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## Worcestershire VCSE Assembly

**‘a reminder of the important role VCSE organisations play in supporting health and wellbeing’**

On 25th October we held the first Worcestershire VCSE Assembly, welcoming 100 people on the day. 71% of the delegates represented VCSE organisations, 27% were from statutory organisations and 2% were independent.

Since it was founded in July 2022, the Alliance has made great strides in its first phase. As we embark on the next phase, participants at the Assembly were invited to share ideas and experiences to help develop an Alliance that offers support and

connections to all VCSE voices. Thank you to Alliance Founder Members and other colleagues who facilitated these lively conversations.

*'It was a really interesting and thought-provoking event as well as a chance to network with a wide variety of Worcestershire based charities and explore the future of collaborative working and better connection within the Integrated Care System. Most importantly yesterday reminded us of the important role VCSE organisations play in supporting the local community's health and wellbeing.'* – VCSE delegate

100% of the post-event feedback respondents said they would like to attend a future event of this kind. We hope this that will be the first of many events that will connect and strengthen the sector.

[View event summary and photo gallery](#)

[View speaker slides](#)

[View participating organisations](#)

[Express interest in becoming an Alliance member](#)

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## Worcestershire VCSE Alliance updates

### General Practice Worcestershire

### Developing new ways of working

Esther Passingham, VCSE Strategic Lead for Worcestershire presented at the General Practice Worcestershire – All Practice Event on 9<sup>th</sup> November. This was an opportunity for Worcestershire VCSE Alliance to showcase the progress made in connecting and strengthening the VCSE sector since its foundation in July 2022.

Esther Passingham said *'understanding the ways of working between partners in our System is vital in building relationships and developing new ways of working aligned to the [Fuller Stocktake recommendations](#). Being invited to be part of the General Practice Worcestershire – All Practice Event demonstrates the value of the role the VCSE plays in the System effort to address health inequalities through prevention services.'*

Esther joined Worcestershire Acute Trust, Worcestershire Health and Care Trust, Social Care, Public Health and the ICB in presenting an overview of how partners are working together as a Integrated Care System.

[Read the full update here](#)

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# Herefordshire and Worcestershire

## Integrated Care System

### Winter Briefing

### Working together to support the countywide winter plan

As health and care partners across Worcestershire prepare for what we expect will be a very challenging winter, partners were invited to a multi-agency briefing to hear about some of the additional developments and new services that will help to support our countywide winter plan.

The briefing spotlighted some of the actions being taken by our Integrated Care Board, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Worcestershire County Council, primary care and our voluntary and community sector colleagues to keep local people safe and well this winter, and to ensure that all parts of the health and care system are working to support each other.

[Watch the briefing here](#)

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## Understanding and Strengthening the VCSE

### Alliance project update

The Worcestershire VCSE Alliance is undertaking a major research and evaluation project “Understanding and Strengthening the VCSE”, funded by Worcestershire County Council. The first phase of this project is an intelligence gathering and scoping exercise, and is being led by Peter Rose from Tiller Research Ltd.

This first phase has focussed on collating information on VCSE organisations throughout Worcestershire, identifying geographic reach and the range of work being undertaken. Preliminary results of this intelligence gathering were presented at the VCSE Assembly in October.

The final element of phase 1 will focus on collating information on unincorporated community groups, and on other activities delivered in Worcestershire by VCSE organisations that are not registered locally, such as national charities with a significant presence in the county. Phase 2 will begin in January.

[View the initial findings infographic here](#)

[Read the full update here](#)



**Branwen Bingle**  
**VCSE Community Research Training Lead**

## **New project, new team member!**

### **Welcome to Branwen Bingle**

We are pleased to welcome Branwen Bingle to the Worcestershire VCSE Alliance team in the new role of VCSE Community Research Training Lead.

Branwen is a qualified teacher with a PhD, an MA Ed in Applied Linguistics and over 20 years' experience of partnership development, social science research and course development and design in higher education. She was recently awarded a PG Diploma in Voluntary Sector Management, which she has used to support a number of VCSE organisations in her role as a Communities Officer for Wychavon District Council.

Branwen will lead the co-creation and implementation of a community-led research training programme to develop the research and evaluation skills of the existing

Worcestershire Wellbeing Roles Network workforce in collaboration with the University of Worcester.

Learn more about Branwen

**Worcestershire  
VCSE Alliance  
is hiring!**



**Project Coordinator  
for Community Health Engagement  
and Research Projects**

**Apply by 5pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

This role will support three VCSE Alliance research and engagement projects, each of which aims to maximise opportunities for organisations and people to participate



in health and social care research through collaboration and partnership working. The overall aim of all three projects is to better understand the needs of communities, underserved communities and the VCSE sector.

Salary: £30,000 pro-rata  
Hours 30 hours per week  
Location: Mobile working with travel across Worcestershire.  
Leave: 25 days per annum pro rata  
Duration: This post is currently funded for 6 months

[Read more and apply](#)



## Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICS Academy Exchange

**One-stop-shop learning & development platform  
for VCSE organisations**

The ICS Academy Exchange is a learning management system and a repository of learning resources that has been created as a shared resource for the workforce of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System. It will feature a Resource Library and the first set of System-wide Training & Education Development Programmes. On the Academy Exchange VCSE employees and volunteers can:

- Complete free courses and webinars on leadership, aspirational development and coaching and mentoring

- Complete nationally mandated training courses
- Enjoy the benefits of a resources library

There are plans to host programmes such as:

- EPIC (Enabling a Productive & Inclusive Culture) Masterclass
- Developing Potential & Career Conversations Masterclass
- Integrated Hospital Discharge
- Palliative Care and EoL
- Dementia 2/ Dementia Care in Community Hospital Settings
- Trauma Informed Care
- ICB Induction

Look out for details of an ICS Academy Exchange 'Soft Launch' in December/January via an online event.

If you are interested in joining the Academy Exchange User Group please inform Ed Cording, [Edward.cording@nhs.net](mailto:Edward.cording@nhs.net)

**Learn more about the ICS Academy Exchange**

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# Worcestershire VCSE Alliance website

**Visit the Alliance news pages for updates, learning and funding opportunities and jobs**

[Inclusive Communities Fund : up to £100,000 grant available for Redditch services](#)

[The Power of Music Fund : Dementia Choirs and Music Group](#)

[FREE Fundraising Webinars for youth Worcestershire VCSE organisations](#)

[FREE Oliver McGowan training with ICS Academy Exchange](#)

[Work with SpeakEasy N.O.W - Project Coordinator and Administrator vacancies](#)

[Communications and Community Builder - with Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre](#)

Visit the Alliance website

**VCSE ALLIANCE**

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**Worcestershire VCSE Alliance**  
**Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise**  
 The Alliance is a newly formed collective of 25 representative Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations with a mission to build a stronger VCSE sector working together effectively to deliver excellent services aligned to need.

**Better done together**  
 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.

**Learn about Integrated Care**  
 The Worcestershire VCSE Alliance is an integral part of the Integrated Care System (ICS), a partnership of NHS organisations, local authorities and others to take collective responsibility for planning services, improving health and reducing inequalities across the county.

**If you have any questions or comments,  
please contact [kay@worcsalliance.org](mailto:kay@worcsalliance.org)**



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