**North Yorkshire VCSE Sector Health & Care Assembly**

**Steering Group Minutes – 4 December 2024**

1. **Present**

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| **Name** | **Organisation** |
| Natasha Babar-Evans | Better Connect |
| Jane Colthup | Community First Yorkshire |
| Dena Dalton | Community First Yorkshire |
| Frances Elliot | HADCA |
| Helen Flynn | Nidderdale Plus |
| Jo Fox | Community First Yorkshire |
| Liz Lockey | Hambleton Community Action |
| Nick Scott | CoLibra Ltd |
| David Watson | North Yorkshire Sport |

1. **Apologies**

Rachel Allen, Bryony Boyle, Leon Fijalkowski and Abbie Rhodes

1. **Minutes of previous meetings**

The minutes of the 21 August 2024 meeting were accepted as a true and fair record of events.

The minutes of the 16 October 2024 meeting were accepted as a true and fair record of events.

***Action:*** ***Natasha Babar-Evans to invite Dr Annie Irvine to make a presentation to the Assembly meeting in February 2025.***

1. **Impact of NIC changes**

Jane highlighted Community First Yorkshire’s survey gathering intelligence on the impact of increased NIC charges on VCSE organisations. She flagged availability of the Employment Allowance on Class 1 NIC under £100,000 whereby eligible organisations can claim a £10,000 employer’s allowance. The cost to Community First Yorkshire will be £20,000 over the coming year.

Francis reported a cost neutral position for HADCA, but said some larger local organisations had been significantly impacted.

Liz reported an increase of just over £5000 for Hambleton Community Action at current staffing levels.

David reported additional cost of between £10-£15,000 for North Yorkshire Sport. He also reported on how Councils have discretion to give 100% rate relief and not just the standard 80%. He suggested collectively lobbying on behalf of the sector for this across North Yorkshire.

***Action: Jane to raise this issue with local Councils and MPs.***

Helen reported no net difference for Nidderdale Plus in relation to increased NIC charges. However she said that following increases in living wage allowances – they are having to review salaries to keep pay differentials. She also flagged the first uplift in funding for Council announced in the budget since 2011 and would like to know where this will be spent.

Natasha reported an additional cost of £15,000.00 for Better Connect which will have to come from reserves.

She also highlighted how SPF grants must be spent by the end of March and how there will be no roll over of these. Continuation funding is estimated to be 60% of last year’s budgets and will largely be based on project’s previous successful delivery. It is unclear if future SPF funds will be channelled through Local Authorities or Combined Authorities. Skills Innovation Funding of @ £2 million will be launched in early 2025, but most likely making awards in Autumn 2025 – resulting in a funding gap. A Trailblazers Fund has been announced, which will be for 12 months only, but no details are available at present.

Jane reported on how central government decisions are causing delays in funding programme awards, such as the Defra grant to support rural community councils like Community First Yorkshire. Current Defra funding comes to an end in March 2025. She suggested that instability of funding needs to be included on organisations risk registers.

Liz reported on perceived fears amongst organisations such as NACVA and NCVO about how the Government understands and will deal with the Third Sector. This despite record numbers of MPs having previously worked in the Third Sector.

Abbie reported that UDCP are facing an increase of at least £10000 which will wipe out most of any surplus made. She reported on worries about the impact on the many independent and family run businesses in Hawes.

1. **Independent Care Group – Market Representative Body**

Jane updated members on the grant awarded to a partnership comprising the Independent Care Group, Carers Plus and Community First Yorkshire to coral the needs of the VCSE sector delivering care across North Yorkshire.

1. **Round up of local assembly activities**

Helen Flynn/ Nidderdale Plus

* Involved in the Research Champions work alongside Abbie at the Upper Dales Community Partnership.
* Delivered 3 additional Digital Champion sessions in remote rural communities following additional SPF funding secured. Fewston has 10 people attending each week and 6-7 in Lofthouse.
* The Community Navigator (Social Care) pilot is now up and running, but there has been little engagement or understanding from North Yorkshire Council’s social workers. Helen continues to try to join up work. This pilot now includes people not on NYC’s radar or in receipt of Care Packages but who are known to Nidderdale Plus.
* Now have a branded electric car.
* Community transport services are getting busier and busier.
* Harrogate Hospital have appointed a volunteer driver, paying 0.45 per mile (including) dead mileage. He lives in Middlesmoor – possibly the furthest place from Harrogate hospital. The driver also volunteers for Nidderdale Plus. Helen asked why they are not using community transport options and why they are wasting tax payers’ money in this way.

