

Sussex VCSE Leaders Alliance

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our first newsletter!

We wanted to let you know about our work and what it could mean for your organisation. We're working hard to ensure that all VCSE organisations, big and small, can have their voices heard and be a part of the conversations helping to design and shape the delivery of health and care services across Sussex. Keep reading to find out more and [sign up to the VCSE Intranet here](#) for VCSE updates, opportunities and more!



VCSE INTRANET

A growing number of VCSE members are signing up to the VCSE Intranet, where you can share your latest updates and resources with the sector and find VCSE people and networks, such as the [East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Mental Health Network](#) and [West Sussex Mental Health Network](#).

You can also find out about the latest changes in the health and care system, and hear about the exciting work that is being done on behalf of the VCSE. Our ambition is to build a platform that provides a central point for all Sussex VCSE members to connect with other VCSE organisations, individuals or networks and share information and resources. Don't miss out – [sign up to the VCSE intranet here!](#)

SIGN UP TO OUR
INTRANET TODAY



[Sign up to the VCSE Intranet](#) for crucial VCSE updates, key contact information, learning and funding opportunities and resources.

Please note: it may take up to 48 hours for your membership to be approved. Please check your Junk folder for a confirmation email. The VCSE Intranet is hosted on the NHS intranet, so please don't be put off when you see an NHS sign up box! Once signed up, click on **Sussex Health and Care** in the menu bar and **VCSE** for lots of exciting content!

NEW VCSE REPRESENTATIVES

We're thrilled to announce the appointment of four VCSE reps to the Sussex Health and Care Shared Delivery Boards: Jennifer Twist, CEO, Care for the Carers, to the Social Care and Discharge Board; Jo Martindale, CEO, The Hangleton and Knoll Project, to the Integrated Community Teams Board; and Sonia Mangan, CEO, Carers Support, and Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, Director of Research and Development, Bridging Change, to the Inequalities Board.

These reps will be embedded within NHS Sussex and the integrated care system (ICS). Find out more about Shared Delivery Boards and the ICS below.

Additionally we currently have nearly 20 reps working on behalf of the sector across a range of health programme boards, steering groups and task and finish groups bringing the perspective of communities to strategic conversations. Watch this space for updates from our reps.

[Find your local rep and learn more about the reps programme on the VCSE Intranet.](#)



What is the Alliance?

The Sussex VCSE Leaders Alliance is an informal collaboration of leaders from the breadth of Sussex coming together to work on behalf of the wider voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. It's made up of 20 plus senior CEOs from a range of health and care disciplines, as well as those working across the wider determinants of health, for example, homelessness, housing and advice services. Our ambition is to work strategically with health and care partners to tackle health inequalities and improve population health for the people of Sussex. The Alliance is funded through NHS Sussex. For more information about the Alliance visit the VCSE Intranet [here](#).

Commissioning Framework

One of our most significant pieces of work is the development of a framework that will help shape the way VCSE services are commissioned by the NHS and local authorities in a way that improves health outcomes and reduces inequalities for the population of Sussex. Commissioning is the process of analysing needs, planning, purchasing and monitoring health services from the VCSE.

The work is overseen by a multi-agency oversight group representing local authorities, NHS and the VCSE. The group last met on the 13th September.

A second face to face Commissioning Framework workshop, with leaders and commissioners from the VCSE and Sussex ICS (local authorities and the NHS), will be held on the 18th October, following one on 18th July.

A VCSE Task & Finish Group have been providing input into the framework development. During September and October, we will engage with the wider VCSE sector to develop the framework further. [Get the latest updates](#) and find out more on on the VCSE Intranet.



Shared Delivery Boards

Following recent recruitment, the VCSE will be represented on 6 NHS Sussex Shared Delivery Boards: Inequalities, Social Care and Discharge, Integrated Community Teams, People and Development, Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism and Primary Care. Our vision is to embed the VCSE as a strategic partner within the integrated care system. Our VCSE board members will bring a wealth of sector knowledge and expertise to strategic planning, decision making and the delivery of health and care services across Sussex. To do so, they will ensure connectivity with each other across each of the boards, with colleagues across our sector and within the multi-layers of the health and care system.

