



Bolsover Community and Voluntary Service

Better for Bolsover Conference Report 2022





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Forward by Steve Morris, Head of Bolsover CVS Development

You said - we did:

The conference was extremely positive, but its purpose was to stoke the fire and provoke more action.

We have acted on our 5 key pledges with success in the first part of 2023, these include:

- Disseminating funding information to the sector.
- Being part of grant panels to ensure funds reached the groups most in need, during winter crisis.
- Co-designed VCSE organisation collaboratives have been formed to bring funding and resources into Bolsover.
- Developed and piloted the online VCSE group and consortia self-assessment
- Continued feedback of VCSE voice to NEDB Place Board, Bolsover Partnership, Joined up Derbyshire, Integrated Care Board, Active Partnership VCSE Alliance and Derbyshire County Council.
- New offices in Bolsover Market Square, giving us presence and access to groups, policy makers and residents.

We will continue to deliver for the sector and our ambition matches our drive. Current and upcoming work includes:

- BCVS will be leading a bid for the SPF community grants, with our plan to ensure we maximise the funds to benefit local groups and people.
- We are developing resilient and sustainable policies for the sector to ensure that you meet new funding criteria.
- Building a robust consortium on community based physical health initiatives across Bolsover.
- Continue our work with the Bolsover Partnership Commissioning Group and the VCSE Alliance to champion the need for learning and action to continue to inform practice keeping VCSE voice at the heart of developments.
- Building a robust volunteer model with partners across the district. With an evidence base of local people wanting to volunteer, but exposure to opportunities being limited.



Actions for you:

VCSE organisations

We need your voice & your stories.

To enable us to advocate strongly for the sector we need your precious time.

We need you to tell us what's happening on the ground.

- How many people are you supporting?
- What does the future look like?
- What are the risks?

We know time is precious, so let us support you. Contact the Bolsover team today 01246 605075 or email steve.morris@bolsovercvcs.org.uk

BCVS would like to recognise all our stakeholders who made this conference possible.

Rhubarb Farm, Release Financial Charity, Lloyds Foundation, Clown Enterprise & Bolsover Woodland Enterprise.

Bolsover District Council, Derbyshire County Council, Joined up Derbyshire, Active Partnership. VCSE Alliance.

Steve Morris

Head of Bolsover CVS Development

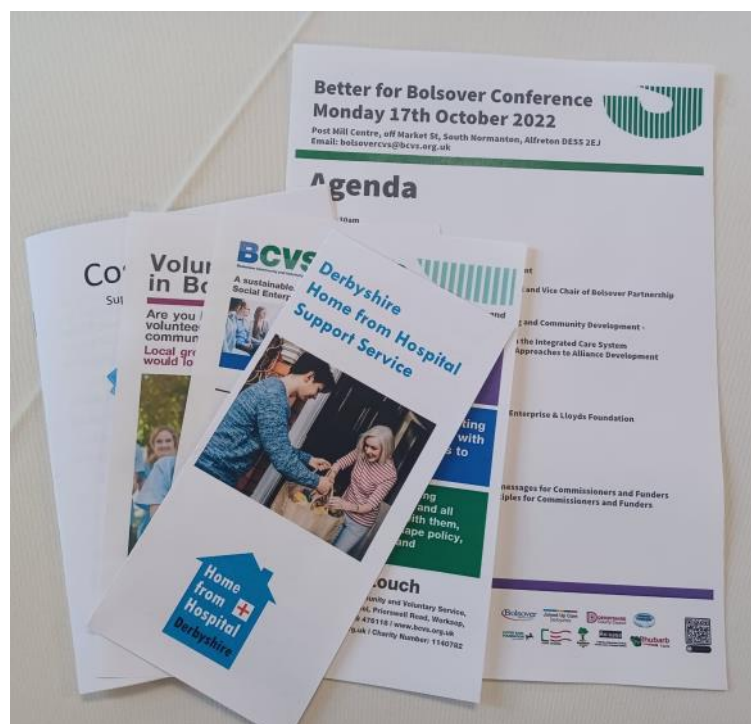


Aim

Putting the voice of communities at the heart of system development, commissioning, and service delivery in Bolsover District and beyond.

