

VCS Assembly Health and Social Care Networking Event 3rd November 2015

The VCS Assembly held a Networking event on the Health and Social Care Changes in Northumberland on the 3rd November in Morpeth. There was an excellent attendance which showed the level of interest and commitment that there is within the sector for working productively with the NHS and local authority.

The presentation from Siobhan Brown the Director of Transformation, NHS Northumberland CCG is attached. Before Siobhan spoke the delegates had identified the blocks and enablers to effective working between the VCS and the statutory services which are detailed below. This work allowed Siobhan to address the issues of concern in the discussion following her presentation. She said that she was very much looking for a real partnership between the VCS, the NHS and the local authority and wanted to change the dialogue with our sector and involve it fully. She stated that she was looking for co-production and co-design. Siobhan was also aware of the impact of short contracts on the sector, and spoke of a desire to move to 5 year funding, and support to develop the sector. Everyone agreed on the difficulties created by focussing on clinical pathways and there was a shared commitment to look at the whole person.

In order to create an effective means of taking this forward the Assembly will liaise with Siobhan to set up an agreed system.

Key issues that block or enable productive working between the VCS/NHS/LA.

Notes from flip charts and post it notes by VCS attendees.

(Things that can) BLOCK	(Things that can) ENABLE
Awareness of what the VCS can offer	VCS showing what it can offer
Lack of understanding of the Voluntary Sector and Capability	VCS need to be clear about the offer
Voluntary Sector seen as less credible option	VCS can open doors to funding not available to other sectors
Not valued as part of the solution	Be good if Assembly created sub-sets of organisations wiring in common need (e.g Home visits Age UK, Housing, Sight Loss)
Statutory Service are concerned about quality of service VCS	Quality Standard that shows commissioner a VCS org is delivering quality services
Commissioners in Northumberland seem to have a fear of engaging with VCS	VCS can deliver low cost (but not free)
Little awareness locally about what we (VCS) do and our expertise	
Working in isolation	Partnership working
Flexibility to share budgets across services as needed- This is a "two way" process, thus help reduce "rationing"	Effective joined up thinking
Decisions made without reference to need of Vol Orgs.	Representative Organisations needed

Lack of understanding – territorial attitudes	Bring services together to work more effectively, moving key worker of clients so clients know/have a regular contact
Lack of co-ordination of care	Care Passports - across area and care
Ownership of responsibility	Shared Care
Health don't speak to Social care - frustration – case studies available	Being involved at the beginning
VCS need to step up –changing culture	Involve local VCS who know, understand can share knowledge
Effective management of services	VCS need to know what commissioners want
LA looks after in-house services first	Better partnership working in VCS to access funding
LA and VCS don't always engage together effectively	LA and Public Health and VCS limited funds. Partnership work and bids needed to bring in large BIG Lottery and ESF fund to deliver local services
No Coaching	Knowing the priorities
	Common Priorities i.e dementia
Looking at clinical needs only	Looking at whole person needs
Not looking at whole person just clinical need	One key worker for care
Very clinical responses – i.e sight loss Don't look at social isolation and need for on-going support	Personal Budget – appropriate spend
Personal Budget – appropriate spend	
Individual needs not considered by Health and Social Care	
Lack of communication and information sharing	Communication and information sharing
Poor communication	Information sharing – what the sector can offer
Awareness of what is available in Northumberland	Good communication between organisations/sectors
No information re tenders and when they become available	Invitations to local events to share info'
	Local newsletters – subscription for info
Size and nature of the county	
Rurality – large area – transport	
Timescales	
Short term nature of funding	
Timescales – stuck in the system	