

Current Engagement Models

**NTCA – VCS Event Northumberland
14th March 2019**

Engagement and Support Structures

- Northumberland County Council (NCC) contracts a VCS lead organisation to deliver infrastructure support to the sector, and manage the **VCS Assembly**
- Assembly acts as independent voice for the sector
- **VCS Liaison Group** provides formal mechanism of engagement with NCC - Forum for elected members and nominated VCS reps
- NCC acts as **accountable body** to support sector where needed (e.g. Lottery BBO programme) and supports programme co-ordination
- **Empowering Communities** project - asset based community approach in partnership with NHS
- Support to **parish and town councils**

CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT

The current contract is held by Northumberland CVA but a new two-year contract will start this April to deliver four objectives:

1. Support Northumberland VCS organisations capacity to operate safely and legally
2. Improve the confidence and ability of Northumberland VCS organisations to secure funding
3. Ensure communications with the voluntary, public and private sectors keep organisations fully informed of key issues and opportunities
4. Manage the Northumberland VCS Assembly and promote awareness of VCS issues with Northumberland County Council

Northumberland VCS Assembly

- Provides a structure for effective communication and engagement
- Provides opportunities for mutual support and learning
- Promotes and raises the profile of the VCS and services provided with the public and private sectors
- Provides leadership, accountability and speaks with one strong collective voice to influence policy and strategy based on a strong, active and diverse membership

A mechanism for better engagement and influence with public sector partners and strategic partnerships to shape and respond to the challenges and opportunities facing the sector in Northumberland.

- It operates with openness and transparency.
- It values our own learning and the opportunities the Assembly offers for members to learn from each other.
- Equality is intrinsic to the way the Assembly conduct its business.
- It takes positive action wherever necessary to enable marginalised or excluded groups to become involved in the Assembly.

North Tyneside - Working With the VCS Events

Networking

- Provides an opportunity for voluntary and community organisations to come together with local authority officers (and others) on a quarterly basis.

Information Sharing

- Each event focusses on a key focus topic, but there is always plenty of time to network, share opinions, provide updates and develop new ideas.



‘BETTER TOGETHER’ strategy for North Tyneside

Building capacity of VCS organisations:

- Increased opportunities for VCS to manage Council properties
- Introduction of Social Value policy
- Funding and support for VODA’s infrastructure support services

Effective communication and engagement:

- Council Senior Manager as key liaison link between the Council and VCS
- Quarterly ‘Working With the VCS’ events
- Opportunities to feature work of VCS in Our North Tyneside residents’ magazine

Involvement in decision-making:

- VCS reps now sitting on all key strategic boards, elected via Chief Officers Group
- VCS invited to annual budget consultation events

Newcastle

- **Newcastle Compact** – a new blueprint for joint working
- **VCS Infrastructure service**
Newcastle City Council commissions **Newcastle Community Voluntary Service (NCVS)** to provide support to VCS organisations
- **Volunteer Centre Service**
Newcastle City Council commissions **Volunteering Matters** to deliver a volunteer centre for the city
- **Voluntary Sector Liaison Group (VSLG)**
 - The strategic group that oversees issues of relevant to the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) & its relationship with public sector partners in Newcastle.
 - The formal consultative mechanism for the Council for strategic issues that impact on the VCS in Newcastle
- **Boards e.g. Wellbeing for Life Board/Safe Newcastle Board**
- **Newcastle Funders Fair**
 - Delivered annually in partnership with NCVS
- **Unicef Child Friendly Cities Programme** – Board Chair is from VCS
- **Neighbourhood Devolution**
 - E.g. North of Tyne Community Led Local Action Group / Elswick Our Place Partnership, Byker Old Town Partnerships

The Greater Manchester Accord

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester signed a formal Accord with the 16,000 voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in Greater Manchester.

Signed on 7th November 2017.

The Accord sets out the framework for a new relationship between the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Combined Authority and the VCSE sector.

It includes:

1. building and sustaining the VCSE sector's strategic capacity to deliver the shared vision as set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy, and
2. supporting the priorities that will help make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old.

The Agreement runs for an initial 5 years from 27 November 2017.



Roundtable Discussion – 1 hour

We would like to know your views on the following:

- What key principles and commitments are important to include in a North of Tyne Combined Authority and Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Working Agreement?
- How best can the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector effectively work together to deliver outcomes?