

# Minutes of VCSE Strategic Partnership Meeting

Held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

At The Friendship Café

<b>In Attendance:</b>
Kobe Francis (KF) – The Music Works
Chris Brown (CB) – Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Pippa Jones (PJ) – Create Gloucestershire
Matt Lennard (ML) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Indigo Redfern (IR) – GL11
Sally Byng (SB) – Barnwood Trust
Vicci Livingstone-Thompson (VL-T) – Inclusion Gloucestershire
Nicola Simpson (NS) – Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Tom Beasley (TB) – Active Gloucestershire

<b>Apologies:</b>
William North (WN) – The Long Table

<b>Guests:</b>
Jill Parker (JP/Chair) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Hannah Gorf (HG) – NHS ICB

<b>Minutes by:</b>
Jen Smith (JS) – Freelance EA

The meeting commenced at 14:40

<b>102. Welcome, introductions and apologies</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p>Apologies had been received from WN along with an email of withdrawal from the group due to workload.</p> <p>WN's resignation from the group was noted.</p>	
<b>103. Declarations of interest</b>	
<p>There were no new interests declared.</p>	
<b>104. Commissioning of the Community Wellbeing Service</b>	
<p>HG talked through the history of the community wellbeing service contract, how it had evolved over time and some of the thinking around the future of it. HG was attending her ICB Operational Executive the following week to seek any relevant approvals around the budget.</p> <p>The group asked what was needed from VCS orgs to support with the creation of the new community wellbeing service contract. HG was appreciative of the relationship between the VCS Strategic Partnership Board members and the ICB, commenting that they could comfortably discuss strategic items together, but that she could not discuss any specifics due to procurement legislation.</p> <p>The group discussed an alliance model, with VCS Alliance offering capacity to support this.</p> <p>The group discussed weighting of the contract budget, the pros and cons of doing this by district or based on health inequalities.</p> <p>The group discussed the lack of strong data on prevention both nationally and internationally. Gloucestershire was pretty much at the forefront of social prescribing.</p>	

	<p>There was a brief discussion about anticipatory care; HG confirmed she sat on the Board for Gloucestershire’s Anticipatory Care.</p> <p>The group agreed that there was not a one size fits all to this approach with some suggesting that there was a more general social prescriber and then a separate specialist approach for specific inequalities.</p> <p>There was also a discussion around committing to getting the process right and working with an iterative model – so much can change in 5+ years, it was unrealistic to try and set and stick to outcomes.</p> <p>The group thanks HG for coming.</p> <p>HG left the meeting at 15:30.</p>	
105.	<b>Issues Facing the Sector</b>	
	<p>2 of the issues from the previous meeting were raised again:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The apparent end/slowing down of funding for digital; lots of projects and work was ending in March 2024 with nothing to continue in to.</li> <li>• Community Buildings – How do we fund community spaces? TB would connect CB to Resonance.</li> </ul> <p>New issues were raised too:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in demand for services, increase in complexity of need and no additional funding.</li> <li>• Losing staff to NHS as their pay uplifts are significantly more than charity sector.</li> <li>• Large high profile charity (Aspire - GL1) being replaced by a private sector organisation.</li> </ul> <p>Other issues which needed more investigating were the subsidy control regulation and whether there is an NHS exemption.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b>  <b>TB – Connect CB to Resonance re: Community Spaces.</b>  <b>JP – Investigate subsidy control regulation.</b></p>	<p>TB</p> <p>JP</p>
106.	<b>Action Tracker</b>	
	<p>JP confirmed that the Strategic Partnership’s first newsletter would be going out later in the month. It would contain an update from the group, including the groups’ priorities, information on the CPG event and the leadership event and a short article from Kobe.</p> <p>There was a discussion about how the priorities aligned with the Terms of Reference (TOR) and MOU, with some thinking that in places, the priorities were contradictory to the TOR. JP advised that in the session with Anne Brinkhoff and the following meeting, members thought that the priorities broadly fitted with the TOR, but acknowledged that the learning and action plan needed to be updated.</p> <p>GRC were confirmed for the December meeting.</p> <p><b>Actions</b>  <b>JP – Update the learning and action plan with agreed priorities.</b></p>	<p>JP</p>
107.	<b>Infrastructure</b>	

	Some of the Strategic Partnership had met with NHS ICB about the work on infrastructure of VCS in the county. The group agreed to continue working with the ICB on this.	
<b>108.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023) and matters arising</b>	
	The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.  It was agreed to keep minutes more general and descriptive, and decisions and actions would be noted.	
<b>109.</b>	<b>MOU Breaches</b>	
	SB raised that producing an annual report with reflections from the past year felt like good practice but thought that another process was needed for reporting MOU breaches. The group agreed, stating that breaches should be dealt with in a relational way initially, starting with a phone call, then email, and if necessary, escalate it with a formal letter etc. The annual report should follow a 'what we did, what we learnt' format.  <b>Action</b> <b>All – Complete the sections of the annual report that have been allocated to you.</b>  IR & PJ left at 16:30	All
<b>110.</b>	<b>Updates</b>	
	TB shared a brief update on Glos Health and Care Partnership  Clinical Programmes Board would be moved up the agenda for the next meeting to ensure its discussed.  <b>Actions</b> <b>JP – Move Clinical Programmes Board up the agenda to ensure there is enough time for the group to discuss it at the December meeting.</b>	JP
<b>111.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	JP checked the group were staying on after the leadership event next week.	
	The meeting concluded at 16:40  The date and venue of the next meeting is:  <b>1:30 – 3:30pm – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023, venue Music Works.</b>	

<b>Acronym Key</b>	
ICP	Integrated Care Partnership (also known as the “One Glos Health and Wellbeing Partnership”)
VCSE	Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise sector