



Lancashire and
South Cumbria
**VCFSE
Alliance**

Connected • Supported • Influential

Tracy Hopkins
Chair, Lancashire and South Cumbria
VCFSE Alliance

www.healthierlsc.co.uk/VCFSE

The Power of the VCFSE Sector

- We reach people others can't—building trust in communities others struggle to engage.
- We respond quickly, flexibly, and compassionately to local needs.
- We collaborate, —sharing resources, knowledge, and networks.
- We amplify voices that are often unheard.
- We deliver real social value, not just services.

We're the glue that holds communities together.



Our Strengths in Action

- Embedded in local life—our work is shaped by lived experience.
- Driven by purpose, not profit.
- Volunteers and grassroots energy power our impact.
- We innovate quietly—finding creative solutions with limited resources.
- We build bridges between sectors, services, and people.



Where We Struggle

- We don't always measure our impact in ways funders understand
- We're modest—sometimes too modest—about our achievements.
- We're stretched thin, making strategic planning a luxury.
- We often work in silos, despite our collaborative spirit.
- We're brilliant at doing—but not always at documenting.



Unlocking Our Full Potential

- Support to tell our story—data, comms, and advocacy.
- Investment in capacity, not just delivery.
- Respect for our expertise—not just consultation.
- Space to lead, not just follow.
- True partnership with NHS, local authorities and funders.



What is the LSC VCFSE Alliance?

The **V**oluntary, **C**ommunity, **F**aith and **S**ocial **E**nterprise (**VCFSE**) Alliance is a collaborative partnership of VCFSE organisations in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

- A strategic partnership of Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations across Lancashire and South Cumbria.
- Formed to embed the VCFSE sector within the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and wider health and care systems.
- Acts as a collective voice for the sector—ensuring representation in decision-making at neighbourhood, place, and system levels



Why was the Alliance formed?

The Alliance was formed because we believe that all lives in Lancashire and South Cumbria have equal value, yet not everyone has access to equal opportunities.

- This inequality has a dramatic impact on health outcomes and places demands on the health and care system.
- The Alliance seeks to ensure the VCFSE sector's collective efforts are recognised and integrated into the broader health and care landscape.



How does the Alliance operate?

The Alliance operates by building partnerships among VCFSE organisations and with other stakeholders like the NHS and the **I**ntegrated **C**are **B**oard.

Our work is structured around key aims:

- Partnership Agreement
- Representation & Voice
- Digital & Data
- Workforce
- Commissioning & Procurement



Partnership agreement

Signed in 2023, the agreement sets out joint commitments to create a **more equitable relationship between the VCFSE and statutory sectors**, which will require a **shift in power and resources and increased collaboration**.

David Flory, chair of Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB, said:

“This agreement is a clear statement of our intent to change the way we work as strategic partners with the sector. It’s recognised that VCFSE partners have a lot to contribute in our collective endeavours to improve health outcomes for the population of Lancashire and South Cumbria and I look forward to us continuing to develop our relationship and work collaboratively together in the future.”



What has the Alliance achieved?

- Secured funding from the ICB to build a network of representatives across the boards, decision making bodies and places the VCFSE should be to influence change.
- Influenced commissioning of Urgent & Emergency Care to route funds via the Alliance into the VCFSE sector – this work have had a significant impact in Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen for people experiencing some of the most significant health inequalities.
- Some of the achievements are difficult to quantify, but the traction we have gained across the ICB in terms of being listen to and involved in decisions is increasing. We will keep creating the right conditions for this.



What Challenges are the Alliance facing?

- The ICB are in financial difficulty – a difficult context to work in and with changes in personnel, we could find ourselves building relationships all over again
- Local Government Reorganisation and changes in the administration at LCC make for challenges
- We're still on the outside, we're definitely not equal partners and in some places, we're still not taken seriously.



What about the opportunities?



NHS 10-Year Plan: A Turning Point for Health and Care

The Plan's 3 Strategic Shifts:

From hospital to community
From analogue to digital
From sickness to prevention



Why This Is a Huge Opportunity for the VCFSE Sector

The NHS **cannot deliver these shifts alone**—it needs trusted, embedded partners like us.
These shifts align perfectly with **what we already do well**:

We work in communities, not institutions.
We build relationships, not just deliver services.
We focus on prevention, wellbeing, and lived experience.

The move to **Integrated Neighbourhood Teams** and **Neighbourhood Health Centres** opens doors for co-location, co-delivery, and co-design.

Our sector is already leading in areas like **social prescribing, mental health support, and digital inclusion**—we're not starting from scratch.



The VCFSE Alliance members

Angela Allen - Blackburn with Darwen

angela.allen@springnorth.org.uk

Garth Hodgkinson - Blackburn with Darwen

garth.hodgkinson@communitycvs.org.uk

Vicky Shepherd - Blackburn with Darwen

Vicky.Shepherd@ageukbwd.org.uk

Tracy Hopkins - Fylde Coast

tracy.hopkins@blackpoolcab.org.uk

David Houston - Fylde Coast

david.houston1@nhs.net

Yak Patel - North Lancashire

yakpatel@lancastercvs.org.uk

David Allen - Cumbria Third Sector Network

david.allen@cumbriacvs.org.uk

Colin Ranshaw - Cumbria Third Sector

Network. colin.ranshaw@gmail.com

Racheal Hogarth - Barrow-in-Furness

rachael@womenscommunitymatters.org

Phil Whiteley - Gateway Group (South Lakeland)

pwhiteley@ageuksouthlakeland.org.uk

Christine Blythe - East Lancashire

christine.blythe@bprcvs.co.uk

Elaine Barker - East Lancashire

Elaine.Barker@hrv-cvs.org.uk

Joe Hannett - Central Lancashire

joeh@communityfutures.org.uk

Vic Citarella – West Lancashire.

vic.citarella@cpea.co.uk

Naz Zaman – Equalities Networks.

Naz.Zaman@inclusivenorth.org.uk

Yvette Holden – Social Enterprise

yvette.holden@selnet-uk.com

Peter Lumsden – Faith Networks

pjlumsden58@gmail.com

Teri Stephenson – VCFSE Providers.

TStephenson@ageuklancls.org.uk

Shujah Khan – Rep CCPLA

Shujah.Khan@cgl.org.uk

Helen Bingley – Rep (PCB)

helenbingley1@gmail.com

Shigufta Khan – Rep (PCB)

Shigufta.khan@thewishcentre.org

Katie Egan – Rep (PIEAC)

Katie.Egan@cgl.org.uk





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