

Voluntary Sector North West

Who are VSNW?

VSNW is a membership organisation that connects to the region's voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector through infrastructure organisations, equalities networks and large regional and national providers.

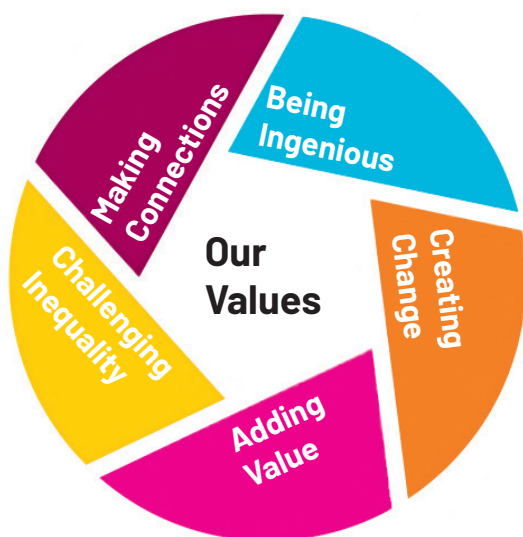
Through local infrastructure organisations and equalities networks we look to support grassroots community organisations that constitute the vast majority of the 30,000 plus groups working in the North West.

Our Mission

To work together to enable the VCSE sector to positively shape the future of the North West.

Our Vision

Through the strengths of the VCSE sector, put communities in charge of driving change.



Strategic Plan 2019-2022

VSNW has set out its priorities and goals over the next three years in its latest Strategic Plan.

Our Priorities

These are informed by our values and are underpinned by our core value of Challenging Inequality.

1. Increase connectivity within the sector

- Create healthy partnerships that deliver value for the sector in each subregion.
- Connect sector leaders to facilitate collaborations and ideas that drive investment into the sector.

2. Enable influence for the VCSE sector

- Ensure VCSE involvement in local economic and health & social care.
- Increase national investment in the VCSE sector in the North West.

3. Demonstrate value of the VCSE sector

- Facilitate commissioners in exploring a VCSE role in local development.
- Ensure that commissioners have an understanding of why a VCSE role is important.

4. VSNW is an effective organisation

- Ensure VSNW has a strong team & Trustee Board and appropriate governance.
- Position VSNW as a key component to sector influence.
- Maintain VSNW as a key player for VCSE activity and influence.

Contact Us

For more details on how to become a member, or to find out about our work please email us at: info@vsnw.org.uk

For more information about VSNW, visit our website: www.vsnw.org.uk

Our role in Devolution

VSNW has argued for the sector's role in devolution since 2014. Following the establishment of the Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester Combined Authority and election of Metro Mayors, we have continued to lobby for greater VCSE involvement and work closely with both regional authorities and NHS Trusts.

NHS-VCSE Accelerator Sites

When the NHS set up 40+ sub-regional Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) across England, VSNW lobbied for the inclusion and role of the VCSE sector. Working with NHS England and supported by NCVO, there are now a significant number of NHS-VCSE Accelerator sites across England, including Cheshire & Merseyside and Lancashire & South Cumbria in the North West.

Liverpool City Region: VS6

VSNW provides secretariat support to VS6, a partnership of infrastructure agencies and leaders that connects to the 8,600 plus voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations in Liverpool City Region (LCR). Through this partnership work, we have helped to establish comprehensive high-level connections for the sector including the LCR Combined Authority, Local Enterprise Partnership Board, the Cheshire & Merseyside NHS Board that covers the City Region.

What We Do

Facilitating VCSE Leadership

Our work in Greater Manchester has been described as the "template for VCSE involvement in health and care in England". Working with a pioneering group of leaders who describe themselves as "catalysts and connectors", we are driving a new working relationship between the public sectors and the "VCSE ecosystem". Through the GM VCSE Leadership Group, chaired and facilitated by VSNW, the sector has developed comprehensive models of representation and engagement.

Pioneering models of VCSE Delivery

VSNW has supported Greater Manchester's Cancer Champion Programme since it began in 2016. Envisaged as a "VCSE-facilitated community-led social movement", the model works with VCSE groups to develop community-led approaches to addressing cancer rates and health inequalities.

Evaluation and Research Consultancy

Drawing on our expertise and sector relationships, VSNW provides an evaluation and research consultancy service that specialises in the role and potential of VCSE organisations. Working with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) think-tank, we have helped Salford CVS demonstrate the impact of the Salford Third Sector Grant Fund and secure a multi-million pound investment programme for the local VCSE sector for the next five years.

Become a Member!

VSNW is a membership organisation. Our membership is our first point of call when consulting the sector to better understand what it needs to thrive and how we can go about supporting its activity. Membership is free and without any formal commitment, though there is an expectation that our members will support and promote our activities.

There are two tiers of VSNW membership: full membership and associate membership. Full membership is open to any voluntary, community or social enterprise organisation based in or working in the North West of England which is either:

- an umbrella/intermediary voluntary organisation with a development/support role towards other voluntary organisations;
- or a regional/sub-regional voluntary organisation or regional branch of a national voluntary organisation which is formally constituted as an autonomous, democratic organisation independent of national or local government.

Associate membership is open to any individual or any organisation which does not meet the criteria for full membership, but which would like to commit to VSNW's mission.