



## **TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 6 MARCH 2025**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>WIRRAL COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR SERVICE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides an update to the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee on the Community Voluntary and Faith Sector Service (Wirral CVS), commissioned by Public Health. The service is commissioned to deliver a programme of activity to support collaboration between key system partners and the CVF sector.

The report, and the work described, supports the central vision of the Wirral Working Together Plan 2023-2027 to work with partners to promote fairness and opportunity for people and communities in Wirral and delivers against all five priority areas within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

This report affects all Wards within the borough and is not a key decision.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee is recommended to note the information contained within this report and to acknowledge and support the work that Wirral CVS are undertaking to support the CVF sector and deliver positive outcomes for Wirral residents.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee on the Community Voluntary and Faith Sector Service (Wirral CVS), commissioned by Public Health.

### 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options were considered.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In January 2020 under the endorsement from the Health and Wellbeing Board, a programme of work took place with the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector. A series of engagement workshops were undertaken to identify a consensus for a new relationship between the VCFSE and the public sector.
- 3.2 A working group was established and engagement undertaken with the wider sector, to produce the first Wirral sector led plan - 'Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Coming Together Plan'. The CVF Coming Together Plan focuses on the opportunities and challenges facing the sector and the borough.
- 3.3 Wirral CVS was commissioned in May 2023 by Wirral Council to undertake a one-year pilot to help deliver the Coming Together Plan and support the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Following the success of the pilot a three-year grant was awarded to Wirral CVS from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 - 31<sup>st</sup> April 2027.
- 3.4 Wirral CVS is a Registered Charity in the form of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) established by and for Wirral's VCFSE Sector, and provides support across four key pillars of activity:
- **Leadership and advocacy** - Mobilising and encouraging community action, strengthening the sector voice and influence on key decision-makers and funders. Supporting community leaders on their journey.
  - **Partnerships and collaborations** - creating opportunities and driving effective joint working by building networks of local organisations and strategic partners – achieving more together.
  - **Capacity Building** – Practical Support to improve resilience, skills, knowledge and drive Quality. Anything from writing a constitution or setting up a bank account through to bid writing and strategic planning and includes training, resources, facilitation and consultancy.
  - **Volunteering** - building an environment in which volunteers and their communities thrive, by encouraging and nurturing volunteering opportunities.
- 3.6 Membership of Wirral CVS is open to any VCFSE organisation that is based, or delivers services, in Wirral and is free. Members elect the Charity Trustees and shape the future strategy.
- 3.7 Wirral CVS is recognised by NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action), who are the national accrediting organisation for Local

Infrastructure. NAVCA accreditation enabled Wirral CVS membership of the VS6 Partnership which supports Senior Leadership and collaboration from Local Infrastructure Organisations across the Liverpool City Region to maximise opportunities for funding and influencing policy.

- 3.8 Wirral CVS has been working with local organisations across the partnership to mobilise and bring the sector together collectively to access funding and build relationships.
- 3.9 Under the Council contract, Wirral CVS deliver a programme to co-ordinate and support collaboration between key system partners and the VCFSE Sector in Wirral, aiding delivery of the Wirral Plan, Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the place-based priorities including the developing neighbourhood's programme.
- 3.10 Over the last 12 months Wirral CVS has delivered the following activity:

- **Leadership and Advocacy**

Taken over responsibility for the development of the Representation Model which is unique to Wirral and developed by the sector to ensure a dispersed leadership model. There are now 18 opportunities for leaders to represent the sector at ICB Workstreams and Place Partnership Board – with Citizens Advice Wirral Chief Executive taking on the role of Chair in 24/25; Cheshire and Mersey Health and Care Leaders Group and Children and Young People Network; All Age Disability Partnership; Falls Management and Prevention Strategic Group and; Primary and Community Care Programme Board.

Supported the sector's engagement in Adult Social Care Transformation, Simplification Pathfinder, Strategic Workforce Development (including the development of the Early Opportunities Pipeline and the Wirral Estates and Sustainability Programme.

Membership of VS6 Partnership, underpinned by the publication of the State of the Sector Survey and the Voluntary Sector Manifesto for LCR delivered a Mayoral Hustings Event and have delivered a number of campaigns and we have also been working closely with the Combined Authority on Public Sector Innovation programme.

- **Partnerships and Collaborations**

There are a number of partnerships and collaborations that have developed over the past year including the Community of Practice which regularly hosts 60-70 organisations. The CVF Forum has been re-established in partnership with the Wirral Council and the Volunteer Managers Forum, supported by Make it Happen have reviewed the vision for volunteering and informed the development of the Single Front Door for Volunteering work programme. The Sector Leaders Network (SLN) has continued and is beginning to review future developments including work programmes on data, assets and impact assessment. Wirral CVS has engaged and facilitated local MPs to work with the SLN which will now be a quarterly meeting supporting local child poverty work, and the development of other public services.

