in August.

Early registration for this event is recommended. For more details about the event and venue, please email: Adultskills@norfolk.gov.uk

"Housing for the Armed Forces Community" 23 September 2-3.30pm

This webinar is for professionals, volunteers and advisors who work for charities and organisations in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Norfolk who are interested to learn more about housing for the armed forces community in Norfolk. It will explain how those serving in the military and their families are housed and what happens when they leave the armed forces. It will cover how local housing authorities allocate social housing, are required to respond to homelessness and rough sleeping, and how they provide housing advice for members of the armed forces community.

To register to attend this event, please follow this link

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/47a7f377-e7d6-4abb-bab2-3901a7eb7405@1419177e-57e0-4f0f-aff0-fd61b549d10e>

West Norfolk Marmot Place – VCSE Rep wanted!

Currently, there is no formal engagement of the VCFSE sector in the Marmot work. This is recognised as a gap by the Marmot programme leads and has been noted in wider discussions (for example, at the Marmot launch).

The steering group have agreed to move forward in commissioning of a representative/s from the local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector to contribute to the development of the 'Marmot Place' programme and shape a plan for ongoing engagement with the wider sector.

This role The time commitment is 0.5-1 day per week (to be agreed), from 1st September 2025 to 31st March 2026 (with the potential to extend for a further six months). Remuneration to be agreed but it is expected to be in the region of £400 per day, plus travel expenses.

For more information, please see the role description ([click here](#)). Expressions of interest should be sent to kelly.redston@west-norfolk.gov.uk and be received no later than midday on Monday 1st September.

West Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Partnership Grants 2025–26

We are pleased to open the grants process for this year's health and wellbeing partnership projects. Applications this year should align with the health inequalities toolkit actions and where possible relate to the eight Marmot principles. Attached is the application guidance document, applications for the first round should be received by 5th September. If there is still budget available after the applications are evaluated, a further round of applications will open.

The guidance and further information can be found here - [West Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Partnership Grants 2025-26](#)

NHS Social Value Playbook

The NHS Social Value Playbook is a practical guide to help NHS buyers and commissioners embed social, environmental, and economic value into their procurement processes. The Playbook responds to calls for clearer guidance on evaluation, KPIs, and supplier expectations.

This will be a useful tool for organisations who currently deliver or have an ambition to deliver commissioned services. The full guidance can be found here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/nhs-social-value-playbook/>

There is a simple guide here, that breaks down why this is important and what it means for organisations within the VCSE sector: <https://www.tussell.com/gov/blog/what-is-the-nhs-social-value-playbook#what-is-the-nhs-social-value-playbook>

Vaccine Programme

It is widely known that the VCSE sector has a unique and trusted relationship with communities and often supports and advocates for people to access to health and social care services.

Vaccines can be a key prevention mechanism to help avoid illness and the ICB is looking to roll out a programme of vaccines, trying to reach communities across our region.

They are looking for VCSE colleagues to help support their work, and keen to hear from colleagues who would be interested in supporting the Vaccine Programme Board to help support the approach to the roll out of Winter Vaccine programme. If interested in joining the Programme Board, please email: nwicb.vcseassembly@nhs.net

Information on current vaccine programmes, including Seasonal campaigns, HPV and Children's Immunisations can be found here: [Vaccinations - Norfolk and Waveney ICS](#)

NHS Health Checks – REED Wellbeing

In Norfolk, cardiovascular disease is the second leading cause of premature deaths. These diseases can have devastating effects on quality of life and have the greatest impact on the most deprived communities. The NHS Health Check programme provides an opportunity to address entrenched health inequalities in Norfolk.

REED Wellbeing are keen to build relationships with local VCSE organisations to help deliver health checks for our communities are keen to hear from those who wish to support this work.

Further information and how to contact them, [click here!](#)

Social Impact Framework

In the last newsletter, I highlighted the new East of England Procurement Framework webinar. I know that there have been lots of questions asked about this and the ICB have provided an update below. Further details on the framework, [click here](#).

We will continue to work with the ICB to understand intentions on using the framework and what this means for VCSE colleagues across the region. Please feel free to provide any feedback on the social impact framework via email: nwicb.vcseassembly@nhs.net

Please find the update below:

Dear VCSE provider colleagues,

You may be aware that the East of England Collaborative Procurement Hub have launched a Social Impact Framework. These procurement Hubs develop provider frameworks and are available, on request, to support ICBs with procurements.

Independently to the ICBs they have been working with VCSE organisations to codesign a Framework that may allow for more streamlined procurement processes for services that are, predominantly, offered by the VCSE sector. In Norfolk and Waveney we have been learning about this Framework and its potential use here at a local level, and I know some of you are already looking at bidding to be part of it.

To be clear, the Framework is being established as a list of pre-vetted providers that can offer a range of services, but the ICB is not currently using this Framework to procure – there is no funding attached to it at this time. We would be keen to develop it with our VCSE partners over time as it could support commissioner understanding of potential locally providers, as well ease the process in the long term and mean we can respond more dynamically to opportunities with our VCSE partners. We will always have a local choice as to whether we use it – but we feel it could be beneficial in the long term.

We would very much welcome your application to be on the framework to support future procurement/commissioning arrangements. Once the applications have been evaluated, we will make a local assessment, with VCSE partners and our VCSE Assembly, as to how fit for purpose it is locally – we are not obliged to use it at any time, but it could be a useful tool for all of us.

We are particularly keen to use the Framework to support our Community Voices related activity in the short term (theme 1) but there may be further opportunities for the other themes and lots in the future.

As we understand it, it is an open framework, and application windows will open periodically over time. So this will not be the only opportunity. We recognise that the timescales are tight and that the process is happening through the holidays.

There is a portal through which you can apply and we would recommend that you use this to raise any questions in the first instance. We would be interested in hearing your feedback about the process so that we can reflect on this with the Procurement Hub.
