



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

Keep reading for...

- Save the date! Be part of the inaugural Worcestershire VCSE Assembly
- **Updates from Alliance research project and Mental Health Services programme**
- Guest speaker announced. Join the Community Wellbeing Roles Quarterly Get-Together
- **We are recruiting! Community Health Research and Engagement lead post**

- Invitation to ICS Academy VCSE Faculty
Visioning & Priorities Workshop.



Worcestershire's Inaugural VCSE Assembly

Save the date - 25th October 2023!

The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector plays a vital role in supporting, improving and enhancing the lives of people in Worcestershire. Since July 2022, [Worcestershire VCSE Alliance](#) has been facilitating collaboration within the sector to effectively develop VCSE services for Worcestershire people.

Join us as we extend a warm invitation to members of the Worcestershire VCSE community to participate in the inaugural Assembly dedicated to our thriving sector.

At the Assembly you will...

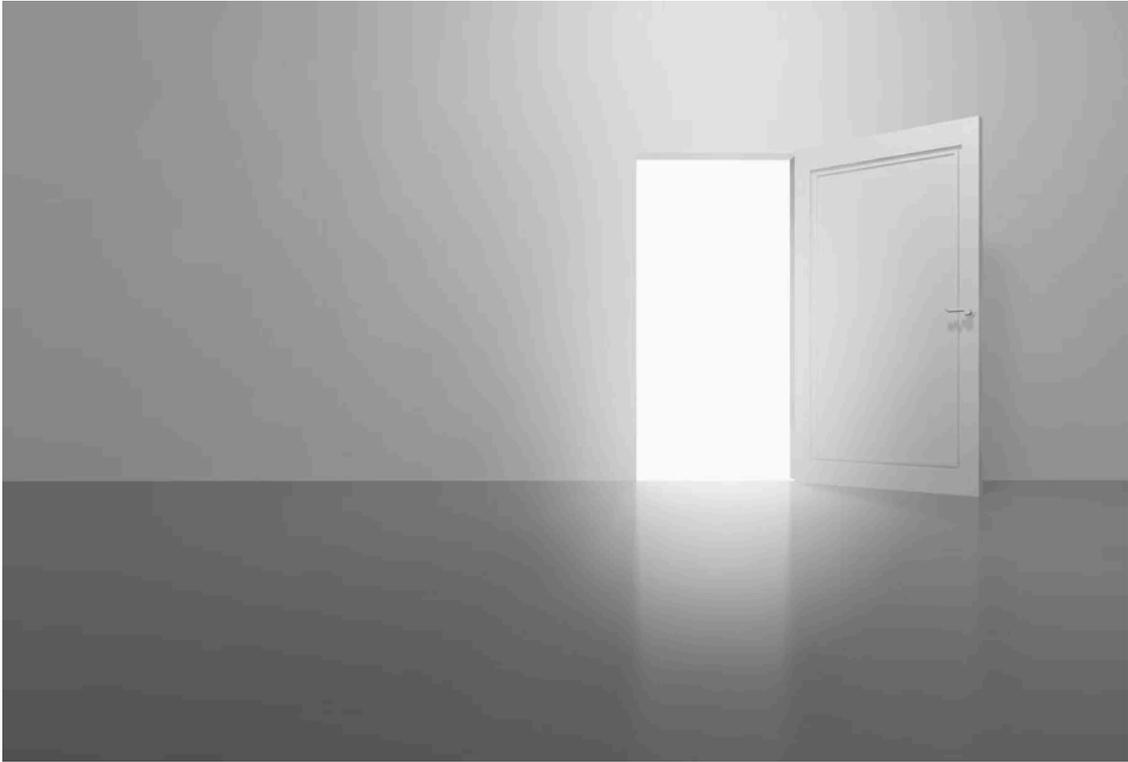
- Find out about Alliance progress and impact in the first 12 months
- Hear from speakers who will inspire and inform
- Contribute to 'Understanding and Strengthening the VCSE in Worcestershire research and evaluation project
- Help shape Phase 2 of the Alliance's work
- Learn about the Integrated Care System ICS and the part our sector plays
- Connect with colleagues old and new.

Add this date to your calendar!

**Wednesday 25th October
at St Peters Baptist Church, Worcester**

Full event and registration details will be released very soon.

Be notified when registration opens



Integrating VCSE and NHS Mental Health and Wellbeing Services Programme Update

The Worcestershire VCSE has been presented with a significant opportunity to enhance mental health services throughout the county. The project is being run by the Mental Health Steering Group chaired by Steve Brewster, [CEO of Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire](#) and Sophie Wheeley, [VCSE Mental Health Programme Manager](#).

