



Member Bulletin w/c 13th March



A note from Roger Britton, Alliance Chair

Collaboration, it's easy, isn't it?

We often talk about collaboration or partnership working and say that it's in the DNA of the sector. Of course we work collaboratively, we always have and we laud it as one of our strengths. We know that we have to work together otherwise we don't get things done.

That's all true; but that doesn't mean it's easy. There is a lot of detail to be sorted out in joint working, we have to get that done and sometimes it can be

very complicated. But at the heart of successful collaboration lies a very simple thing – trust.

Without genuine trust between the people across organisations collaboration will always be a chimera. There was a wonderful quote in one of the old Audit Commission publications, “partnership is the temporary suspension of mutual loathing for financial benefit.” If that’s where we are coming from we will, in the end, fail. To get to real collaborative solutions we have to start by building trust. Getting to know people. Walking a mile in their shoes. Giving and taking. We need to start this before the actual need for technical collaboration with a capital C. We need to build trust as the broad foundation upon which we build the specifics of any particular work.

The era of on-line meetings, silly pace and deadlines and the toxic effect of the competition demanded by the Lansley Reforms means that we need to question the assumption that collaboration comes easy to us. We need to get talking, telling each other our personal stories and what excites us and worries us. We need to see this not as a frivolous extra but as core to building the trusting relationships upon which collaboration depends.

Roger Britton

Alliance News

ICS Jobs and Recruitment Fair

Promoting careers with the VCSE

Pete and Kay were at the ICS Recruitment and Careers Fair on 8th March in Hereford representing the Alliance and promoting careers with VCSE organisations in Worcestershire. Thanks to those who shared their job vacancies. It was a quiet day, no thanks to the snow. But this was a great opportunity to understand other key organisations in the system and explain the integral role the Alliance plays.



Support for those in Community Health Roles

VCSE Community Health Peer Conversation

Inspired by feedback from the Being Well in Worcestershire Event, we are organising a conversation on the future of peer support and networking for those in *community facing* wellbeing roles. The first conversation on Wednesday 19th April will be kicked off by Carole Cumino. We hope that attendees will help shape and lead on future conversations.

Please could you share the below invitation with your relevant networks.

This conversation is intended for those in community facing wellbeing roles. We recognise that each district is organised differently but examples of the roles we are looking to reach are Social Prescribers, Community Connectors, Community Builders, Healthy Lifestyle Advisors.

Roles *do not need* to be from VCSE organisations to take part.

Are you in a community wellbeing role?

Do you work with people in the community to support good health and wellbeing in Worcestershire ?



Wednesday 19th April at 11am-1pm on TEAMS

Come along to discuss >>>

WHAT peer support could look like
IF it would benefit you and your practice
HOW it could be made useful and accessible



Inspired by feedback from the Being Well in Worcestershire event

This conversation is being organised by Worcestershire VCSE Alliance

kay@worcsalliance.org for info

If you're keen but can't join on the 19th April, please register your interest by emailing Kay or following the MS Forms link below.

Link to registration/expression of interest -
<https://forms.office.com/r/1rzLj3ShQ5>

Sector News

Community Microgrants Scheme 2023

Applications open for pots of up to £250

A micro grants scheme, with a low barrier to access, is available for Worcestershire residents and groups wanting to do something in their community. Small pots of money (up to £250) can help with unavoidable costs such as initial venue hire or buying equipment. The activity or project idea must be led by a community member with the idea coming from an individual or group of residents.

Please share this opportunity with your VCSE networks.

[Download Application Form](#)

[Download Welcome Pack](#)

Important Guidance for Charities

New legislation making open spaces and locations safer

All events with over 100 participants need to follow new guidance on the Protect Duty following the Manchester terrorist attack. Formerly known as the Protect Duty, it is now being called Martyn's law after a victim of the bombing.

In order for premises and locations to fit this duty the locations need to fit certain criteria - premises must be used for the same purpose – such as a campus for example and can include locations and temporary events. It is anticipated that this legislation will become law within the next year.

Please share this important update with your VCSE networks.

