

WIRRAL PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP BOARD**28th SEPTEMBER 2023**

REPORT TITLE:	THE ROLE OF THE VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (VCFSE) IN PLACE
REPORT OF:	CHAIR, VCFSE SENIOR LEADERS NETWORK AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WIRRAL CVS ON BEHALF OF THE VCFSE SECTOR

REPORT SUMMARY

The Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) are a vibrant sector, who contribute significantly at Place to achieve better outcomes for Wirral residents.

There is more to do to help the system at Place understand the VCFSE sector's role about how better system outcomes can be achieved through greater partnership working.

This presentation in the appendix highlights some examples of the work that the sector already carries out at Place and the innovative ways the sector can help achieve better outcomes for residents. It also showcases the reach the sector has into a range of communities and how it can contribute strategically to help with planning and decision making.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board considers the information in the report and how the VCFSE can continue to contribute to making Wirral a better Place and deliver positive outcomes across the Wirral system.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector delivers significantly at Place but is sometimes considered as an additional rather than an integral part of the system in Wirral. The Place Based Board partners need a greater understanding of the contribution the sector do, and can make, and ensure the sector and involved in strategic planning and integrated into operational delivery.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Wirral Place Based Partnership Board expressed their collective intention to enhance their understanding of the VCFSE sector's contribution to health and wellbeing in the borough. It was agreed that a presentation to the Board was the most appropriate option to support this.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Humanitarian Cell established during the COVID-19 pandemic enabled a different way of working with the VCSFE sector and Wirral Council 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.
- 3.2 Through a series of workshops, a CVF (Community, Voluntary and Faith) 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.
- 3.3 Wirral Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) has been commissioned by Wirral Council earlier this year to lead on the delivery of the CVF Coming Together Plan. Wirral CVS support four 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.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

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

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 If the VCFSE are not engaged as system partners by health and care organisations there is a risk that the vision, objectives and ambition for improving the health and wellbeing of our population will not be realised.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Engagement with system partners has taken place with the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector to contribute to this report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for this report, although greater Place working with the VCFSE sector will achieve greater inclusion and equality for Wirral residents.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The link between both internal and external environments and health is well evidenced. The VCFSE 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

Appendix 1 - Presentation – Wirral VCSFE sector: Role in Place based system
Appendix 2 - CVF Coming Together Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

N/A