

Agenda Item 6

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|  | | THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE | |
| Boston Borough Council | East Lindsey District Council | City of Lincoln Council | Lincolnshire County Council |
| North Kesteven District Council | South Holland District Council | South Kesteven District Council | West Lindsey District Council |

Open Report on behalf of Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team (LVET)

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| Report to | Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire |
| Date: | 20 March 2024 |
| Subject: | Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team |

Summary:

This report provides a summary of how Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team (LVET) and Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations are working within Health and Social Care. It shares key actions, achievements and challenges for LVET and the wider sector.

The sector plays a vital role in key health strategy areas including the delivery of social prescribing and personalisation and creates significant social value despite increasing pressures on delivery costs and increased demand for support.

Actions Requested:

Committee to note the report and the contribution the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector make to improving health outcomes in Lincolnshire.

1. Background

Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team (LVET) is a membership organisation made up of Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations. LVET members directly deliver health and social care services, leisure and fitness activities and they also support people to address wider determinants of health including employment, education and training, housing, finance and social isolation and work directly with groups and individuals experiencing significant health inequalities.

2. LVET's Activities

LVET is a vital part of the health and wellbeing ecosystem, providing a link between statutory partners and voluntary and community organisations. Since its inception in 2017 as part of a NCVO [the National Council for Voluntary Organisations] and King's Fund project, LVET has grown and currently has a membership of 139 charities, community interest companies and other 'non-profit' structures all working to address health, care and wellbeing challenges in Lincolnshire. 73% are small to medium organisations and 55% of them are registered charities. Collectively our members have a workforce of over 8,500 people – 3,531 paid and 5,261 unpaid staff.

Since 2020 LVET's core activities have been supported financially by Lincolnshire County Council and the NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (combined funding of £100,000 per year for three years), though LVET has also brought in additional money to manage specific programmes of activity. Using the Social Value Engine to measure the impact of the core infrastructure work LVET carried out since 2020 suggests that the investment has resulted in an estimated yield of £2.4 million of Social Value. LVET has also supported member organisations to access funding (for example LVET played a role in convening a new partnership between Project Dignity, Every-one, and Tonic Health to access £300,000 of funding) and has levered in an additional £567,000 of funding to deliver or manage contracts itself.

Our 2023 conference, *We're Stronger Together*, was attended by over 150 people representing voluntary, community, faith, social enterprise organisations and a range of partners from across the statutory sector. 80 organisations were represented in the 'marketplace' showcasing the wide range of health and social care support provided by VCFSE organisations.

During its lifetime LVET has enabled the system to respond to significant challenges flexibly and in a timely manner, for example:

- working with Lincolnshire Care Association (LinCA) and VCFSE partners to provide volunteer 'Visitor Hosts' to support Care Homes across Lincolnshire as they re-opened their premises following Covid-19.
- Delivered a Ukraine Refugee Resettlement, Support and Empowerment Programme working in collaboration with partner agencies and community groups, sponsors and refugees to promote mutual aid and community integration.

- Responded to Covid-19 by mobilising staff and volunteers to support a County Vaccination Programme. Over 800 staff and volunteers supported the vaccination programme from a number of voluntary and community sector groups working in collaboration with the NHS and supported by Help My Street delivered 500,255 vaccinations.
- Responded to NHS Acute Care challenges by developing a range of services which promoted hospital avoidance and early discharge through a range of Care Closer to Home and Community support services provided jointly with the Independent Care Sector. Ideas submitted by LVET included: the HART Service; Domiciliary Care Support; Nursing Care Homes – Extended Clinical Support; Hospice Care; Community Connectors and Patient Support Services; Pathway Zero; and High Intensity User – service interventions.

LVET successfully delivers a programme of support to its members, enabling them to access funding, advice and support through monthly member meetings, weekly updates and special events including an annual conference (attended by over 150 people in 2023).

LVET contributes to service redesign through our membership of around 60 working groups, steering groups, and strategic boards. However, these contributions could sometimes be more effective if involvement was timelier and enabled fuller and proper contributions from member organisations.