Objectives:

- Increase awareness and understanding of opportunities for VCSE organisations
- Share and amplify the voice of service users, VCSE organisations and what works to improve outcomes for all
- Secure a fair share of funding for Bolsover District to enable local VCSE groups to scale up
- Bring together organisations interested in consortia and collaborative development



Bolsover Challenges

Bolsover is a growing district, a developing district, an evolving district. It is a district rich in history, culture and industry. A district where business, community and landscape fit hand in glove. It is a district that has expertise, enthusiasm and knowledge. It is are a district that is not afraid to take risks. It is a district that has a future!

Bolsover Challenges::

- 10 of the 48 Lower Super Output Areas fall within the top 20% of areas most deprived in England [Census 2020]
- Low skill attainment [Derbyshire Observatory]
- Poor social connection/mobility [.Gov Social Mobility Report]
- Age Demographics [Census]
- 4th Least physically active area in England [Sport England 2019]
- Lower number of VCSE groups compared to neighbouring districts [NCVO Almanac 2021]
- Lower number of volunteer opportunities compared to neighbouring districts [NCVO Almanac 2021]
- Lower funded VCSE compared to other Derbyshire districts [NCVO Almanac 2021]

However we have a strong track record of excellent partnership working at both a strategic and delivery level, putting resident and VCSE voices at the core of everything we do.





Agenda and Speakers

This report documents the content of the conference and next steps in support of the aims and objectives.

The conference aimed to reignite a fire and create action. The conference brought together 6 excellent speakers to highlight collaboration opportunities and share learning:

- Kate Brown - Director of Joint Commissioning and Community Development - Joined Up [Care](#) Derbyshire. Presentation: <https://bit.ly/katebrown>
- Wynne Garnett— Programme Lead, Derbyshire Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector Leadership Programme— Embedding the VCSE sector in the Integrated Care System. Presentation: <https://bit.ly/wynnegarnett>
- Kim Harper - CEO, Community Action Derby Approaches to Alliance Development. Presentation: <https://bit.ly/kimharper>
- Jess Myers – Funding Officer –The National Lottery Community Fund. Presentation: <https://bit.ly/jess-myers>
- Steve Abson - Regional Development Manager—Coalfields Regeneration Trust Presentation: <https://bit.ly/coalfields-rt>
- Paul Davies (Enterprise Coach) & Nathan Culkin (Local Implementation Lead) - "Keep it Local" - Clowne Enterprise & Lloyds Foundation. Presentation: **(to follow)**

In addition, the Better for Bolsover conference delivered two thematic workshops:

- Wynne Garnett - Red Gem Consulting - [Learning and messages for Commissioners and Funders](#)
- Andria Birch, CEO, BCVS and Steve Morris, Head of Bolsover Development - Next Steps - Principles for Commissioners and Funders.





The conference was attended by over 60 individuals representing a number of local organisations [annex A].

The conference was opened by Jess Clayton, Performance and Sustainability at Bolsover District Council , who attended and opened on behalf of Steve Fritchley (Council Leader and Vice Chair of Bolsover Partnership).

We also welcomed Mandy Chambers, Chair of the Bolsover Partnership to the event.





Kate Brown—ICS— Director of Joint Commissioning and Community Development

Kate engaged the audience with a guided view of “What makes us and keeps us well”, those social economic factors, the effects of built environment, clinical care and health behaviours. Leading onto the many changes in health and care, breaking down silos, creating a person centred approach and building on learning from the pandemic response.

Building on this Kate spoke about the importance of integrated care, taking the decisions and collaborating with partners and place – to enable better health outcomes for all.

Utilising the VCSE as a key partner to deliver this, we are now being widely recognised as a strategic partner in shaping, improving and delivering services. Together, we can develop and deliver plans to tackle the wider determinants of health.

