

Partnership between the ICS and VCSE partners

This checklist is designed to outline the ways that ICSs can work closely with the VCSE sector to rebuild local systems and reset the way health and care services are planned, commissioned and delivered.

The voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector plays a key role in delivering a population-based model of care, focused on the needs and wishes of individuals. They are in a strong position to work closely with ICS's to shape local services that support both health and wellbeing for local people and deliver choice and person-centred care.

This checklist builds on the 5 ways that health and care systems can work better with VCSE partners. They also reflect the recommendations within the NHS Reset report, [How Health and Care Systems can work better with VCSE partners](#).

A Defined and Equitable Role

What good looks like

	There is a plan which shows how a clear and equitable role for the VCSE sector will be developed and implemented within the ICS. This could include developing a memorandum of understanding and a set of principles.
	There is a clear position and role for the sector at different levels in the ICS, including how the VCSE can support and support neighbourhood working.
	There is the chance to make time for relationships, trust and understanding to be developed with VCFS leaders/providers and the other ICS members
	There is a lead role within the ICS for working with VCSE representatives and are they linked into and known by the local VCSE.

Building on existing Infrastructure

What good looks like

	Existing VCFSE representative bodies, and relevant others are connected into the ICS and have an agreed role in enabling the ICS to involve, embed and invest in the sector.
	There is a clear plan which is resourced to enable the ICS to build capacity within the VCSE to meet any identified gaps or respond to specific needs.

Co-designing outcomes

What good looks like

	There is an inclusive approach: including VCSE partners in decision-making at the initial stages of strategic planning and the development of new models of service delivery
	Services are co-designed with VCSE partners ensuring that the ICS makes use of their expertise and knowledge
	There are systems in place which make it as easy as possible for VCSE organisations and the communities they support to be involved in system-wide workstreams and service redesign
	The value of VCSE partners in decision-making and service design is recognised and evidenced.

Commitment to longer term investment

What good looks like

	There are specific commissioning arrangements and principles in place to ensure that VCSE activities are accessible, sustainable and flexible. This could include through strategic grants and commissioning, reducing barriers by proportionate tendering and monitoring.
	VCSE leaders are supported to drive forward large-scale workforce and organisational development work. This could include providing non-financial support for VCSEs such as inclusion in leadership and quality training, secondments and supported leadership opportunities on system work streams.
	The ICS supports calls for further national government financial support for the sector and actively engages and partners in national funding bids with VCSE organisations.
	The ICS is using the principles in the social value charter to create investment opportunities for the sector e.g. requiring suppliers to contribute to a grant fund or to build VCSE into their supply chain.

Embedded in service delivery and redesign

What good looks like

	There is a consistent approach to measuring and understanding of the impact and value that VCSE providers and the wider sector brings in delivering support.
	Alliances and partnerships for VCSE providers with clinical services are actively created to support joined up delivery.
	VCSE activities are consistently, but proportionately included in data collection and operational returns and recognise the need to resource and support this work.
	The ICS uses the VCSE sector to gather intelligence and insight, collate wider community feedback, hear from critical voices within different communities, escalate priority issues, and take action on these issues.