



# VCSE ALLIANCE

WORCESTERSHIRE VOLUNTARY  
COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ALLIANCE

A stronger VCSE Sector working together effectively to  
deliver excellent services aligned to need

# Overview of presentation

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- Context and overview of the Worcestershire VCSE Alliance
- Understanding and Strengthening the VCSE Sector Project
- Community Wellbeing Role Network
- VCSE Mental Health Project
- Community-Led Health Research and Engagement Project
- Fuller Stocktake and the VCSE Sector
- Phase two – Direction of Travel

# Worcestershire VCSE Alliance

- The Alliance launched in July 2022 with 25 VCSE leader founding members
- Members working together to help shape the Alliance and its future work



# Why is it important the VCSE is involved in the Integrated Care System?

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The VCSE are key partners in every Integrated Care System across England

- Over 2000 VCSE organisations across the county
- Delivering a vast number and range of health and wellbeing services
- Experience of working in partnership
- Strong connections with communities
- VCSE workforce has huge amount of knowledge and skills





## Vision

Working together to help make Worcestershire a better and healthier place to live and work

## Aim

A stronger VCSE Sector working together effectively to deliver excellent services aligned to need

## Objectives

- Bridge the communication and engagement gap between the VCSE and statutory agencies.
- Encourage VCSE collaboration and shared resources across county to strengthen services and sustainability.
- Facilitate conversations and co-production.
- Mobilise the VCSE to co-ordinate delivery.
- Develop systems of collecting knowledge of VCSE activity to champion and promote it's impact.

# Workstreams

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1. VCSE Representation model
2. Engagement and communications
3. Understanding and Strengthening the VCSE research and evaluation project
4. Community Led Research and Engagement project
5. Community Wellbeing Roles Network
6. VCSE Mental Health Project

# VCSE Representation

## Integrating the VCSE

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### Herefordshire & Worcestershire (System)

- Integrated Care Partnership
- Mental Health Collaborative
- Health Inequalities, Prevention and Personalisation Board
- ICS Academy
- Workforce Development Retention/Talent Management and Leadership
- People Board

### Worcestershire (Place)

- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Worcestershire Executive Committee
- Being Well Strategic Group
- Worcestershire Engagement Network
- Communications Cell
- Range of other committees

### District/Neighbourhoods

- District Collaboratives
- Task and Finish Groups
- Local Networks/Forums

# Understanding & Strengthening Worcestershire VCSE Sector Project

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The Alliance is working with a multi-agency steering group to undertake research to inform a VCSE strategy for the future





**Worcestershire  
Community  
Wellbeing Roles**

**Quarterly  
Get Together**



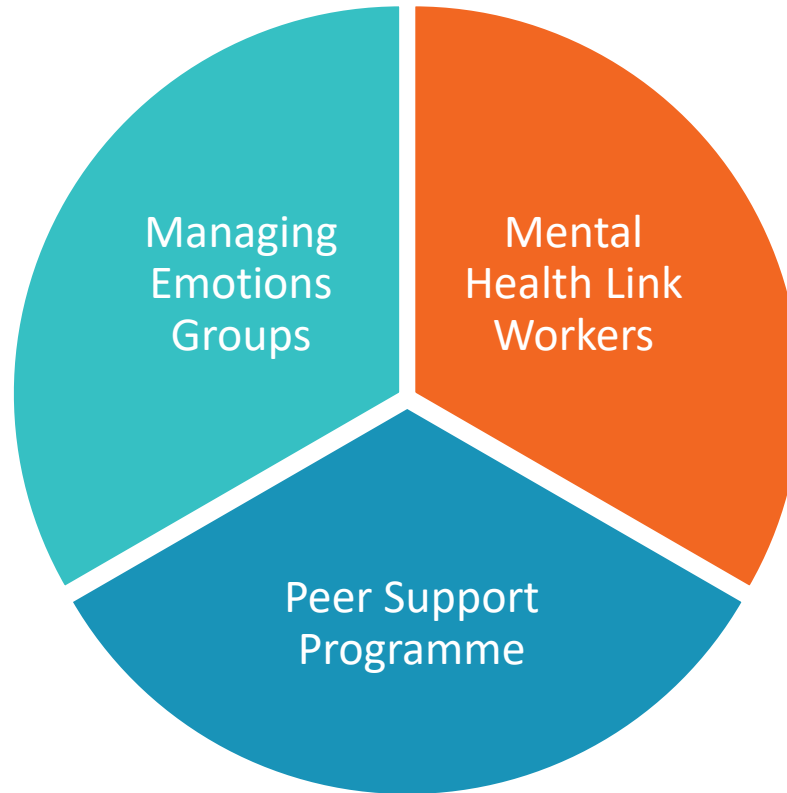
*'Really found this  
useful. Nice to talk  
about our own  
wellbeing' -*

