



Letter, by email, on behalf of the SY&B VCSE Leaders Group

26th November 2021

Pearse Butler
SYB ICS Chair / ICB Chair Designate
South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Integrated Care System
772 Prince of Wales Road
Sheffield
S9 4EU

Dear Pearse

South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board –Draft constitution and board membership proposals

Thank you for your letter dated 12th November 2021, Appendix A, and the SYB ICB model constitution.

We support the ICB Board Roles and Membership proposed details and have some specific comments in relation to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector member, set out below.

The SYB ICS has an estimated 10,000 voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations with in depth knowledge of communities, and wide ranging activities and services that support the health of our residents, address health inequalities, and enhance our health and care system.

The VCSE sector has been identified as an essential partner in the delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan and we know the ‘ask’ of the VCSE will increase substantially over the next five to ten years to support delivery of national, system, place and neighbourhood health and care ambitions.

The VCSE sector is diverse because it comprises groups and organisations responding to different drivers for e.g. addressing a gap in service provision, campaigning for social change, through to providing an outlet for individual aspirations, hobbies and personal interests.

Groups may be as small as comprising 3 individuals, and have an annual turnover of less than £100 to over £1m.



Chief Executive: **Shafiq Hussain** Chair: **Sarah Whittle**

Registered Charity Number: 1075995

Registered Company Number: 2222190



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Some common areas or themes within which groups operate are:

- Housing and homelessness
- Poverty
- Advice, information and help
- Advocacy
- Employment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Training
- Geographic interests e.g. small neighbourhoods, places, and larger
- Communities of interest e.g. BME, disability, faith, gender
- Social activities
- Sporting or physical activities
- Common interests – e.g. history societies, art groups
- Transport
- Volunteering

Our research shows that a significant number of VCSE organisations identify health/welfare and social care as their main area of work.

We are very keen that engagement and contributions of the VCSE are not limited to the ICB and Integrated Care Partnership, but embedded within the architecture of the whole ICS, including at each Place and Primary Care Network levels. That is why we are keen to co-design with stakeholders and partners not only to develop the vision for the VCSE, within the ICS and its quadruple aims, but also to:

- Develop engagement with the VCSE at neighbourhood, place and system level.
- Develop VCSE participation and influence across work streams, care pathways and priorities.
- Consider ways in which we further embed the VCSE within the design of new activities and services.
- Identify opportunities to invest well in the VCSE, particularly front line groups and organisations
- Consider wider opportunities e.g. developing relationships with Trusts.

- Add value to our shared ambition with the local authorities to scale up a response to Connectedness by resourcing and supporting the VCSE (particularly front line)

We are now part of the National Development Programme: Embedding the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector within Integrated Care Systems; supported by NHS England and NHS Improvement and as part of this work, our ambition is to work with the wider VCSE to address the points above.

As VCSE infrastructure and umbrella organisations, that make up the VCSE ICS SYB Leaders Group, our role is multi-faceted; which includes to provide support services to front line VCSE. We also advocate on behalf of the wider sector, provide a central point of contact/conduit into the sector, as well as having a VCSE strategic representation role.

With the above in mind, our specific comments in relation to the SY ICB Draft constitution and board membership proposals are:

- 1) In order to be consistent with the language within the SYB ICS Health and Care Compact and the Health and Care Partnership Terms of Reference, that we refer to the additional partner member, as: Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE)
- 2) Under section 3.12 (the bullet point in blue) be changed to:
 - Additional Partner Member – Providers of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector services
- 3) Where there is currently reference to VCFS that be updated to VCSE
- 4) Section 3.12.2 a) be updated to: Be a senior leader of an Infrastructure voluntary, community and social enterprise services within the ICB's area

Our context for the 1- 4 points is within the information we have provided above and specifically the rationale is that we see faith based / led organisations as an integral part of the VCSE. We would not expect, as section 3.12.2 a) currently reads for a single 'front line' VCSE organisation or a faith services provider to have the wider VCSE knowledge and perspectives.

We welcome, our understanding, that all the ICB Board members, including the VCSE member will be a remunerated role. This is particularly important, for many VCSE organisations, as they do not have the resources to carry out the wider role expected, as in this case.



We assume that in section 3.12.5, reference to Nominations Panel / “.....nominated by their respective sector.....” would in this case mean the SYB ICS VCSE Leaders Group? Where there is any conflict of interest within the Group, we would as a group seek appropriate declarations and manage any conflict of interests transparently and appropriately.

Thank you for engaging with the VCSE and we would be more than happy to meet to with you and or the ICB CEO Designate, when appointed, to discuss any aspect of our feedback and requests as above.

We look forward to your reply / next steps and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Shafiq Hussain

On behalf of the SY&B VCSE Leaders Group



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