Liz Lockey/Hambleton Community Action

* The Suicide Prevention Model is working through the Mental Health Forum and Citizens Advice have provided some additional funding.
* Work on social isolation and loneliness in Richmondshire is ongoing.
* Successful VPPP application to work with veterans and families.
* Taking over the work of Parents of Special Children in Hambleton (POSCH) in July 2025.
* Taking over the running of Northallerton Talking Newspaper who have run out of funding.
* Slight increase in numbers of people with addictions and dependency issues.
* Continuing to have lots of informal conversations with people and access to services remains an issue.
* Hope to have delivery of a new electric wheelchair accessible vehicle in early 2025.
* Work on the ICB commissioned community transport project continues. Changes to patient transport eligibility is coming through.
* The 31st March is a looming cliff edge for organisations and staff, with a dearth of replacement/new funding programmes being announced.

Francis Elliot/Harrogate and District Community Action (HADCA)

* HADCA were asked by their Local Area Committee (LAC) to use their Chief Officers and Chairs Group to discuss how the LAC could support the work of charities in Harrogate Town and the big issues presenting. A diverse group of charities attended, all female-led with large female workforces, meaning that HNYHCP’s focus on menopause support and allowing the VCSE access to this training and resources has positively benefitted the VCSE workforce.
* Issues raised relating to health included:SEND Groups seeing people with increasing complexity of need and services reporting increased numbers of adults and children with SEND. People are having to get private diagnoses which are not recognized by GPs, so there is no access to medication, resulting in families in crisis. Some are resorting to paying for private prescriptions, but there is little guidance on pricing, so some are overpaying. People with SEND and poor mental health are struggling to cope with long online forms and difficult to navigate websites; Mental Health **–** increasing numbers of young people adopting harmful coping mechanisms because of their mental health and long waiting times for counselling services in High Schools because of schools’ budgets.
* Community First Yorkshire championed HADCA’s volunteering project for young people in Ripon (Power of 10) to the Humber and NY Health and Care Partnership. Jo Thackwray, our Power of 10 Co-ordinator has met with Susanna Glover, the new Strategic Health Lead at Humber and NY to explain what she has been doing and how it has been working.
* Jackie Rowbottom from the Macmillan Cancer Support team at Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust is working with HADCA and other local community organisations to connect people living with and beyond cancer to provide support and activities for their physical and emotional recovery.
* HADCA will be one of the community beacons attending Harrogate Hospital’s Sir Robert Ogden Centre in January with information and signposting. The plan is for different groups to attend each month, to ensure community support is better woven into the patient’s journey.

Abbie Rhodes/Upper Dales Community Partnership

* Research Champions training day rescheduled due to trainer’s car accident.
* National funding secured to increase diversity in health research across Humber and North Yorkshire Health Care Partnership.
* A new second hand community bookshop and pantry will open on Monday 9th December in the town centre to increase access from 3-5 days a week. The shop is being run by volunteers with office staff filling any gaps in the rota.
* From February 2025, UDCP will have a permanent space in the local Extra Care Housing facility which will accommodate their Upper Dales Home Carers. Hoping to take on an additional carer in the near future as the current carer is working at capacity.

Natasha Babar-Evans/Better Connect

* Focus on programme evaluations for future funding
* The White Paper – Getting People Back to Work has strong links between employment and health.
* Concentrating on lobbying for fair and equal partnership work

David Watson/North Yorkshire Sport

* Working with Sport England on place based working models for universal and targeted support
* Mayor’s vision statement includes two references to sports and health. Meeting scheduled with the Mayor in the new year to better understand how this will play out.
* Feasibility study with military populations – serving and veterans to better understand this group. Early findings suggest that vets have a desire for social action, physical activity/exercise needs reframing in light of injuries/disabilities, levels of understanding differ around what is meant by physical activity and vets don’t know what they don’t know – so potential links here with Community Anchor Organisation support offers. Findings due to be presented later in 2025 and possibility of a future knowledge transfer partnership bid with two universities.
* Part of the Northern Culture All Party Parliamentary Group Report looking at the role of sport

in culture.

* North Yorkshire Council’s Cultural Strategy does not recognise the role of sport in culture – something being worked on.

