

Minutes of VCSE Strategic Partnership Meeting

Held on Monday 5th December 2022
at Sanger House, Gloucester and via Teams (Hybrid)

In Attendance:
Tom Beasley (TB) – Active Gloucestershire
Chris Brown (CB) – Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Sally Byng (SB) – Barnwood Trust
Kobe Francis (KF) – The Music Works (via Teams)
Pippa Jones (PJ) – Create Gloucestershire
Matt Lennard (ML) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Vicci Livingstone-Thompson (VL-T) – Inclusion Gloucestershire (via Teams)
Ami Mortimer (AM) - Artlift & Gloucestershire Art Consortium
William North (WN) – The Long Table
Indigo Redfern (IR) – GL11

Apologies:
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Guests:
Jill Parker (JP/Chair) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Jo Underwood (JU) – ICB (via Teams)

Minutes by:
Karen Matthews – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance

The meeting commenced at 13:33.

25. Welcome, introductions and apologies	ACTION
<p>The Chair introduced JU to the group.</p> <p>SB, PJ and CB had been delayed.</p>	
26. Declarations of interest	
<p>There were no new interests to declare.</p>	
27. Commissioning small and micro-organisations	
<p>JU shared a PowerPoint presentation around the traditional commissioning cycle and new models being reviewed.</p> <p>13:39 SB & PJ joined the meeting.</p> <p>Points raised by the group included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transparency in the commissioning process was important to help organisations understand why and how commissioning decisions were made. - One-off grants were being used in place of recurring contracts. This could financially weaken providers over time, until being forced to close. A gap was then left in provision. - Explicit partnership agreements were being trialled through which a public sector partner would align with VCS organisations to obtain a specific outcome (such as shared learning). A partnership grant agreement was used to fund these. - A shared data source for the VCS was required. Inform was not widely used. - A directory of community meeting spaces, which listed where services were being delivered would be useful. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was important to fund services. Aligning delivery with the scope of a grant scheme took time and resources. <p>14:00 CB joined the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The roles of “commissioner” and “grant funder” were very different and had different processes and requirements. - It was important for commissioners to go out into the community organisations that they were supporting, and public sector staff should be encouraged to volunteer within the VCS. <p>JU summarised that she anticipated that the new models would inform the work on social value and the review of commissioning.</p> <p>JU agreed to pick this topic up with the group once the current work on accountable representation has been completed.</p> <p>14:20 JU left the meeting</p>	
28.	Minutes of the last meeting	
	<p>The minutes of the 7th November 2022 were agreed to be a true account of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p><u>20b. ML to circulate his slide deck, inviting feedback on what should be the key messages behind the State of the Sector stats and further comment on the plan.</u></p> <p>This had been actioned.</p> <p><u>20b. Group to feedback to ML by end of Wednesday 9 November.</u></p> <p>This had been actioned.</p> <p><u>21. JP to feedback the group’s decision to the Clinical Programme Board.</u> JP updated the group that she and ML had been scheduled to meet Gemma Artz regarding the Clinical Programme Board, but the meeting had been postponed. To carry forward.</p> <p><u>21. JP to request VCSE Strategic Partnership representation on the Health and Wellbeing Board.</u> JP confirmed that she had scheduled a meeting with the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board. JP informed the group that new statutory guidance had been issued which suggested that Health & Wellbeing Partnership and the Integrated Care Board could become one group.</p> <p><u>23. TB to circulate suggested wording for the ICP strategy.</u> This had been actioned.</p> <p><u>24a. JP to set up a group WhatsApp.</u> This had been actioned.</p> <p><u>24b. JP to add “developing a strategy” to the next agenda.</u> This had been actioned.</p> <p><u>24b. SB to introduce JP to Roger Mortlock at the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.</u></p>	JP

	<p>There was a discussion around the objectives of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust which made no specific mention of health or wellbeing. This was at odds with the groups Terms of Reference which required that:</p> <p>“VCSE Strategic Partnership members must be employed or working in a voluntary capacity in a Gloucestershire VCSE organisation or group that is either directly concerned with wellbeing, health or social care or operates in an area which broadly impacts on citizens’ wellbeing such as transport, housing, debt advice or community development.”</p> <p>The group resolved that the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust’s current strategy and activity has a focus on wellbeing, so Roger Mortlock should be invited to take a place in the group.</p> <p>ACTION: JP to invite Roger Mortlock to join the group.</p>	JP
29.	State of the Sector and Strategic Planning	
	a) State of the Sector	
	<p>ML shared some interactive data with the group, looking in detail at the background behind the summary data included in the State of the Sector headlines.</p> <p>Points raised by the group included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Larger organisations were almost entirely accountable for the financial growth within the sector. - Some organisations obtained funding to distribute elsewhere, and income could be “double counted” across financial years due to this. - Information was not available for newly registered charities, since there was no obligation to file accounts until at least one year had passed from registration. - Tewkesbury had very little VCS infrastructure, despite being one of the fastest growing boroughs in the country. <p>ACTION: JP to invite Emily Barker to the January meeting to facilitate a longer session on what the data is telling us.</p>	JP
	b) Strategic Planning	
	<p>AM had attended two of the ICS Strategy Review sessions organised by the ICB. The draft strategy mentioned physical activity but there was no specific mention of creative or green therapies.</p> <p>There was a discussion around what the scope of the group should be and what it should aim to achieve over the first term.</p> <p>Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modelling behaviour within the ICS was important. - It was key that the VCSE was represented in the “pillars” of the ICS strategy. - VCSE income was likely to fall over the course of the group’s term and establishing standardised funding agreements which included a minimum contribution to core costs would assist the sector. - The group consisted of elected members who had a responsibility to the sector to engage in discussions and play an active role within the ICS. - The strategy needed to look at who was considered part of the healthcare workforce. People working to keep people well were as valuable as those working to restore people to health. - Funding wasn’t being distributed across the sector, with small and micro-organisations missing out whilst doing much of the work. With so many 	

	<p>organisations operating in the county, commissioners couldn't be expected to fully understand what was going on in each neighbourhood. A model which included 10% of the value of all commissioning going into a "VCS Funding" pot would help to resolve this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anchor networks, such as "Know Your Patch" had been shown to work. - Stroud had "Hot Spots" funding, and it was hoped that the same scheme would soon be active within Gloucester. <p>It was agreed that designing the architecture to support local organisations would be a key element of the VCSE strategy.</p>	
30.	Chairing this meeting	
	<p>The group had agreed that JP would chair and AM act as vice chair for the initial meetings.</p> <p>The group unanimously agreed that JP should remain as chair, and AM as vice chair for the remainder of the term.</p>	
31.	ILP Representatives	
	<p>A nomination had been received for the Cotswold ILP Representative vacancy, and this had been shared with the group in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>15:33 PJ left the meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: JP to contact nominee to inform them that their nomination was unsuccessful as it was necessary for their organisation to be a VCSE sector member to become a VCSE ILP Representative.</p> <p>15:39 TB left the meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: JP to include "Governance of ILP Representatives" to the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>
32.	Updates	
	There were no updates.	
33.	AOB	
	There were no items to discuss.	
	<p>The meeting concluded at 15:40</p> <p>The date and venue of the next meeting is:</p> <p>1:30 – 3:30pm – 9th January 2023 on MS Teams (Virtual meeting)</p>	

Acronym Key	
ICB	Integrated Care Board
ICP	Integrated Care Partnership (also known as the "One Glos Health and Wellbeing Partnership")
ILP	Integrated Locality Partnerships
VCSE	Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise sector