

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD

14 FEBRUARY 2023

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE SECTOR (VCSE) ALLIANCE UPDATE

Board Sponsor

Jonathan Sutton

Author

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Priorities

This report is relevant to the following Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Healthy Living at All Ages
- Homes, Communities and Places
- Jobs and Opportunities

Safeguarding

This report does not have a direct impact on safeguarding children or adults.

Item for Decision, Consideration or Information

Information and assurance

Recommendation

- 1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to note:**
 - a) progress on the development of a new Worcestershire Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance in line with national requirements; and**
 - b) collaborative working with Integrated Care System (ICS) partners in Worcestershire.**

Background

2. NHS England guidance and Department of Health and Social Care guidance requires Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and the wider ICS (via the Health and Wellbeing Board) to work with local voluntary and community partners.
3. In Herefordshire and Worcestershire, the Alliance arrangements are being developed at 'place'. In January 2022 a VCSE Strategic Lead was recruited, funded for 3 years by Worcestershire County Council (Communities and Partnerships) and Health partners further funded a 12-month Communications and Engagement Officer plus development resource. During 2022, extensive engagement took place with statutory and VCSE partners to work towards setting up the VCSE Alliance.

VCSE Alliance

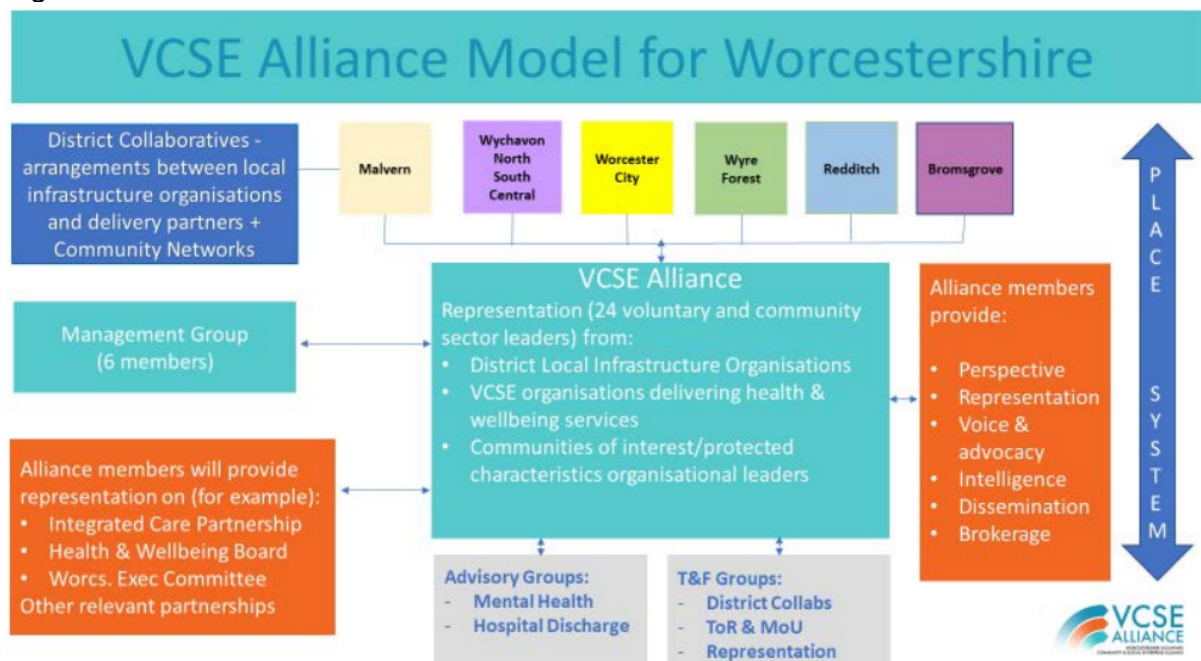
4. The VCSE Alliance recognises that integrated care demands integrated people and organisations, across civil society. VCSE is a key player, but relatively uncoordinated therefore the Alliance is working to coordinate and strengthen the sector, with a current focus on health and wellbeing.