Kate emphasised that the VCSE has a ‘place at the table’ to shape and influence, to amplify the voice of diverse communities and groups. Commissioners are committed to work more closely with the VCSE sector as an equal partner.

Integrating Care

Decisions taken closer to the communities they affect are likely to lead to better outcomes;

Collaboration between partners in a place across health, care services, public health, and voluntary sector can overcome competing objectives and separate funding flows to;

- help address health inequalities,
- improve outcomes, and
- deliver joined-up, efficient services for people

The changes aim to **build on and strengthen** existing integrated ways of improving peoples lives, to better plan and join up care.



Wynne Garnett

Embedding the VCSE sector in the Integrated Care System

Wynne opened with a powerful slide on how contribution of the VCSE is impacting Derbyshire for the better.

The VCSE Contribution in Derbyshire

2011 County excluding City

5000 organisations
5.5 million service users
Combined value of £340 million
10,000 FTE paid staff
6000 FTE volunteers
70% of organisations volunteers only
2016 SROI befriending £800K cost £7million of value



Examples

SAIL. Cost Benefit Analysis; £300K saving to Health and Social Care through counselling
Citizens Advice. Debt advice leading for patients in Mental Health Unit increased discharge figures
High Peak Zink TV. Advice and support following research into isolation during the pandemic
Black and Minority Ethnic organisations helping to address barriers around uptake of COVID vaccinations
Crich Mutual Aid. Helpline and 200 volunteers within 2 weeks during pandemic

A continuum of this was what contribution does the VCSE make to the ICS – which included, advocacy, engagement, delivery of both mainstream and complimentary services and soft intelligence. With this in mind Wynne continued to express how integral the VCSE engagement is to the new ICS framework.

Wynne explained the challenges facing the sector, the barriers, competition and capacity issues facing the VCSE. Also recognising positively there is great work and intelligence coming from the sector in the form of the alliances, virtual platforms and community engagement.

Wynne reiterated that the ICS guidance wants a new approach to commissioning that is more partnership based. In addition asking for new commissioning models for delivery that best engage smaller/medium sized VCSE groups



Derby City: Our Journey to effective partnerships

Kim brought a whole new perspective to the table on VCSE partnerships and alliances. Emphasising the recent history of the sector from the struggles of austerity to the change in landscape due to the pandemic.

Kim spoke about the importance of sticking to your principles, being voluntary-led, and how Community Action Derby reduced their delivery and staff, but increased their value to the sector as the voice. She also spoke about how community grant models helped form new alliances, sustain new groups, build more capacity and embrace innovation in Derby City.

Kim’s passion for the sector and the difference it makes was evident.

Her closing remarks touched on how the system partners in Derby City have adopted a work with and not to, approach and how there are still challenges but they now feel more integrated than ever. Bolsover are to adopt similar principles.



Our Alliances / Partnerships

Youth Alliance/CYPN - hosted by CA

- 9 represented organisations which are part of the Steering Group.
- DCCT, YMCA, Sporting Communities, Community One, Children First, DCC, Safe & Sound, Baby People, Derby Theatre & developing network of VCSE affiliates.

Derby Health Inequalities Partnership (DHIP) - co chaired by CA / Public Health

- Steering Group consisting of Public Health, Derby City Council & Community Action.
- 14 represented organisations participating.

Enhancing life in Derby through voluntary action



Funding and Support:

Jess Myers

The National Lottery

Jess gave an overview of how the National Lottery contribute around £30 million to good causes every week. The National Lottery Community Fund distributes around £600m a year to communities across the UK.

Jess explained how the National Lottery are a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) delivering public funds, so they work at arm's length from Government although they are ultimately accountable to Parliament and the public.

The NLCF take a **proportionate approach to assessment and grant management** based on the scale, size, complexity and amount that you have requested; recognising that it is not a one size fits all process. For example, we wouldn't expect the same level of detail and information to be provided by a group that wanted £50k over a year as opposed to one that requests £500k over five years.

We have three main funding priorities in England which came out of discussions with our grant holders, stakeholders and organisations across the voluntary sector.