Download Charities Brief

The Big Help Out

**Join some of the UK's best-known national charities
to mark The King's Coronation**

Thousands of organisations – big and small – are getting together to mark The King's Coronation by giving everybody the chance to try volunteering for themselves and make a difference in their community. From March 20th the full list of opportunities on offer, and ways for individuals, volunteer organisations and businesses to help will be published.

As a volunteer-involving organisation you can help by :

- Organising events on the day
- Sharing other opportunities to volunteer
- Registering those events and opportunities [here](#).

Please let [Kay](#) know if your organisation is planning to take part!



Learning

Worcestershire Inclusive Employment Conference

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and
Worcestershire County Council are holding an Inclusive

Employment Conference

- Gain insights into how and why you should inclusively employ.
- Learn more about the current landscape and size of a potential workforce wishing to gain meaningful employment locally.
- Hear from local guest speakers who will share valuable information, resources, and assistance to other employers to support their current and ongoing recruitment needs.

Date and time : 30th March 1pm-5pm

Venue : Worcester Cricket Club

[Register now](#)

NHS Leadership Academy

An Introduction to Cross-Functional Leadership / Integrating Perspectives

This workshop is designed by the London Interdisciplinary School to support anyone involved in collaborative, integrated working in Health and Social care. You might be leading a multi-disciplinary team, partnering with other providers, or working across services and sectors.

In this session, participants will be introduced to some key concepts, tools and techniques that will help with integrated or interdisciplinary working.

By attending this event you will be able to:

- Gain new ways to identify the challenges of integrated working (working in multi-disciplinary teams or cross-sector collaborations)
- Understand the type of conceptual thinking and changes in communication that can help you to tackle these challenges, in time-pressured contexts
- Practise applying at least one

This is a pan-regional programme with limited places.

[Read more and register](#)

FREE Training

Suicide Prevention Training for Worcestershire VCSE Organisations

This three hour interactive online training session is being run by Herefordshire & Worcestershire Group Training Association. It aims to improve skills and confidence to support and guide someone to the help they need.

Learners will be able to register to become an Orange Button wearer at the end of the session. Training is held regularly throughout March and April.

[Register Here](#)

Webinar - Sport England and NHS Talking Therapies

How physical activity can be better utilised within NHS Talking Therapies?

Join this webinar exploring how physical activity can be better utilised within NHS Talking Therapies services to help improve mental health outcomes.

Transformation Partners in Health and Care, Sport England and Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust have been exploring some of the challenges and what could be done to help more NHS Talking Therapies services offer physical activity as part of routine care, so that more people with mental health challenges can reap the benefits of an active life.

A collaborative of nearly 400 people including NHS Talking Therapies staff, sport and physical activity experts and providers, commissioners and service users shared their experiences, thoughts and ideas. Join the webinar to hear key insights, recommendations and best practice case studies.

Date: Thursday 23rd March 10-11am

Thanks to Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire for sharing this opportunity with the Alliance.

[Read more and register](#)

Midlands Cost of Living Webinar

Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

Chaired by Karen Saunders, Consultant in Health and Wellbeing, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) Midlands. This will be of interest to a wide range of partners and will focus on the national and regional position as well as throwing a spotlight on how local areas are addressing the cost of living crisis.

The agenda will cover -

1. Further understand the impact of the cost of living on health and wellbeing outcomes and widening of health inequalities. National and regional OHID teams will present latest evidence and data.
2. Hear how the health and wellbeing of local populations are being affected by the cost of living and how place-based systems are responding through partnerships and innovation.
3. Agree what more we can do together at national, regional and local levels

Date: Thursday 23rd March 10-12pm

[Teams Link](#)

[View Full Agenda](#)

Contribute



Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System

Draft Integrated Care Strategy

EXTENDED DEADLINE for feedback

'A draft Integrated Care Strategy including a vision, mission and eight commitments, describe what we want for local people, and how we are going to work together to take action and build on existing strategies and plans that enable improvement in health and healthcare outcomes for all.'

- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System

Feedback on the draft strategy is welcomed from a wide range of people and organisations who live, work or operate within Worcestershire. You can do this by completing a survey that will take approximately 5 minutes.

The deadline for survey submission is 9am Friday, March 17th.

A final version of the Integrated Care Strategy will be published in May 2023.

Survey and Report

Learn more about the ICPA

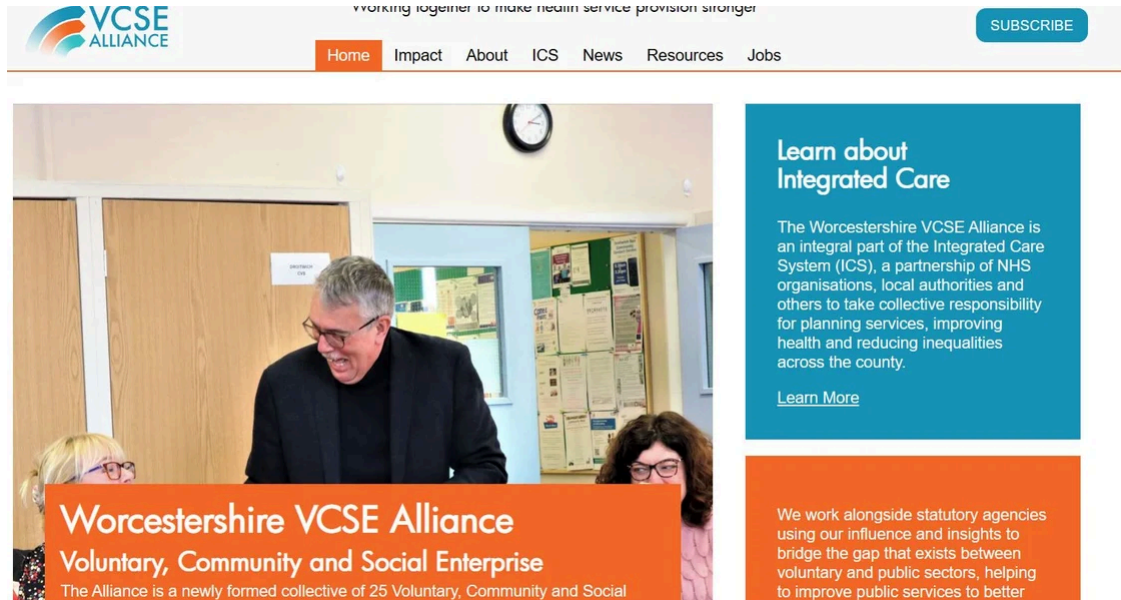
VCSE Impact

Be featured on the Worcestershire VCSE Alliance website

We will use the soon-to-be-launched Alliance website to showcase the inspiring ways the VCSE makes an impact on the lives of Worcestershire

residents. We are collecting stories for our 'impact' page. If your organisation has something to share with the sector, system partners and wider - please send your stories, news articles, videos, press releases, weblinks, photos, events (or anything else you can think of) to [Kay](#).

No deadline for this - we welcome ongoing submissions.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the VCSE Alliance website. The logo is on the left, followed by the tagline "working together to make health service provision stronger". A "SUBSCRIBE" button is on the right. The navigation menu includes "Home", "Impact", "About", "ICS", "News", "Resources", and "Jobs". Below the navigation is a large image of a man in a suit talking to two women in an office setting. To the right of the image is a blue box with the text "Learn about Integrated Care" and a "Learn More" link. Below that is an orange box with text about working alongside statutory agencies. At the bottom of the image area is a white box with the text "Worcestershire VCSE Alliance Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise" and a sub-headline "The Alliance is a newly formed collective of 25 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations".

Meeting Dates

- Alliance Member Meeting - 30th March 2023 12-1.30pm - TEAMS
- **Alliance Management Group - 11th April 12.30 - 2.30 Worcester**
- Alliance Member Meeting - 25th April 2023 3-5pm - Droitwich CVS
- **Alliance Management Group - 9th May 12.30-2 TEAMS**
- Alliance Member Meeting - 30th May 2023 12-1.30pm TEAMS



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