Delivery of the VCSE Managing Emotions Group (MEG) sessions in Redditch began in August and will continue throughout September and October.

Work is also now currently being initiated to expand MEG outside of Redditch, and in addition develop the Community Mental Health Transformation Programme, with

additional link workers and establishment of a Community Mental Health Peer Mentoring Programme over the next six months.

[Read the full update here](#)



Understanding and Strengthening the VCSE Research Project Update

The Alliance is undertaking a research and evaluation project “Understanding and Strengthening the VCSE”, funded by Worcestershire County Council and led by a multi-agency steering group. The first phase, led by Peter Rose from Tiller Research Ltd is an intelligence gathering and scoping exercise focussed on collating existing information on VCSE organisations throughout Worcestershire.

The preliminary results of this intelligence gathering will be presented at the VCSE Assembly in October. Delegates will have the opportunity to discuss the findings, and contribute to identifying evidence-based actions and key research questions for the second phase of the research and evaluation project, which will be completed by April 2024.

Learn more about Understanding and Strengthening the VCSE



Worcestershire Community Wellbeing Roles

Quarterly Get-Together date announced

Once every 3 months we hold a get-together for people in community wellbeing roles*. These meetings make space for you to continually connect, support and learn with peers in similar roles.

If this sounds like a welcome opportunity to develop your learning, enjoyment and enthusiasm for the important work you do, join us on Wednesday 11th October at 10am.

Our guest speaker will be **Amber Marquand**, Health and Environment Lead Advisor at Natural England who will introduce [Green Social Prescribing](#) and the benefits of [nature connection](#).

You can also look forward to....

- **Reflections from Community Wellbeing Roles Monthly Check-Ins** – with Carole Cumino. ([Not too late to register for the September Check-In!](#))
- **A guide to Worcestershire's Community Wellbeing Roles** – take a look at the new dedicated CWR area of the Alliance website.
- **Time to chat** with others in community wellbeing roles and suggest topics for future get togethers.
- **ICS VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) Academy** – A taster of what to expect from this [new learning and development](#) offer with Academy Director Kim Sales.

Let us know you're coming

Read more about Community Wellbeing Roles Network

Apply now!

Community Health Engagement and Research Lead



Community Health Engagement and Research Lead

We are recruiting to this exciting new role

In partnership with VCSE organisations across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, the project aims to widen engagement in health and care research across the region to better **understand and ultimately reduce health inequalities**.

The project is funded by the Clinical Research Network West Midlands and will be a co-produced activity, reflecting the **lived experiences** and **health agendas** of people across both counties. Together, we aim to co-design a community-led research framework which can be sustained beyond the life of this project.

Could you be the person to lead this important Community-Led Health Research and Prioritisation Project?

- **Salary : £32,000 pro-rata (£19,200)**
- **Hours : 22.5 hours per week**
- **Duration : one-year contract initially**

Closing date for applications is 25th September

[View full role details here](#)

[Read about the project here](#)

ICS Academy VCSE Faculty



Visioning & Priorities Workshop

**Invitation to inform joint vision, purpose and
priorities for our VCSE Faculty**

As many of you know, Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICS Academy provides a model of inclusive workforce development, education, training, and upskilling opportunities for our health and care staff, including volunteers.

The ICS Academy includes a dedicated [VCSE Faculty](#). This will position local VCSE organisations and workforce as a key enabler within new ICS Integrated Care Programme design, commissioning & delivery.

This workshop will form our key inaugural development session to set the joint vision, purpose and priorities for our ICS VCSE Faculty workforce development.

Monday 25th September 2023

1.00pm – 5.00pm with lunch & refreshments

Age UK Worcester: Malvern Gate, Bromwich Road, Worcester, WR2 4BN

[Read more and register here](#)

Worcestershire VCSE Alliance website

Unsure of how the Alliance works? Where you fit in? What the ICS is? All of these questions are answered on our comprehensive new website.

Visit now to find exclusive VCSE [learning opportunities](#), [jobs](#), [sector news](#) and a bank of helpful [resources](#).

[Visit the Alliance website](#)



Better done together

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Worcestershire VCSE Alliance

The Alliance mission is to build a **stronger VCSE sector working together effectively to deliver excellent services aligned to need.**

We work alongside statutory agencies using our influence and insights to bridge the gap that exists between voluntary and public sectors, **helping to improve public services to better meet the needs of our local population.**

In its current phase, the Alliance is made up of 25 voluntary and community sector leaders. This phase is being used to establish governance and priorities, embed principal ways of working and identify initial VCSE workstreams.

The 2nd phase will begin in July 2023. Progress to date will be

**If you have any questions or comments,
please contact kay@worcsalliance.org**



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