

## MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE

### VCSE REPRESENTATIVE

#### PURPOSE AND ROLE

The VCSE member of the Mental Health Collaborative Committee plays an important role in promoting the mental health and wellbeing of the local community.

The purpose of the Mental Health Collaborative Committee is to work in partnership with the Mental Health Collaborative Executive to provide leadership for the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System at a Place level in Worcestershire.

The Mental Health Collaborative Committee is a committee of the Board of Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (the Trust). The Committee is constituted in line with the Standing Orders of the Trust and will operate in strict accordance therewith. The Committee differs from usual structures in that senior representatives from key partner organisations and sectors are members of the group to provide assurance and oversight across the wider system.

Oversight and assurance will be a core responsibility addressing service transformation and performance, quality performance and improvement, financial control and risk management.

The Committee will have powers of decision making and make recommendations to Trust Board. The views of partners should form an essential element of this within an open and transparent culture.

Meetings are held bi-monthly, usually on Wednesday afternoon.

#### **This purpose requires the post holder to have the specific duties of;**

- A sound knowledge of the mental health and care landscape in Worcestershire
- To act in the best interest of citizens, patients and the system as a whole rather than representing individual interests of its constituent organisations.
- Provide reports on VCSE activity and performance as well as taking a full part in discussions on a range of mental health and care agenda items.
- Providing considered and balanced input to policy and strategy development and necessarily draw upon the advice and expertise of VCSE organisations.
- Ability to suggest ways in which the VCSE can be an equal partner in achieving the county's priorities.
- Collaborate with other members of the committee to identify health inequalities and social determinants of health and highlighting the impact on the people and communities.

- Advocating for the interests of marginalised groups, under-represented groups and communities to help their voices get heard in decision making forums.
- Building and supporting partnerships – such as the VCSE Alliance – and collaborative relationships, develop a consensus with other VCSE organisations on issues or topics.
- A personal commitment to contribute as part of a collaborative approach.

## **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ATTITUDE**

To be effective in this role the holder requires the following knowledge, skills and attitudes.

### **Knowledge**

To understand the broad mental health and wellbeing landscape of Worcestershire. This should include the roles and responsibilities of the other committee members such as the NHS, District and County Councils, Healthwatch Worcestershire.

Have a very good grasp of the challenges facing the mental health and social care system.

Aware of changes to national policies, frameworks and guidelines relating to health and social care. For example, the NHS Long Term Plan, The Messenger Review of NHS leadership and the Hewitt Review.

### **Skills**

Very strong communication skills, mostly verbal - in order to make concise arguments and convey the differing perspectives of the VCSE.

Be able to listen, understand different points of view and sometimes think quickly to propose intelligent and incisive questions during board discussion.

To be able to read reports, extract the key information and interpret proposals through the lens of VCSE and local communities in order to inform decision making or policy development.

Understand strategy and resource planning to inform decision making and collaboration between board members and the VCSE.

Unravel complexity, simplify then explain.

Convey different points of view (to account for the diversity of the sector) and propose a compromise.

Be able to speak and present confidently in public.

### **Attitudes**

Think 'system' and 'people' always.

Put the needs of other VCSE organisations first.

Ability to focus on the outcomes – the impact of policies and strategies (not become fixated by the process).

A commitment to working collaboratively to achieve shared goals.

The courage to challenge the status quo, say uncomfortable or unpopular things to partners while recognising they face similar and different challenge and do so without offending.

Work to the Nolan Principles [The Seven Principles of Public Life - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-seven-principles-of-public-life)

Payments may be made to representatives attending meetings. For more information, please contact Esther Passingham, VCSE Strategic Lead [esther@worcsalliance.org](mailto:esther@worcsalliance.org).

## **Representatives Meeting Summary Report**

Please complete the following information and return to [esther@worcsalliance.org](mailto:esther@worcsalliance.org) within a week of attending each meeting.

Representative:

Meeting Title:

Date of meeting:

Frequency of meeting: Bi-monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2-4pm

**3 Key considerations affecting the VCSE**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Key points raised on behalf of the VCSE**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Key impact outcome/contribution(s) made**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Other comments (including questions or next steps)**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.