LVET leads a significant amount of innovation and development activity within the VCFSE Health and Care sector, leveraging in additional money and enabling our smaller member organisations to benefit as well as the larger organisations. In many cases LVET coordinates, leads and manages programmes of support where an impartial countywide organisation was seen as being best placed to coordinate such activity, or where capacity has been lacking within a single organisation. In the past year LVET has:

- Helped drive the personalisation agenda – our chair of Directors, Chris Whewey is the System Responsible Officer for Personalisation and one staff member works within the personalisation team.
- Been central to supporting PCNs and VCFSE organisations delivering social prescribing, working with Health Coaches using the Social RX data management system and led conversations with Population Health Management about ways in which VCSE datasets can help inform our collective health intelligence. By hosting the Social Prescribing development post, we have been well placed to drive the implementation and management of the social prescribing caseload management system (Social RX) used by link workers operating in 14 of the 15 Primary Care Networks.
- Led (or jointly led) delivery of
 - The Lincolnshire Volunteer Programme – working with VCS/LCVS to design and deliver a new volunteer management programme. A great success being inclusion of NHS volunteers into the system. The Lincolnshire Volunteers Programme launched successfully in November 2023 to organisations and January 2024 to potential volunteers. To date, there are 150 organisations signed up with 397 opportunities live, and 221 volunteers registered.

- Peer Network Leadership Programme with The School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) and funded by Barrow Cadbury Trust to build a cohort of supportive entrepreneurial peers working within Health and Social Care and leading to a network of leaders and ambassadors working within resilient VCFSE organisations.
- The Research Engagement Network – a NHS England funded programme (£100k) working with system partners, VCSE colleagues (Every-One, HWLincs, YMCA) and University of Lincoln to improve communities access and involvement in health research.
- Worked with the Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to launch the first Health Inequalities VCSE Grant Fund - making £85,000 available for VCFSE Organisations and projects working with 'Core20Plus5' populations and key inclusion groups. We are using the Social Value Engine (SVE) to measure the Social Value of the grant programme.
- Bought ten convenor licences for the Social Value Engine (SVE) to support our members to evidence their impact and value individually and collectively. A small number of members are currently trialling the use of the SVE.
- Brought an innovative digital mapping tool to the county. [Understory](#) was trialled in two communities, Horncastle and Spalding to understand better how people and groups are connected. This has been picked up by the Channel 3 team carrying out the system wide Digital Review.
- Coordinated two NHS Charities Together funded projects related to supporting people experiencing Long Covid or Post Covid illness and also with informal carers working in the NHS – key health and social care challenges.
- LVET is building leadership capacity and resilience within VCSE organisations through negotiating access to learning opportunities through One Workforce and, on behalf of the Social Economy Steering Group through funding from Barrow Cadbury Trust.
- Acted as a thought leader and strategic lead for the sector contributing to key strategic documents including the new Lincolnshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024 and also enabling key strategies and developments to be shared with our members including Devolution and The Suicide Prevention Strategy.

LVET provides members the chance to share their challenges and struggles, not only as LVET but also as part of the VCSE Alliance and Involving Lincs. Key challenges to note, and which we are looking to address with system partners, include:

- Increased delivery costs within fixed value contracts
- Short term, low value funding
- Staff and volunteer burnout
- Staff and volunteer recruitment and retention (including Trustee recruitment)

3. The Future

We are pleased that LVET’s role and successes since its inception in 2017 has been recognised through continued financial support from the Integrated Care Board and Lincolnshire County Council with a five-year agreement. This signals Lincolnshire’s commitment to collaboration with the sector and the system maturity of planning for sustainable investment in the sector.

LVET’s future role may be even more pivotal in driving transformation. Our direct links with communities, through our wide membership, means we can play a central role in

- **health creation** – enabling communities to take responsibility to stay healthy.
- **health prevention** – especially around the management of long-term health conditions and ‘waiting well’
- **workplace health** – the VCSE in Lincolnshire has a large paid and voluntary workforce. LVET’s members alone employ over 8500 people in paid and unpaid roles – we can help them to live well.

