

Norfolk and Waveney **VCSE** Assembly

VCSE Assembly Group Meeting Notes 22nd January 2026

Agenda:

ICB Consultation updates
VCSE Assembly Board Updates
February Strategy Group meeting
Health Inequalities paper and recommendations
VCSE Integration paper discussion

Attended:

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

Apologies:

Dan Mobbs, Emma Ratzer, John Lee, Amanda Gabrielson, Kirsty Pitcher

Notes:

ICB Consultation updates

Highlighted updates in ICB consultation - consultation closed on 12th January and we are unsure on where VCSE Assembly may sit within the structure or how this may impact work. We should be aware of the new plans around the 13th February and will share comms from the ICB once aware of outcomes. This information will also be shared to the wider VCSE sector in February's newsletter. Timescales suggest a long process, with some ICB staff not being in new posts until June.

VCSE Assembly Board Updates

The VCSE Assembly Board met in its new form in early January. It was short and mainly to ensure governance and shared aims. Two papers were discussed, one which will be taken to the patients and communities committee, with the aim that this will be agreed and potentially taken to the ICB board. The second paper was the integration paper, which is to be developed alongside ICS colleagues regarding greater VCSE integration within the system. The board will meet again in February.

February Strategy Group meeting

Discussed future Strategy Group meetings, with February's meeting bringing in Richard Watson, the new Deputy CEO and Director of Commissioning for the new Norfolk and Suffolk ICB. The group discussed discussion points and potential questions for Richard. TG also shared that Ian Wake, Director of Norfolk Adult Social Care has been invited to future meetings and also Lesley Dwyer, CEO of New Acute Hospitals Group. Hoping they will attend in the near future to discuss strategic ambitions and the group can help advocate for VCSE sector support in strategic ambitions.

Health Inequalities paper and recommendations

MH presented a paper regarding the ongoing ICS Health Inequalities workstream. MH presented clear recommendations that will be presented to the Health Inequalities steering group on 2nd February. Recommendations include greater VCSE sector involvement in working groups, bringing in new VCSE members and greater sector influence in the ongoing workstreams. This was discussed by the group and recommendations were agreed. TG will present paper and feedback.

VCSE Integration paper discussion

DW presented a paper that is currently in draft form, but shared with VCSE Assembly Board. The aim is to help shape how we can integrate VCSE organisations into ICS workstreams, specifically at place level. A discussion was had regarding the updates of the paper and a steer from colleagues regarding this work, and highlighted the importance of VCSE led forums, but also the infrastructure that supports them. Points were also raised about looking at VCSE integration elsewhere across the country and what we could learn from other systems who seem to have greater integration, and a recognition that in Norfolk and Waveney, we have commitment to do this but much more to do on this subject. DW is going to collate feedback and pull some clear principles and recommendations into the paper, before being shared with ICS colleagues to help co-produce.

End of meeting