Dena Dalton/Community First Yorkshire

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| **LCP** | **Priority** |
| East Coast and Rural | Children and Young People, Transport and Rurality, Mental Health and Cardio Vascular Disease |
| Vale and Selby | Mental Health, Frailty and CVD |
| Harrogate and Rural | The next in person meeting will take place this week in Knaresborough. Still in its development phase but looking at how to bring in/engage the VCSE sector. |
| Hambleton and Richmondshire | Priorities being further clarified at a meeting this Friday. |

* Processes are still evolving at the North Yorkshire Place level.
* To date there have been two rounds of Health Inequality funding. The first round through LCPs and the second round was more widely open. Bids amounting to over £3 million were received for round two against an allocation of £0.5 million. Looking at where allocations have been made, it appears that funding has focussed on areas of multiple deprivation. Dena provided the following list of projects awarded funding:
  + Fisherman Seafit Programme
  + Menfulness Scarborough
  + Community Health Hub
  + My Happy Mind
  + Community Health and Wellbeing Worker programme – Embed, Expand and Sustain
  + Reducing unplanned pregnancy and optimising support for young parents
  + NY H&C Partnership Population Health Programme Resource
  + Population Health and Inequalities Education and Training Programme.

1. **Commissioning Principles**

Jane reported on the Collaborative and Thriving Communities Partnership Meeting and shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Principles of Commissioning with the meeting. A general discussion on commissioning followed, which included: power imbalances and financial risks for VCSE organisations; watering down approved provider lists; full cost recovery; procurement law changes; social value and the costs of demonstrating this; the Combined Authority use of dynamic purchasing and North Yorkshire Council’s APL and the need for consistency.

***Action: Jane to forward copies of the slides for members.***

***Action: Members to share with wider partnerships ad to provide feedback key asks regarding commissioning principles.***

1. **2024 achievements and ambitions for 2025**

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| **Organisation** | **Achievements** | **Ambitions** |
| Better Connect | Continuation of Rise to Thrive programme which supports individuals with health and complex barriers back into employment. | Want to do more of this type of work.  Impact event to understand and shine a light on how best to support economically inactive individuals with complex needs. |
| HADCA | Prevented 89 falls through HELP services  The impact of the Volunteer Projects on supporting positive health and wellbeing outcomes.  Links developed with Harrogate Hospital’s Ogden Centre | Continuation funding  Working with the LCP  Development of an environmental/green wellbeing project |

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| **Organisation** | **Achievements** | **Ambitions** |
| Hambleton Community Action | Community Space opening – social supermarket model is encouraging people to connect, volunteer and access services.  By Your Side Advocacy Lite Service  Developing relationships with LCP and Health Inequalities work | Continuation funding  Project expansion – Supporting Volunteering and By Your Side  Adapting |
| Nidderdale Plus | First Impact Report produced and now embedded across the organisation  Social care pilot started  Consolidation of befriending scheme  Digital Champions project now in its 4th year and with growing demand  Charity shop’s grant programme to meet unmet needs | Being part of the Research Ready network  Period of consolidation following organisational development and change. |
| North Yorkshire Sport | Number of different programmes delivered.  Get Moving project led to new Selby LCP funded project  Joint funded Public Health Manager Post  Development work to deliver Active North Yorkshire Leisure Services and role in supporting health and social care  Awarding £750,000 in grants in support with SPF monies | Working with the Mayor to make a reality his two references to sports and physical activities in his vision statement.  Embedding place based approaches.  Being one of 10 new pilot Sport England Universal Offer Place Pilots.  Team looking at the role of physical activities in supporting the health and wellbeing of 0-5 year olds. |

1. **Agenda items for future meetings**

An update on the VCSE Collaborative.

1. **Any other business**

Jo Fox asked for case studies from members for use in her work as part of the VCSE Collaborative Comms Group, in E-News and on the website. She will provide a link in the minutes to a case study template for completion.

The date of the next scheduled meeting on February 26th, 2025, clashes with CAO and Thriving Communities meetings so an alternative date is being sought.

Dena flagged the Community First Yorkshire and Healthwatch rural health summit in Easingwold on 21 March 2025, which will look at local health care issues and solutions.

1. **Dates of future meetings**

Update: this has now been set as 5 March, 2025 10-12 at Better Connect in Knaresborough.

23 April 2025 – 10 am – 12 pm, in person at Upper Dales Community Partnership in Hawes.

25June 2025, 10 am – 12 pm online

27 August 2025, 10 am – 12 pm in person – location to be determined.

1October 2025, 10 am – 12 pm online