Shared Delivery Boards include integrated care partners (NHS, Local Authorities, VCSE, and NHS providers) who oversee the delivery of the priorities in the [Shared Delivery Plan](#). The Delivery Plan sets out how the priorities of the [Improving Lives Together](#) strategy will be achieved.

[Sign up to the VCSE Intranet for a full list of new Shared Delivery Board reps.](#)

MOU

We're planning the development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the VCSE and health and care partners. By establishing shared principles and collaborative actions, we hope that the MOU will help foster close, effective working relationships, facilitating joint efforts to address health inequalities and improve outcomes for the people of Sussex.

[Visit the VCSE Intranet to find out more.](#)



CREATING CHANGE

Why I became a VCSE rep

As a Sussex VCSE Leaders Alliance representative Sue Livett makes a positive impact within system leadership, changing mindsets and building relationships between the VCSE and health and care sectors. The Aldingbourne Trust Chief Executive talks about her role and why she wants to represent the people of Sussex.



'I became a VCSE representative because I think it is important for the VCSE to be present where policies, objectives and networks are being developed. I specifically volunteered to sit on the NHS Sussex People Committee (now the People and Development Shared Delivery Board) because, as a Chief Executive, workforce issues are a top priority. I sit on various other boards and I'm part of various networks across Sussex. I have been actively trying to influence decision makers for years.

'As part of system leadership advocating for the VCSE, I see how the system is being designed, where I can bring up issues of concern and add value. It is a strength of the VCSE in Sussex that the sector itself is coming together and reps are feeding in and looping information back to help us understand and interact with a complex system.

'The VCSE Lead and I have done a lot of work in raising the profile and understanding of the VCSE. We also welcomed the opportunity to input into the [Sussex Health and Care Working with People and Communities Strategy](#). Since then, I've canvassed the views of the VCSE to ask what priorities/opportunities for collaboration would be useful. This has enabled us to have some tangible 'asks' as the ICS develops. I've been welcomed by several new NHS colleagues and can see there is a real will to try to do things differently and recognition that the VCSE will have a role in this.

'I'm actively advocating for the sector: identifying areas of collaboration within the ICS; encouraging more integration and skill sharing across systems; linking VCSE to networks and initiatives and reinforcing the value of the VCSE and the role we play in health and social care. These small wins all lead to bigger gains and as a result of this work we are now having conversations that have a huge impact on the health and care system.'

[See the full interview with Sue on the VCSE Intranet here.](#) If you'd like to contact Sue about your health and care workforce issues for her to raise on your behalf [contact her here](#). Find out more about our reps programme [here](#) and in the articles above.

ACRONYM BUSTER

ICS Integrated Care System. An ICS is a partnership of NHS organisations, local authorities, the VCSE and others who work together to plan services, improve health and reduce inequalities.

VCSE Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector.

HEALTH AND CARE BRIEFINGS

The Alliance Strategic Team will be holding a series of information briefing sessions over the coming months on the changes in the health and care system and how these may affect your organisation or network.

To find out more email us at the address below or [sign up to the VCSE Intranet here](#).

The Alliance Strategic Team

Our newly formed team supports the work of the Sussex VCSE Leaders Alliance. We're funded through NHS Sussex (until March 24) and hosted by [Community Works](#). We're developed through the NHSEI Leadership initiative, supporting the drive to embed the VCSE strategically within health and care systems. The team is made up of:

- [CM Kavanagh](#), Executive Assistant and Project Support
- [Jayne Ross](#), VCSE Strategic Lead
- [Kate Durrant](#), Communications Officer



Kate and Jayne from the Alliance Strategic Team at the Community Works Conference in June

CONTACT US

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