

# Norfolk and Waveney **VCSE** Assembly

## VCSE Assembly Group Meeting Notes 26th November 1-2.30pm

### Agenda:

New meeting dates for 2026  
Subs for meetings  
New Strategy Group Members from January 2026  
ICB updates and consultation  
Place work  
Health Inequalities

### Attended:

Tim Gardiner (Chair), Daniel Williams, Ashley Bunn, Lucy Hogg, Mark Hitchcock, Dan Skipper, Kirsty Pitcher

### Apologies:

Dan Mobbs, Emma Ratzer, John Lee, Amanda Gabrielson

### Notes:

#### VCSE Assembly Strategy Group Meetings

Thursday 22nd January 2026 - Online - 1pm - 2.30pm

Thursday 26th February 2026 - Online - 10am-11.30am

Wednesday 25th March 2026 - Online - 2pm-3.30pm

Invitations have been sent.

Members from Forums/Networks to send substitutes if unable to attend.

TG to invite Richard Watson, ICB Deputy CEO & Executive Director of Strategy, Digital and Commissioning and Amanda Lyes, who is Director of People & Corporate Governance to the January meeting to discuss commissioning strategies and new structure.

#### New strategy group members

Agreement on new members needed to focus on knowledge and experience relating to acute hospitals and also in relation to co-production. EOI to be shared in the next newsletter. Once new consultation from ICB is confirmed, then can look at gaps within the strategy group membership.

#### ICB Updates

ICB staff consultation has started and will run for 55 days.  
VCSE Assembly is currently within the structure.  
VCSE partnering team within ICB consultation document.

### **Place Development Work**

Daniel Williams led a conversation regarding Place across the new Norfolk and Suffolk ICB. Emma Bugg from the ICB presented at the previous meeting, and action was taken to start a piece of work around best practice to work with the VCSE sector at place level.

Discussion focused on place board structures and an understanding from the ICB on what they will do, will they have delegated authority and commissioning decision making abilities? There were questions for the ICB regarding how this works with neighbourhoods and potential Integrated Neighbourhood teams in the future.

Infrastructure was highlighted, around supporting how this could work, but recognised the need for investment to support capacity and the ability to connect relevant groups and forums together.

Highlighted the need to make sure there is more than tokenistic “representation” and a real opportunity to engage grassroots organisations within place.

**Action:** Daniel Williams is going to lead conversations with ICB partners regarding questions highlighted and draft a short report with recommendations with Strategy Group. Aim is to produce a recommendation and best practice document that can be shared with wider assembly and also once agreed, shared with the ICB.

### **Health Inequalities**

Mark Hitchcock highlighted the lack of VCSE voices within the HI workstream as well as a lack of understanding regarding the governance structures across the work. MH led discussion with members and key points were made around:

- Putting population/user at the heart of the work rather than organisations
- Greater VCSE sector engagement via forums on HI issues
- Greater representation from VCSE organisations, based up expertise and knowledge
- Understanding where decisions are made regarding HI
- What budget do we have to support capacity within VCSE to allow sector colleagues to be involved in ongoing work and governance structures

**Action:** Mark H and Tim G to meet with relevant leads within ICB regarding Health Inequalities to discuss concerns. Aim to provide key recommendations to ICB on how to make this more effective and increase VCSE involvement where relevant.

### **End of meeting**