We asked them where they think we add most value and what is important for their communities.

The National Lottery grant making processes have been refreshed and redesigned to be more flexible for applicants, allowing the processes to adapt to the different types of funding that our organisations will need, particularly whilst responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

They will take a **proportionate approach to assessment and grant management** based on the scale, size, complexity and amount that you have requested; recognising that it is not a one size fits all process. For example, they wouldn't expect the same level of detail and information to be provided by a group that wanted £50k over a year as opposed to one that requests £500k over five years.



The NLCF can support groups to:

- Continue to deliver activity, responding to the immediate crisis or recovery
- Change, adapt and become more resilient to respond to future challenges.

They have re-opened their main responsive funding programmes.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes?location=England>

Partnerships

This is managed by the regional teams.

Aimed at organisations and communities with an aspiration to work on larger proposals.

Reaching Communities and Partnership funding process

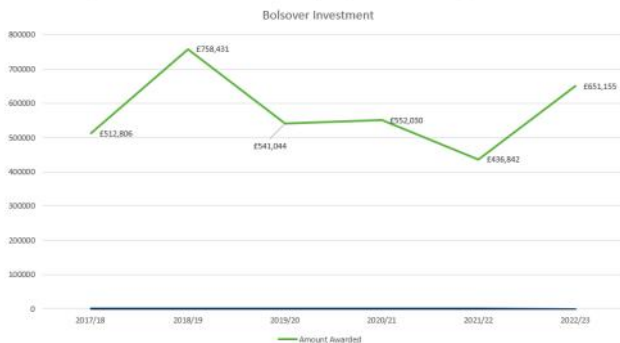
You can work at your pace to submit information.

Once information is received they will get back in touch in around 12 weeks .

Funds distributed in Bolsover since 2018:

About Bolsover

Since 2015, we have invested in 119 projects totalling £3.45m.



Examples:





Steve Abson

Coalfield Regeneration Trust

Steve spoke about how CRT have changed their model to support communities. Traditionally they relied on Government funding, they were tasked in becoming financially independent from them.

They have developed a model through property investments that continues to allow them to support coalfield communities.

Whilst they still offer small grant funding to areas, their main focus is now heavily based in community insight work. Which can be invaluable to areas like Bolsover. Steve gave an in depth view into some of the wards in our district that are highly deprived and in need of social investment.

These reports are free to access to all CRT members & membership is free.

This insight is invaluable and a welcome contribution to enabling us to focus on collaboration at a neighbourhood level.

As mentioned CRT do still offer funding opportunities, across any eligible coalfield area, under the following three separate thematic areas;

- Employment,
- Skills & Health
- Wellbeing

They can support most voluntary and community organisations who are based in, or delivering their project in, one of our eligible coalfield communities including:

- Registered Charities;
- Companies Limited by Guarantee;
- Community Benefit Societies;
- Community Interest Companies;
- Charitable Incorporated Organisations;
- Unregistered groups with formal rules.

For eligible wards please see below:

<https://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/england/regional-ward-lists-england/>

Eligible Bolsover Wards

High priority wards are amongst some of the most deprived communities in the coalfields and have an average deprivation score for the ward that ranks in the top 30% most deprived nationally.

Key: High Priority Eligible Coalfield Ward		Eligible Coalfield Ward	
Ault Hucknall	Bolsover East	Bolsover North & Old Bolsover	Bolsover South
Clowne East	Clowne West & Clowes	Langwell	Normanton
Normanton North	Normanton South	South Normanton East	Whitwell



For more information about becoming a member of CRT please contact Steve on :

stephen.abson@coalfields-regen.org.uk



Nathan Culkin

Keep it local:

Nathan spoke about Locality and the importance of a working collaboratives between Communities and Councils. The co-ordination of services at a neighbourhood level.

Nathan showcased the National “Locality” project, promoting the Power of Community. Locality is the national membership network supporting local community organisations to be strong and successful. They believe in the power of community to transform lives and create a fairer society. They have 1,600 members which create the services communities need.

