



Health and Wellbeing Board

20th July 2023

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

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board on developments within the community, voluntary and faith sector (CVF), and a new commission by Public Health with Wirral Council for Community Voluntary and Faith Sector Service (Wirral CVS), to deliver a programme of activity to support collaboration between key system partners and the CVF sector.

The commission will support the delivery of Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-27, across all five priorities, but in particular to 'Create a culture of health and wellbeing, listening to residents and working together'. It will also contribute directly and indirectly to delivering the following themes of the Wirral Plan:

- Brighter Futures
- Inclusive Economy
- Safe and Pleasant Communities
- Active and Healthy Lives

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to note the information contained within this report and acknowledge and support the work that Wirral CVS will be undertaking to support the CVF sector and deliver positive outcomes for Wirral residents.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Under the leadership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, a programme of work has taken place to understand the needs of the community, voluntary and faith sector (CVF) sector and how existing partnerships could be strengthened. This report provides an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the outcomes and developments as a result of this work.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Given the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the importance of the CVF sector in delivering the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, it is relevant to provide the Board with an update on the developments. Alternative options were therefore not considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In January 2020, recognising the changed landscape, a programme of work was initiated under the leadership of the Health and Wellbeing Board to understand the needs of the Wirral CVF sector and how the existing partnerships could be developed further.
- 3.2 The Humanitarian Cell established during the COVID-19 pandemic enabled a different way of working with the sector which was more open and transparent. This was recognised and appreciated by the sector and provided further opportunity to build upon this learning moving forward.
- 3.3 With endorsement from the Health and Wellbeing Board, a programme of work took place with wide sector engagement, identifying a consensus for a new relationship between the CVF and the public sector, and determining the following ambitions:
- The development of an 'Memorandum of Understanding' style agreement between the public sector and the CVF sector.
 - A desire to move towards a collective investment fund to drive outcome led, and collaborative, delivery of services by the sector, on behalf of the council and potentially the wider partnership, moving away from the current procurement model.
 - A need to provide tailored engagement and support to the various components of the diverse CVF sector.
- 3.4 Through a series of workshops, a CVF working group and engagement with the wider sector, the first Wirral sector led plan, 'Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Coming Together' was developed. The CVF Coming Together Plan focusses on the opportunities and challenges facing the sector and the borough, and was presented to Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board in December 2021, with the following recommendations endorsed by the Board:
- Recognition and endorsement of Wirral CVS is requested of system partners from the CVF Sector.

- Endorsement of the CVF Plan and to work together to identify and secure an appropriate level of funding to be allocated.
- Commitment to meaningful co-design with the CVF Sector.
- A named Senior Lead to act as a champion within every partner organisation to support the above points.

3.3 Wirral CVS has been commissioned by Wirral Council earlier this year to lead on the delivery of the CVF Coming Together Plan, and a 1-year contract was issued in May 2023, funded by the Public Health Grant.

3.4 Wirral CVS

3.5 Wirral CVS is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) established by and for Wirral's CVF 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 & collaborations** - creating opportunities and driving effective joint working by building networks of local organisations and strategic partners – achieving more together.
- **Community development** - providing practical support and opportunities for people to develop skills in their local community, so that they can achieve their goals and aspirations. Anything from writing a constitution or setting up a bank account through to bid writing and strategic planning.
- **Volunteering** - building an environment in which volunteers and their communities thrive, by encouraging and nurturing volunteering opportunities.

3.6 Any CVF organisation in Wirral can become a member of Wirral CVS, at no cost, and help shape and drive what the organisation does. The Board of Trustees are members, and are elected by members, to take responsibility for delivering the sector led strategy.

3.7 Wirral CVS represent the sector at the Liverpool City Region Voluntary Sector 6 meetings. This group allows for vital funding to be brought into the borough for the benefit of local CVF organisations which otherwise could not have been accessed.

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. An example of this is the new Wirral Mental Health Alliance. Wirral CVS brought together over ninety local CVF organisations both big and small to collaborate to access funding through the alliance, providing valuable access to resources which many organisations may have traditionally missed through a grants programme.

3.9 Under the Council contract, Wirral CVS will deliver a programme of activity over a twelve-month period to co-ordinate and support collaboration between key system partners and the CVF 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. Wirral CVS will also provide a regular State of the Sector survey to ensure that up-to-date information is available about the breadth of Wirral's CVF sector, its impact, challenges, and opportunities.

3.10 The programme of delivery by Wirral CVS is designed to deliver the specification from the Council and required outcomes over the 1-year period, across the following key themes:

- Supporting small groups to sustain and grow.
- Supporting neighbourhood working.
- Supporting the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Supporting Volunteering and Community Development.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Wirral CVS current 1-year contract with the Council is funded through the Public Health grant. The value of the Public Health grant for 2023/24 has been confirmed and this cost accounted for within the ring-fenced budget.

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 can be found here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT 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.

REPORT AUTHOR: Nikki Jones
Senior Public Health Manager
Email: nicolajones3@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral CVF Coming Together Plan

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report applies to section B of the Board's Terms of Reference:

- (b) To seek to meet those needs through leading on the ongoing development of a Health & Wellbeing Strategy

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Health and Wellbeing Board	15 th June 2022
Health and Wellbeing Board	15 th December 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	29 th September 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	20 th July 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	31 st March 2021