Through our future activities and programmes of support we will

- act as a lead partner for our members, helping them to organise and coordinate new programmes, products or services.
- help Health and Social Care VCFSE organisations in Lincolnshire to innovate or demonstrate how they can deliver more effective support.
- work with other infrastructure organisations and system partners to create the conditions in which Health and Social Care VCFSE organisations in Lincolnshire can thrive. This might include managing ‘test programmes’ with a clear handover to a long-term delivery partner.

We have just revised our strategic objectives. They are set out in the table below.

| The Big Why | Four strategic goals for 2024 and beyond | <i>To achieve these goals we will</i> |
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| LVET exists to provide strategic representation for Health and care VCFSE organisations. We are a vital component in creating healthy communities that care for each other, independent of and integral to a strong Health and Social Care system. | Advocate for the sector (LVET is a strategic voice for Health and Social Care VCFSE organisations in Lincolnshire) | Influence Lead Create Connect |

| The Big Why | Four strategic goals for 2024 and beyond | To achieve these goals we will |
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| For many years VCFSE organisations have provided support to individuals, families and communities, helping them live their lives well. They are trusted and valued and are a vital part of the Health and Care system. We need to 'stand on our own two feet' so we can continue to play a role. | Build resilience (LVET supports the development of resilient Health and Social Care VCFSE organisations in Lincolnshire) | Educate Support Grow |
| We can do more if we work together – not only with our colleagues in VCFSE organisations but across public and private sectors too. | Connect and Communicate (LVET helps Health and Social Care VCFSE organisations in Lincolnshire work with others to achieve more.) | Coordinate Facilitate Support collaborative action |
| As businesses with a purpose VCFSE organisations have not always been good at sharing what they do. We will change this so that our members are known for the difference they make in Lincolnshire. | Demonstrate Impact and Value (LVET can tell the story of the impact of Health and Social Care VCFSE organisations in Lincolnshire) | Educate Tell stories Collect Share |

Challenges currently faced by our members relate to increased demand, increased delivery costs, increased competition for contracts and grant funding, the 'cost of giving crisis' (so named by National Council for Voluntary Organisations), volunteer recruitment and retention. We continue to work with members and in collaboration with other voluntary sector umbrella organisations to build resilience and seek innovative solutions to these challenges which are mirrored across the country.

4. Consultation

This is not a direct consultation item.

5. Key Strategy Documents

The work of LVET and of the wider VCFSE is closely linked to:

NHS Lincolnshire Joint Forward Plan 2023-28
Lincolnshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024
Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

External strategy documents and reports of relevance include:

Filkin et al, July 2023, *A Covenant for Health: Policies and partnerships to improve our national health in 5 to 10 years* <https://medium.com/@Covenantforhealth/report-990529772639>

Locality, June 2023, *Going further together. The role of VCSE organisations in neighbourhood health ecosystems.* <https://locality.org.uk/reports/going-further-together>

6. Conclusion

Central government policy, NHS England and local health strategies all recognise the importance of strong local 'economies' of VCFSE organisations in the delivery of effective Health and Social Care. Improved health outcomes are a system responsibility and LVET seeks to ensure that the VCFSE part of the system is well positioned to support the Lincolnshire population.

Since its inception in 2017 LVET has grown and currently has a membership of 139 VCFSE organisations working to address health, care and wellbeing challenges in Lincolnshire. Collectively our members have a workforce of over 8,500 people – 3,531 paid and 5,261 unpaid staff.

LVET leads a significant amount of innovation and development activity within the VCFSE Health and Care sector, leveraging in additional money and enabling our smaller member organisations to benefit as well as larger organisations, often coordinating and managing programmes of support where an impartial countywide organisation was seen as being best placed to coordinate such activity.

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We are pleased that LVET's valuable future role and past successes have been recognised through financial support from the Integrated Care Board and Lincolnshire County Council with a new five-year funding agreement and we are excited to be able to ensure VCFSE organisations across Lincolnshire continue to be active contributors to the delivery of the Better Lives Lincolnshire ambitions and aims.

7. Appendices

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| These are listed below and attached at the back of the report | |
| Appendix A | Map of boards, working groups and networks that LVET sits on. |

8. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Paul Gutherson who can be contacted via paul.gutherson@lvet.org

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