

North Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Report Title	MOU – Integrated Care System and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (collectively known as the VCSE)
Report Author	Russell Rolph, Chief Executive, Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire

List of Appendices

Appendix A – MOU between the ICS and the VCSE

Appendix B – NHS Guidance on the Role of the VCSE in the ICS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report tables an MOU between the ICS and the VCSE, an important element of NHS Guidance for all ICSs across the UK.

2. Executive Summary

- 1.2. There is a requirement for all ICSs to embed the VCSE into their system, both at a strategic and Placed Based level. As part of this process each ICS should adopt an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the system in all its component parts and the VCSE sector. The MOU is a set of high-level principles which both the system and the VCSE should adhere to. It does not prevent any other Terms of Reference which may be required in any other specific part of the system. The MOU should be reviewed annually by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board ratify and endorse this MOU.
- 3.2 Ratifying this MOU sets the relationship between the system and the VCSE. It ensures a set of shared principles and undertakings from both parties which cements better and more effective working relationships. The ICS is about delivering different results for communities around the wider determinants of health, particularly at a local or Neighbourhood level through Area Partnerships. As the VCSE is a conduit into differing communities and cohorts

these shared principles and undertakings are vital to the effective throughput of ICS outcomes.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Integrated Care System went live in Northamptonshire on the 1st of July 2022. As part of the ICS framework there is a requirement (laid down by NHS Guidance) that the system embeds the VCSE into its work. NHS England believe that the VCSE is vital to ensuring that the ICS delivers effective and economic services into communities and in that regard is an equal partner. Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire is the systems appointed choice as NHS VCSE Broker into the ICS and is the recipient of Health Equality Grant Funding (known as Connect Northamptonshire) which amounts to £448K over the next three years. As NHS VCSE Broker, VIN is bringing the system wide MOU with the VCSE for consideration and endorsement.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The MOU establishes a set of high-level principles which the system and the VCSE should work to. The success of the ICS in respect of the wider determinants of health will require new and intuitive ways of working to deliver different results for communities, and the VCSE has a role in supporting this as engagers, brokers and in the delivery of services. The VCSE is already represented in three of the four clinical collaboratives (Mental Health, ICAN and CYP) and has a VCSE Assembly populated with 380 members and 11 Thematic Groups. Over and above this, other networks can access a further 1600 VCSE organisations and our value to Northamptonshire is considerable. By adopting the MOU, the Health and Wellbeing Board ratifies a commitment to working with the VCSE around a set of shared principles and undertakings. The board has several choices:

- To adopt the MOU.
- To adopt the MOU with amendments.
- To reject the MOU.

Rejection of the MOU will have implications on the relationship between the system and the VCSE, on which it might, could or should rely to deliver services, engage with communities, provide intelligence, assess impact, and support development and growth programmes.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

6.3 Risk

There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

6.4 **Consultation**

6.4.1 This MOU has been circulated to the ICB Chair and ICS CEO, the Directors of Place, and the Directors and Deputy Directors of Adult Social Services. It has also been circulated to all partners engaged in the Health Equalities Grant Phase 2 submission with the Lottery, in addition to the wider VCSE which includes the VCSE Assembly Board and the Assembly Thematic Groups.

6.5 **Consideration by Scrutiny**

6.5.1 None.

6.6 **Climate Impact**

6.6.1 None.

6.7 **Community Impact**

6.7.1 The MOU will help the community engagement process within the Local Area Partnerships as it sets the tone for relationship between statutory partners and the VCSE.

7. **Background Papers**

7.1 PAR905 NHS Guidance on **Building Strong Integrated Systems Everywhere (or Appendix B)**.