

## Minutes of VCSE Strategic Partnership Meeting

Held on Monday 4 November 2024

at Barnwood Trust, Overton House, Cheltenham

### In Attendance:

Tom Beasley (TB) – Active Gloucestershire
Sally Byng (SB) – Barnwood Trust
Matt Lennard (ML) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Lucy Moriarty (LM) – Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Vicci Livingstone-Thompson (VL-T) – Inclusion Gloucestershire
Pippa Jones (PJ) – Create Gloucestershire
Indigo Redfern (IR) – GL11 (online)

### Apologies:

Chris Brown (CB) – Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Kobe Francis (KF) – The Music Works (joined for a small section virtually)

### Guests:

Jill Parker (JP/Chair) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
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### Minutes by:

Jen Smith (JS) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
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*The meeting commenced at 14:35pm*

160.	Welcome, introductions and apologies	ACTION
	<p>JP welcomed everyone to the meeting and intros were made for the benefit of LM at it was her first meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from CB.</p>	
161.	Codesigning VCSE infrastructure	ALL
	<p>Following a recent meeting with Will Chapman about codesigning VCSE infrastructure with funding coming from the ICB, the county council and potentially GHC, JP asked the group for thoughts and reflections, in particular about the proposal for the steering group and possible next steps.</p> <p>There was thought to be some confusion in the sector as this funding came with a health lens rather than reflecting the needs of the sector as a whole. Some of the group thought that having NAVCA as the only VCS representation on the steering group wasn't enough. There should also be representation for smaller community organisations.</p> <p>ML explained that codesign would happen with the voluntary sector. The steering group would be more of a process group that would decide what was in scope and the process, and would make final decisions, but the model itself would be codesigned with the</p>	

	<p>voluntary sector. It was noted that there was still a lot to be worked out.</p> <p>A few members of the group asked if Will could provide a timeline or rough process map to show where decisions were made and at what point different people were involved. JP to circulate a slide with Will's proposed timeline.</p> <p>Several members raised potential conflicts of interest as their organisations were already in receipt of funding from the ICB.</p> <p>JP confirmed there was a comms piece about this work coming out in the VCS Alliance newsletter the following week, which had been agreed with Will.</p> <p>There was a discussion about setting principles around the infrastructure to ensure it was fit for purpose for the VCSE sector. It was suggested at the December meeting at which the ILP reps would be present, time could be spent working together on the principles, which could be aligned to the MOU, and then shared for comment via the ILP reps.</p> <p>Conflicts of interest were an ongoing issue and it was suggested that we commission an independent facilitator to support the sector to think through the process. SB would draft a brief to commission an independent facilitator, but stressed the importance of this being a collective piece of work in which all parties had a stake. Once SB had drafted the brief, she would share with the group for comment.</p> <p>JP suggested inviting Will or Hannah to the December meeting to talk through their thinking and timeline. JP would speak with Will to talk through the Strategic Partnership's intended direction of travel and ask if either he or Hannah could attend the December meeting to talk through the proposed way forward.</p> <p><b>Actions</b>  <b>JP – circulate slide with proposed timeline.</b>  <b>SB – Draft brief to commission external facilitator to help identify the purpose of the VCSE infrastructure.</b>  <b>All – Review SB's draft brief.</b>  <b>JP – Invite Will/Hannah to December Strategic Partnership meeting to talk through timeline and potential direction of travel.</b></p>	<p>JP SB ALL JP</p>
<p><b>162.</b></p>	<p><b>Data Day</b></p>	<p><b>PJ</b></p>
	<p>PJ advised that the 2024 Data Day would be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at Parabola Arts Centre in Cheltenham. The event was being run in partnership with Age UK, Connected by Data, Barnwood Trust and Active Gloucestershire which would help give the day a holistic approach to data. PJ encouraged the group to purchase a ticket and advised that if anyone had a particular data question or challenge, there was an Open Space session at the event and workshop spaces too.</p>	

<b>163.</b>	<b>Employers' National Insurance Contributions</b>	
	<p>Following the recent budget which saw an increase to employers' national insurance contributions, some members of the group were keen to get a statement out with the aim for small to medium sized charities, who have been particularly hit hard with this increase, to have the same waiver the public sector has received. Others felt that the NCVO statement was good and signing this was the best thing the group could do collectively.</p> <p>ML would send the estimated turnover of charitable organisations in the county to IR to calculate a rough figure of the total cost of this increase.</p> <p><b>Actions</b>  <b>All – Sign the NCVO statement asking for all small and medium sized charities to have a waiver for the employer NI increase.</b>  <b>ML – Send VCS charitable org turnover data for the county to IR</b></p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ML</p>
<b>164.</b>	<b>Post Riot Actions</b>	
	<p>IR needed to catch up with CB about next steps. GRC were developing a strategy after speaking with communities; one of the main issues that seemed to be arising was racism in schools.</p>	
<b>165.</b>	<b>Updates</b>	
	<p><b>Glos Health and Care Partnership – TB</b>  No major updates, would continue to report back.</p> <p><b>Clinical Programmes Board – VLT/IR</b>  Would provide an update next time as the meeting was scheduled for later in the week.</p>	
<b>166.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meetings</b>	
	<p>The minutes of the August and October Strategic Partnership meetings were approved.</p>	
<b>167.</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	<b>All</b>
	<p>It was agreed to change the meeting schedule from weekly online to fortnightly, so every month there would be one in person meeting and one online meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting would be on 12<sup>th</sup> November which SB would facilitate, JS would cancel the online meetings for 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p><b>Actions</b>  <b>JS – Cancel the 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November online SP meetings.</b></p> <p><i>The meeting concluded at 4:30pm</i></p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Times and dates of next meetings</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next full meeting:</b></p>	

	<p>2.30pm 1 December 2024 at Robinswood Hill Country Park</p> <p><b>Tuesday morning online meeting:</b> 9-10am on 12<sup>th</sup> November.</p>	
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Acronym Key	
ICB	Integrated Care Board
EAC&I	Enabling Active Communities and Individuals
ICP	Integrated Care Partnership
CQC	Care Quality Commission