

INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP

ITEM 05

19 June 2024

Report sponsor: Kim Harper/Chris Pienaar VCSE sector representatives
Report author: Wynne Garnett, Programme Lead for Engaging the VCSE sector in the Integrated Care System

VCSE Sector Memorandum of Understanding Progress Evaluation

Purpose

- 1.1 To update Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) members as to progress implementing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- 1.2 To raise awareness of challenges continuing to impact on VCSE engagement as a partner.
- 1.3 To suggest areas of priority moving forward in the next 12 months.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the progress made since the agreement of the VCSE Sector MoU.
- 2.2 To consider the work required in the next 12 months as set out in the section 4 'Conclusions and Looking Forward' of the attached VCSE Sector Memorandum of Understanding Progress Evaluation Report (Appendix 3).

Reason

- 3.1 To continue to build the engagement and embed the VCSE sector as a strategic core partner of the ICP.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Last year, following extensive consultation, the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) (and Integrated Care Board (ICB)) signed off a VCSE sector Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Having a Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) MoU is a national expectation and set out the behaviours, culture, challenges and potential actions that we needed to address in order to engage the VCSE sector as a core strategic partner. It was agreed that we should review progress every 12 months and that this should come to the ICP for discussion. For information, a copy of the original MoU is attached in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 To review progress, work was undertaken to develop an evaluation tool (see Appendix 2) that asked seven questions related to key areas of the MoU with a more detailed question set for those who wanted to explore in more detail. This was cascaded throughout system partnership structures, networks, forums and individual organisations and discussions were facilitated where possible. In addition to feedback received, the progress report draws on other work including the review of VCSE infrastructure, VCSE Alliance activity and work of procurement and commissioning. Feedback from Local Place Alliances was particularly strong. The tool and the original MoU are both attached with the report.
- 4.3 The context for developing partnership working with the VCSE sector in the last 12 months has been challenging with service pressures, financial challenges and recent announcements on consultation regarding potential funding cuts.
- 4.4 The VCSE Sector Memorandum of Understanding Progress Evaluation (see Appendix 3 attached) highlights areas of progress and areas of continuing challenge. It suggests that developments are still putting at risk the system aspiration for a diverse, sustainable, local VCSE sector that can underpin and play a transformational role as we seek to increase a preventative approach and tackle health inequalities and determinants of ill health. It also pulls out potential priorities for the year ahead.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Progress report produced after discussion across the Integrated Care Partnership structures with a range of partners and feedback from individual organisations.

Other options

- 6.1 None considered.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None directly arising from this report.

Legal implications

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

Climate implications

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

Socio-Economic implications

10.1 None directly arising from this report.

Other significant implications

11.1 None directly arising from this report.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor	Kim Harper/Chris Pienaar VCSE sector representatives	11/06/2024
Other(s)		
Background papers:	None.	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Original Memorandum of Understanding Appendix 2 - Evaluation Tool Appendix 3 - Progress Evaluation report	