



Norfolk and Waveney VCSE Assembly

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

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

VCSE Assembly Webinar Event

Our next VCSE Assembly webinar is going to take place on 16th December 2025, and we are going to hear from Norfolk Adult Social Services.

Adult Social Services in Norfolk is undergoing a bold transformation. They want to move away from rigid systems that focus on transaction and towards Human Learning Systems (HLS) a way of working that puts people, relationships, and learning at the heart of everything we do. This transformation is being delivered through a new mission statement and values and underpinned by six strategic portfolios; each focused on improving outcomes by testing new ideas, learning from experience, and working together across teams and communities.

To be involved, please sign up here: [VCSE Assembly December-2025](#)

ICB changes Update

As you are aware, changes were announced in March this year concerning NHS England and the Integrated Care Boards (ICBs).

At the last webinar, I highlighted updates regarding the creation of a proposed Norfolk and Suffolk ICB, which would become a legal entity in April 2026. I also shared the new executive team structure and news about an East of England Specialist Commissioning office, which will sit within our region.

The consultation regarding ICB staff started on 19th November 2025, with ICB staff being made aware of potential staff changes and potential redundancies.

This has been an unsettling time for colleagues within the ICB, and I am sure that VCSE colleagues will be kind and show care at a time of immense uncertainty. I know that many of us within the VCSE sector have built great working relationships and have a deep understanding of how unsettling this can be.

I also want to take this opportunity to support Ed Garratt and all ICB staff, who wrote a letter to NHS England, highlighting his disappointment on behalf of staff about the communications and the ongoing "leaks" to the HSJ and wider media.

I will make sure that updates are shared, including structures, once the consultation has closed and we have a final structure to share.

Norfolk Business Board, Local Growth Plan: Action Plan

The Norfolk Business Board had launched an action plan, sitting alongside the Local Growth Plan, which has been co-produced with a range of stakeholders including the VCSE sector. The plan is very detailed and highlights a range of work within our sector and others, that aims to build growth and resilience across Norfolk.

The plan highlights planned work for the VCSE Assembly, as well as Empowering Communities Partnership and the Fuse Network.

You can find the plan here: <https://www.norfolkbusinessboard.co.uk/article/73584/Norfolks-Local-Growth-Plan-Action-Plan>

NHS Strategic Commissioning Framework

NHS England launched its Strategic Commissioning Framework this month, which highlights guidance on how ICBs should commissioning moving forward, in relation to the new NHS 10 year plan.

The framework sets out some clear messages, which will be of importance to the VCSE sector, with a focus on partnership and co-production, tackling health inequalities and a push towards prevention.

You can find the framework here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-strategic-commissioning-framework/>

VCSE Assembly Chairs Updates

Please find this months here: <https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk/updates/>

ICB CEO Blog

Ed Garrett OBE, Chief Executive of NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB (NWICB) and NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB (SNEE ICB) has started a blog to keep stakeholders across the ICS updated on the changing landscape and updates on progress.

You can find Ed's blog here: [ICB CEO Blog](#)

Free Training for VCSE and ICS staff

You will see in my chairs update, that I spoke with the lead Nurse for Learning Disabilities, about potential support to share messaging and how VCSE could support with those with LD to undertake Annual Health Checks. As part of this, this training was highlighted, and I wanted to share with you all: <https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/suicide-autism-training>

It has been co-produced by lived experience and funded via the NHS in other systems.

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector – Estate Data

To better understand the estate infrastructure across Norfolk and Waveney, we are undertaking a data collection initiative. This initiative aims to gather specific information to collaboratively support any estate infrastructure requirements and/or opportunities.

This data will be used to gain a better understanding of the assets within our communities and support opportunities to work better together across the system.

Its a simple form: [Click Here](#)

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

Funding the Future: Diversifying Income for Charities & Social Enterprises

Join the Empowering Communities Partnership for a whole day filled with fundraising expertise, skill-sharing and opportunities for networking, with lunch and refreshments included!

Thursday 29th January 2026
9:30am - 4pm
Dereham Memorial Hall

This is an in person event and if you have any questions please contact:
communities@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk

To sign up: [Click here](#)

National Men's Health Strategy

The government has launched a plan to tackle physical and mental health challenges faced by men and boys, and reduce inequalities.

This is the first of its kind and highlights action to tackle the physical and mental health challenges men and boys face every day.

You can find the plan here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-englands-first-ever-mens-health-strategy>