



## **VCSE Alliance Forum Membership**

### **Information for Applicants**

**Worcestershire VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) Alliance** was set up in July 2022 to support Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to form a vehicle for partnership working within the Integrated Care System (ICS) to help improve health and wellbeing of people in Worcestershire and reduce inequalities. The Alliance started as a collaborative group of VCSE organisations, with 25 founder members coopted to support the development of the Alliance.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024, this arrangement has changed. The Alliance now consists of a new:

- VCSE Alliance Board
- VCSE Alliance Forum
- VCSE Alliance Independent Chair

#### **The Vision:**

*Working together to help make Worcestershire a better and healthier place to live and work*

#### **The Aim:**

*To promote a strong and visible VCSE sector working collaboratively to deliver excellent services that is aligned to need*

#### **Strategic Objectives:**

- Facilitate effective countywide communication, engagement and understanding between the VCSE and statutory sector.
- Encourage VCSE collaboration and facilitate co-development of services to strengthen services and support available to the population of Worcestershire.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the VCSE sector to amplify activity and impact across the county.
- Ensure the sustainability of the VCSE Alliance, enabling the sector to flourish as an active partner in the ICS.

The **VCSE Alliance Forum** is a membership of VCSE organisations working together to create a unified and stronger voice for the VCSE sector and to enable more effective collaboration with public sector partners.

If you have any questions about becoming an Alliance Forum Member, please email [coordinator@worcsalliance.org](mailto:coordinator@worcsalliance.org) before submitting your application.

### **Becoming a VCSE Alliance Forum Member**

The Forum will meet 3 times a year for members from Worcestershire VCSE organisations. Those organisations that are not yet members can request to attend as a guest.

ICS partners will be invited to some Forum meetings, providing members with the opportunity to speak directly to VCSE Board Representatives, commissioners and decision makers.

Members of the VCSE Alliance Forum will benefit from:

- ✓ Learning and growing together
- ✓ Access to resources - helping to build capacity and sustainability
- ✓ Unified voice to advocate the value of services
- ✓ Working together to demonstrate impact and social value
- ✓ Collective strength to influence decision making
- ✓ Collaboration and networking opportunities

### **Eligibility**

We welcome membership applications from organisations that meet all the following criteria:

1. The organisation has a significant presence and delivers a service in Worcestershire
2. Have clear mission and aims that are not-for-profit and working for the benefit of Worcestershire residents and communities.
3. Have multiple active members that are benefitting from the organisations services
4. Support the overarching values and principles of the Alliance and [The Seven Principles of Public Life - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Application process**

Applications can be submitted via a [webform](#).

All applications will be reviewed by the Alliance staff and may be presented to the Alliance Board for the final decision. We aim to review all applications and notify applicants of the outcome at least 2 weeks before the next Forum meeting.

### **If your application requires further documents**

We will write to you if your application requires further documentation/supporting information to progress.

### **If your application is not accepted**

We will write to explain the reason for this.

### **If your application is accepted**

We will write to inform you that your application has been successful and ask that the Membership Agreement provided is signed by a senior manager within your organisation.

The Membership Agreement sets out the values and principles of the VCSE Alliance and benefits for members (see below). This common understanding will ensure the VCSE Alliance can work effectively as a collaborative body.

Once returned to us, you will be sent a Welcome Pack and an invitation to the next Alliance Forum meeting.

### **Alliance Values (underpinning the principles as outlined below)**

1. Bold
2. Passionate
3. Community led
4. Solution focussed
5. Creative and enterprising
6. Inclusive

The Alliance works to the Nolan Principles of Public Life, which are:

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

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

### **VCSE Alliance principles of working together (how we put the values into practice)**

- Fully participate in supporting the work of the Alliance
- Embody and act in alignment with the values of the Alliance and Nolan principles as outline above
- Declare any conflicts of interest as and when they arise

- Work to support beneficiaries and communities living across Worcestershire
- Encourage and wherever possible embed a collaborative approach
- Refrain from conduct that may cause offence or embarrassment to anyone
- Seek to ensure that no one is unlawfully discriminated against and promote equal opportunities and social inclusion

### **How we use information about your organisation**

Your data will be used by us for the purposes of your membership of VCSE Alliance Forum with Worcestershire VCSE Alliance. We retain information on your organisation on our records. If your application is successful, your organisation's name also be made public through our website. We will only share your information with others (relevant people/organisations) if you give us permission. You can request to be removed from our database at any time. Please notify us of any changes so we can keep your information up to date.

**To apply, please complete this Application Form : <https://forms.office.com/e/nrGhafvUzr>**

**Please contact [coordinator@worcsalliance.org](mailto:coordinator@worcsalliance.org) with Forum Membership questions.**