Wirral CVS has worked with Wirral council to develop a strategy for addressing winter pressures and supporting the development of the Household Support Fund. This work is looking at how the sector can work with public services to address the core and underlying issues.

Due to the unique model Wirral CVS continue to commission One Wirral CIC to deliver Infrastructure programmes within the Cheshire Mersey Cancer Alliance.

Wirral CVS has facilitated a review of the Coming Together Strategy with the sector which highlighted the priorities that are still relevant, but the sector would like to move quickly and further in progressing them.

Wirral CVS has supported the ICB to undertake quality impact assessments and equality impact assessments to support the decision making process, this work will explore the unintended consequences and is considering the interdependencies that exist within the sector that are often unique and less understood.

In partnership with the Public Health Team, Wirral CVS has led the delivery of £300,000 in grants to the sector of which £100,000 was UK Shared Prosperity Funding. This funding will support twenty projects and organisations that help to progress the 'game changers' within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

- **Capacity Building**

In the past year we have recruited a development worker and faith development worker who have given tailored support on funding, strategy and policy development to 98 organisations. The team has also delivered 43 events including meet the funder, trustee toolkit and skills workshops.

Including the Step-Up Fund, Wirral Green Grants and the Neighbourhood programme Wirral CVS has distributed over £400,000 in grants to 46 organisations and an additional £100,000 will be available for smaller grass roots organisations early in 2025.

A resource portal is being developed on Wirral CVS website for self-service support for organisations which will include guidance on policies, safeguarding, funding, etc

- **Volunteering**

The Liverpool City Region funding portal is integrated into the Wirral meaning that volunteers from across the city region are aware of Wirral opportunities. Wirral's Vision for Volunteering programme was reviewed by the volunteers network for impact and identified the links between public services and VCFSE to support volunteer opportunities and the link to volunteering as a pathway to employment and increased confidence and self-esteem.

Wirral Volunteering passport is in development and will provide an integrated solution available to all organisations at no extra cost. A Volunteering Training programme is in development which will support the development of volunteer managers and organisational development.

- **In Summary Wirral CVS has:**

- Reached 1200 VCFSE and Public Sector Colleagues weekly an 8-% increase on engagement last year from – over 1000 of those are VCFSE
- Increased its membership to 104 full members from 38 last year
- Delivered over 100 events with attendances in excess of 2500
- Delivered over £400,000 in grants to 46 organisations
- Developed volunteering portal which has over 600 registered volunteers and 116 provider organisations
- Provided capacity building and support to 124 individual organisations equating to 340 face to face hours – an average of 2.8 hours of support per organisation

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Wirral CVS were awarded a grant for three years covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024-31<sup>st</sup> April 2027. This grant is funded through the Public Health grant. The value of the grant to Wirral CVS is £140,000 per annum.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There is a legal duty under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 for Health and Wellbeing Boards to publish a joint local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which sets out the priorities for improving the health and wellbeing of the local population and how identified needs will be addressed, including addressing health inequalities, reflecting evidence of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Working in partnership with the CVF sector is key to delivering Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2027.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are no staffing implications for the Council arising out of the recommendations set out in this report.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 Any risks regarding the commissioned service will be managed through the Council's contracting and procurement procedures.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 The services described within this report are designed based on, and in response to findings from a range of insight, including research conducted with local communities and through working with the CVF Sector Forum, and wider CVF sector in Wirral.

#### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity.

9.2 The Equality Impact Assessment relating to this service was completed in 2023, it is still valid and can be found here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

## 10.0 ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The link between both internal and external environments and health is well-evidenced. The CVF sector will continue to make positive contributions to the delivery of Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027, which will support environmental and climate strategies, for example, the 'Cool Wirral 2' partnership strategy to tackle climate impacts.

## 11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The activities that will be led and delivered by Wirral CVS will improve the health and social outcomes of some of the borough's most vulnerable residents. This will allow trusted, third sector organisations to increase the capacity of their services and support those communities most in need.

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## APPENDICES

N/A

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Wirral CVF Coming Together Plan  
<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fhealthwatchwirral.co.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2022%2F05%2FCVF-Coming-Together-Plan-V3.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Health and Wellbeing Board	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Health and Wellbeing Board	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
Health and Wellbeing Board	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Health and Wellbeing Board	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2021

Health and Wellbeing Board	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
Adult Health and Social Care Committee	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2024