Locality provides specialist advice, peer-learning, resources and campaigns to help every community thrive.

Nathan and Paul’s aspirations were to include the great work that locality have demonstrated across the 17 districts that have adopted this model and look to utilise that for positive outcomes in Bolsover.

Keep it Local Councils



‘We want to build on and strengthen our relationship with our VCSE sector as we develop a new approach to providing services for local people and communities. We’re joining the Keep it Local network because we recognise the power of learning from other councils as we make the shift.’

Toby Savage

Leader, South Gloucestershire Council



Workshops

Wynne Garnett Red Gem Consulting

Workshop Title: Learning and Messages for Commissioners and Funders:

The group discussed the challenges and suggestions to commissioners and funders:

Challenges

- Timescales – awareness, preparation, submission, awareness of holidays.
- Size of pot available – price vs quality - cost becoming bigger determining factor.
- Added value is a strength.
- Big contracts – easier, doesn't fit footprint of smaller providers – (cost effective) benefit less for small areas when county wide.
- Will to look at bureaucracy/red tape attitudes – could be other ways – grants not commissioning? – system doesn't work for smaller.
- Balance between being local + commissioning process.
- Keeping it local, not from outside asset based.
- Void of organisations in Bolsover.
- Scoring process.
- Bigger charities – Cartel.
- Models – risk of lead organisation models, what happens if one fails – impacts on other members.
- Knowing who to work with – being used as bid candy.
- Risk aversion .
- Better resources in national VCSE.



Suggestions



- Early heads up on commissioning opportunities. As many routes as possible.
- Allow time – holidays. Being on the radar.
- Increase percentage allowed for quality – increase social value.
- VCSE shapes nature of tender – evidence based – soft intelligence, data etc.
- Involving spectrum of people in scoring.
- Issues raised by communities reflected in tender.
- Smart commissioning.
- 1% shift – funding put into community-based services.
- Develop consistent evaluation mechanism.
- Smaller packages within tenders for particular tenders.
- More work to understand the commissioning framework.
- Take an alliance approach (BCVS).
- Use grants where appropriate.
- Culture change.
- BCVS voice – has to influence behaviours elsewhere in the system.

Actions taken:

Wynne has fed back all information collated from his workshop into a larger county wide paper: *Proposed framework and approach for the development of the Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Strategy*.

The paper goes to board [ICB] in early 2023 – with recommendations taken directly from these workshop discussions.



What would success look like?



Headlines:

- Bolsover receiving appropriate funding allocation in-line with need.
- Increase in local trusted relationships.
- Developing/delivering the right services + opportunities with/alongside the communities in need to thrive (timely).
- Codesign – people involved alongside (Voice) other stakeholders. Build in sustainability + robustness.
- Connections – working together, knowing where to look/access help – get model/generous leadership.
- Capacity – ex. HAF. Assessment vs funding level being x-ready i.e. commissioning ready.
- Learning – allowed to explore and learn lessons.
- Local groups delivering – more cost effective than national contracts.





How might we organise?

Headlines:

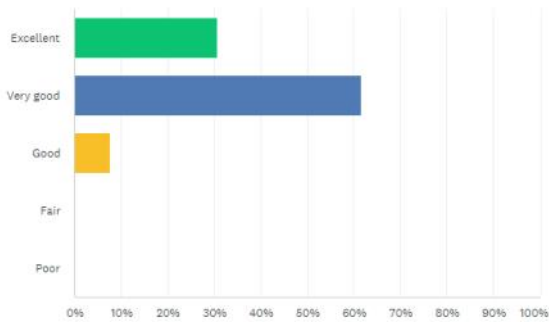
- Directories
- Mapping existing partnerships
- Shared and agreed terms of reference/pay/conditions/etc.
- All voices given equal rating
- Consistent approach to connecting
- Need neutral facilitation – suggesting new partners
- Developing shared purpose



Conference Feedback

Overall, how would you rate the event?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 0



100 % of feedback respondents rated the conference event as good, very good or excellent.