5. The key aims of the VCSE Alliance are to:

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

6. The governance model for the VCSE Alliance has been agreed and established (shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board in May 2022 and demonstrated in figure 1 below). Terms of Reference have been agreed and appropriate Memorandums of understanding developed with key partners. Service Level Agreements with LIOs are in place to develop work at District Level.

Figure 1:



7. The Alliance has met five times, with a Management Group and subgroups having been established.

8. The Chair of the VCSE Alliance is currently being elected following due process. Further to this, consideration will be given to VCSE representation at the array of boards and committees across the Worcestershire ICS – including the Health and Wellbeing

Board. Figure 2 shows the meetings where the VCSE has or may have representation – others may be added in the future as structures in the health and care system develop.

Figure 2:

System	Place	District
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integrated Care Partnership ➤ MH Collaborative (E & C) ➤ Health Inequalities, Prevention and Personalised Care Board ➤ ICS Academy ➤ Workforce Development Retention/Talent Mgt and Leadership ➤ People Board ➤ Herefordshire Community Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Worcestershire Executive Committee ➤ Health and Wellbeing Board ➤ Worcs Place Team Leads ➤ Being Well Strategic and Delivery Group ➤ Worcs Engagement Network ➤ Communications Cell ➤ Range of other committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ District Collaboratives ➤ Task and Finish Groups ➤ Local Networks/Forums

9. The VCSE Alliance recognises the important role of the District Collaboratives and will encourage and support VCSE involvement. VCSE colleagues are liaising with partners and the Primary Care Strategic Director. This is working well in some districts, whereas it is recognised that more engaged work is required in others.

10. A Communications and Engagement Officer is in post, with branding in place and the Alliance website launch due in February 2023. There will be a monthly VCSE newsletter and other marketing / PR activities are being developed.

11. The VCSE is raising awareness of the Alliance, its work and ambitions, through a wide range of engagement activities including networks, forums and briefing events across the County. There will further be a countywide VCSE engagement events in September 2023.

12. VCSE Alliance priorities and progress

Examples of Current projects

- The **Understanding and Strengthening Worcestershire VCSE Sector Project** will undertake a comprehensive review of VCSE organisations in Worcestershire, collecting and collating intelligence on community needs, services, issues and gaps. This information will then be used to develop a robust VCSE strategy with the overall aim of stronger VCSE Sector working together effectively to deliver excellent services aligned to need.
- The Alliance is focusing on **integrating the VCSE with NHS Primary Mental Health and Wellbeing Services**. The aim is to support people with mental health and wellbeing challenges, to reduce demand on primary mental health care, improve waiting time experience and optimise treatment. This includes:
 - support during waiting period for clinical therapeutic intervention;
 - one-to-one and small group activities;
 - investigating ways in which the VCSE Sector can support individuals with mental health challenges; and
 - working together to address the wider determinants of poor mental health and wellbeing.

13. Other key areas of focus for 2023 include:

- development of a VCSE co-production and collaboration approach;
- review to assess impact of the Alliance with recommendations for further development; and
- obtaining funding for Alliance Communications & Engagement Officer and development costs from September 2023.

Memorandum of Understanding

14. A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed with the Worcestershire Executive Committee and wider organisations to commit to new ways of working between the VCSE and public sector within Worcestershire, focusing initially on wellbeing, health and care. It sets out common values and principles to support collaboration and is consistent with the Joint Working Principles document between the Worcestershire Executive Committee and the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board. To note here for information.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

15. There are no legal, financial or HR implications resulting from this report.

Privacy Impact Assessment

16. There are no privacy issues to report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

17. There are no privacy issues to report.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Supporting Information

[Update of Development of VCSE to Health and Wellbeing Board - May 2022](#)