



Norfolk and Waveney VCSE Assembly

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

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

VCSE Assembly Chairs Updates

Please find this month's here: <https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk/updates/>

VCSE Assembly Strategy Group Meeting

The VCSE Assembly Strategy Group meets regularly to help shape the work of the VCSE Assembly. The strategy group is made up of VCSE leaders, which includes chairs of forums and networks linked to the ICB joint forward plan. You can find more details, including membership and linked forums on the VCSE Assembly Webpage.

We want to increase the transparency of the VCSE Assembly, so as part of this, will share relevant notes on the webpage after each meeting.

You can find this month's highlights here: <https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk/updates/>

West Norfolk Marmot Place Report

In 2024, West Norfolk became the latest Marmot Place, aimed at tackling health inequalities across the region. The Institute of Health Equity has published Starting Well: King's Lynn and West Norfolk, the Year One report for our Marmot programme. This publication is the result of a substantial amount of work and reflects the important contributions made by system partners across the region. You can read the full report here:

<https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/kings-lynn-and-west-norfolk>

Apollo - Funded Training Courses

The Apollo project and East Coast College thrilled to announce a fantastic lineup of new courses, designed to upskill the workforce and enhance care standards.

These courses are available to VCSE organisations. Courses include Introduction to Autism, Cancer Care, Dementia Care, Falls Prevention, Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Stroke Awareness, Diabetes Awareness and in Behaviours that Challenge.

For more information, you can find full details and contact information here: [APOLLO COURSES](#)

Help spread the word: Survey on NHS Health Checks in Norfolk

Norfolk County Council Public Health, in partnership with Healthwatch, is inviting people to share their views on NHS Health Checks.

NHS Health Checks, for those aged 40-74, can help determine if a person is at higher risk of developing certain health conditions, such as diabetes or heart disease.

We have launched a short survey on the Healthwatch Norfolk website that takes around 10 minutes to complete: <https://healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk/get-involved/share-your-experiences-of-nhs-health-checks/>.

This is an anonymous survey, and responses will be shared with Norfolk County Council Public Health to inform improvements to the service. The survey closes on Saturday 28 February 2026.

Collaborate to Support Norfolk's Armed Forces Community - March 2026

Tuesday, 3 March 2026 | 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM | The Nest, Holt Road, Horsford, Norwich, NR10 3AQ

An event for Operational managers, caseworkers, and frontline staff from voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations, charities, local authorities, NHS, DWP, other public sector bodies, and military welfare teams.

The aim of the event is to connect those best placed to support Norfolk's armed forces community through interactive sessions and networking, helping organisations identify how they can contribute.

You can register your interest in attending by clicking this link - [Supporting Norfolk's Armed Forces Community - Norfolk County Council - Citizen Space](#)

East of England Procurement Framework

You may have been aware that a Social Impact Framework was launched in 2025, and organisations had the opportunity to apply to be on the framework. You can find more details on the framework here: <https://www.eoecph.nhs.uk/frameworks/social-impact/>

I am aware that a handful of local VCSE organisations were successful for a number of lots on the framework, but wider uptake across our region and in Suffolk was limited. The ICB in Norfolk and Waveney are currently looking at the framework and its usefulness, and have provided this statement to be clear and transparent about how they are currently working with it:

Introducing the Social Impact Framework

We are pleased to share that the Social Impact Framework, developed by the East of England Collaborative Procurement Hub, has now been launched. This framework, developed by the East of England Collaborative Procurement Hub, aims to streamline procurement processes and create opportunities for VCSE organisations to demonstrate the wider benefits they bring to our communities. So far we are aware of 6 local VCSE organisations that have successfully been onboarded to the framework, with opportunities for further applications to be part of this approach coming in Spring/Summer 2026.

How will the ICB use the Framework?

The Norfolk and Waveney ICB view this as a tool to support commissioners in understanding the breadth of local VCSE provision and to enable more dynamic responses to emerging needs. It has the potential to be a useful tool in the context of our ICB strategic commissioning ambitions. While the Framework is not mandatory and does not currently carry funding, it offers a foundation for future commissioning arrangements that prioritise social impact alongside service delivery. Our approach will remain flexible, ensuring that no organisation is excluded and that local choice is preserved. If you are not currently on the framework, this will not exclude you from commissioning or funding opportunities within ICB workstreams. It is one tool in the suite of tools that an ICB might use to commission activity, and until we are confident that the framework is representative of the local landscape and it is duly accessible, commissioners will be encouraged to fully scope the appropriateness of its use.

New Commissioning Group Led by VCSE Assembly

To drive this work forward, a new Commissioning and Procurement Working Group is being established under the leadership of the VCSE Assembly. This group will bring together VCSE leaders and ICB colleagues to co-produce guidance and best practice regarding Commissioning and Procurement practice, which will include guidance and best practice for using the Framework effectively.

Commitment to Co-Production

We want to assure all VCSE partners that our approach and policy around the Social Impact Framework will be co-produced with you. This means working collaboratively through the VCSE Assembly and its forums to shape how the Framework is applied locally, ensuring it reflects the needs and strengths of our sector. Together, we will develop clear guidance, training, and ongoing support to both ICB staff and the VCSE sector, to make this a success and ensure that the Framework is used appropriately to ensure the best possible outcomes for the people and communities we collectively serve.

For feedback or questions, please contact nwicb.vcseassembly@nhs.net. Your input is vital as we take this forward.

VCSE Sector – Estate Data – ICB Estates Team

The estates team's vision is to create infrastructure that supports delivering the right care in the right place, improves patient outcomes, and enables staff across health, social care, and third sector organisations to provide high-quality support. Our Estates Infrastructure Strategy focuses on four main goals: enhancing access, improving quality and condition, supporting environmental sustainability, and increasing efficiency.

To achieve these, the team has been gathering additional estate data throughout the year. This information helps us better understand our collective estate and geographically map resources within SHAPE to support planning and decision making (this particular SHAPE atlas is a secure platform accessible only to authorised users)

By analysing this shared data, the team aims to (focusing on some of the improving access and efficiency aspects alone):

- Understand any issues, risks, opportunities across existing estate and any areas/requirements we can support with
- Identify opportunities to optimise and integrate our infrastructure, encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration and making the most out of existing facilities
- Offer flexible, shared spaces for staff throughout Norfolk and Waveney, removing limitations posed by organisational boundaries

If you are interested in sharing your organisations information as part of this work, Its a simple form: [Click Here](#)

Any questions or concerns, please get in touch with Tim Gardiner via the VCSE Assembly email address.