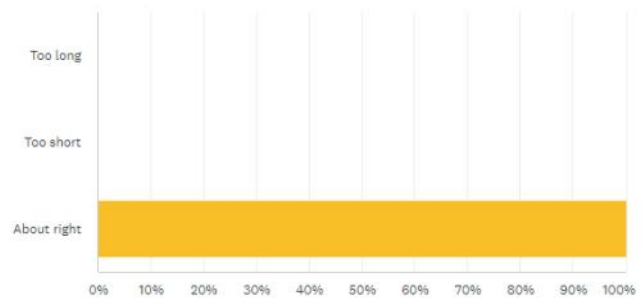
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	30.77% 8
Very good	61.54% 16
Good	7.69% 2
Fair	0.00% 0
Poor	0.00% 0

Nobody that responded marked it as fair or poor.

100 % of respondents said the length of the conference was just right.

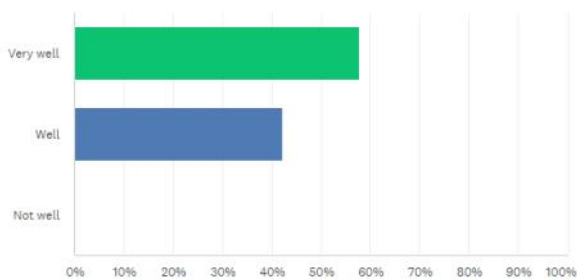
Was the event length too long, too short or about right?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 0



How well did the event address the stated aims and objectives?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 0



100 % of respondents said the conference addressed the stated aims and objectives either well or very well.



Annex A

Bolsover Community and Voluntary Service

Clowne Enterprise

Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise

Rhubarb Farm

Release Financial Charity

Active Partners Trust

NHS and Derbyshire CCG

Junction Arts

Mark Fletcher MP

BDC

Bolsover Countryside Partnership

The National Lottery Community Fund

English Heritage

DHU

Treacle.me

Community Action Derby

DVA

Derbyshire Community Health Services

Clowne Community Kitchen

Just Good Friends Club

Bolsover District Council

Bolsover Partnership

JUCD (based in VCSE sector)

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Multi Faith Centre

University of Derby

OPUS Music CIC

The Elm Foundation

Derbyshire County Council

Derbyshire Community Transport

Shift

Derbyshire Community Health Services

NHS FT

SAIL

Freedom Community Project

b:friend

Pleasley Pit Trust



Annex B

BCVS Next Steps

Building on the commitments and framework outlined in the Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS).

2022-2025 Strategy, #WorkingTogether, BCVS is committed to support the development of a sustainable, inclusive and healthy VCSE sector for Bassetlaw and Bolsover. We do this through proactive support for VCSE Groups, People and Voice which enable communities to be better for everyone.

A CVS can act as a conduit between the VCSE sector, neighbourhood, place and system.

It is imperative that we utilise this opportunity to build on what the sector wants. The VCSE is amazing, it's flexible, it stands up to the challenge and works for residents and groups. The conference highlighted again that the sector is full of altruism, passion, determination, knowledge, power, connections and most of all invaluable people.

The past few years due to a range of crisis' we have been seen as the equal partner. With that now firmly on the table the VCSE must utilise the momentum and embed itself firmly as the TRUSTED partner.

The workshops delivered at the conference have enabled us to create tools for consortia, reach out to groups and individuals that have attended for further consultation. Collating information is one thing, but turning it into action is another.

Our pledge as Bolsover CVS in 2023, as part of our primary objectives, are simple:

- Build more capacity in the sector—from grass roots upwards
- Be the strategic voice and representation of your views back to system partners
- Innovate and collaborate—to enable more opportunities into Bolsover
- Enable our VCSE partners to be ready for consortia
- Lay down the gauntlet for long term generational change in our district
- Establish consortia development - https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BCVS_VCSE_Group_and_Consortia_Self-Assessment

Thank you to all our funders for supporting our work.



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