Participant in July Check-In

# Coordinating VCSE Mental Health Providers



Photo: Age UK HW Gardening Group at Worcester Community Garden



Working with NHS services to support people with mental health and wellbeing challenges to reduce demand on primary mental health care

Harnessing the VCSE Sector to enable meaningful connections in people's lives to reduce loneliness and isolation

# Current Work – Funded up to April 2024

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## Expansion of Mental Health Link Workers

- Support with welfare and housing
- Connecting patients with support groups, social activities & learning opportunities
- Support with self-help and navigating the complex care system

## Expansion of Managing Emotions Group Programme

- Expanding the initial Redditch Programme Countywide
- November Review with Health & Care Trust for joined up learning

## Peer Mentoring Programme

- Volunteer Mentors with lived experience providing mentoring and support to their peers

# Future Mental Health Work

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- Trust tender due in 2024 to support Mental Health Delivery across Herefordshire & Worcestershire through VCSE Integration
- Work ongoing to strengthen VCSE organisations – QA, Monitoring and Evaluation, Compliance (ie Information Governance)





# Worcestershire VCSE MH Provision

## Phase 1 – Completed

- VCSE MH Services
- Capacity

## Phase 2 – Completion due Jan 2024

- Report by District
- Workforce, Systems, WL etc

# Community Led Research and Engagement Project

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One year project to:

- Explore what health and care research means to seldom heard communities
- Understand how health research needs to be done differently
- Actively involve communities in co-producing research
- Co-design a training resource to undertake their own research
- Create a network of Research Community Champions

# Fuller and the Community Led Research Project

## Development opportunities

### **Developing neighbourhood level ‘teams of teams’:**

PCNs will be able to utilise VCSE networks as part of their evolving approach to neighbourhood integration, engaging the sector by area of interest and increase potential for more collaboration and capacity.

### **Delivering continuity of care by improving personalised care services:**

This project will provide a model for establishing personalised requirements, particularly for vulnerable and hard to reach communities that are not engaging with current methods.

### **Preventative care, using primary care to create healthier communities:**

Community-led research can be used as part of holistic approaches to improving people's understanding of and ability to engage with preventative action in groups at higher risk of poor health.

### **Three key enablers of change: workforce, estates, and data:**

Training modules will support upskilling and capacity building in the workforce around collecting, collating and analysing qualitative data on a local level, providing a more detailed insight on nationally recognised issues.

# VCSE Fuller Stocktake Workshop – July 2023

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- Building integrated teams in every neighbourhood
- Delivering the change our patients and staff want and need: improving same-day access for urgent care
- Preventative healthcare and Early Intervention
- Creating the national environment to support locally driven change



# VCSE and Fuller: Opportunities (feedback from Workshop)



Capacity to reduce demand on secondary care - preventative work utilising links between communities and the wider system

Primary and Secondary care perhaps more aware of the capabilities of the sector but restrictive in what we can deliver - however we need more flexibility

Building trusted and professional relationships and showcase ability to deliver effective services

Redistribution of resources in system

Clinical support and supervision for ARRS (Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme) roles to ensure professional development, often for people with lived experience

Estates - co-location of teams in neighbourhoods and as teams of teams

Workforce - local place-based flexibility and diversity

Data - shared access, telling a story once, single point of access to records where information is 'need to know'

Cost effective access/delivery - sharing resources

Overcoming lack of knowledge - allowing for better navigation / utilise different skills across different sectors/services for better patient outcomes

Potential to co-locate services for better outcomes

Communication improvement - Assets better sharing local knowledge

# Phase Two – direction of travel

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- VCSE Alliance strategy - based findings from research, evaluation and partners input
- Develop a system to share more VCSE Sector intelligence and data with partners
- Explore innovative approaches to maximise investment into the VCSE
- Develop a Thought Leadership model incorporating VCSE representative's insights and knowledge
- VCSE Faculty - a wide range of training and development opportunities to the workforce

# Stay updated



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to register for our  
monthly updates from  
the Alliance and  
wider VCSE

