**VCSE Assembly**

**Held on Thursday 5th September 2024 14:00-16:30.**

**Forum@PQ, Princes Quay, Hull, HU1 2PQ**

**Attendees**

Jason Stamp (Forum CIO), Pippa Robson (Forum CIO), Amy Hallett (Forum CIO), Amy Elton (Forum CIO), Louisa Ingleson (Forum CIO), Chloe Buckley (Forum CIO), Yanina Chicaiza (Forum CIO), Julie Rodrigues (Forum CIO), Hannah Meadway (Hull CVS), Paul Robinson (Hull City Council), Zem Rodaway (Choices and Rights), Steve Calvern (Sutton Methodist Warm Welcome), Phil Longdale (Sutton Methodist Warm Welcome), Karen Tozer (Groundworks), Kate Winstanley (Hull City Council), Jan Boys (EMS), Dr Abdulghaniy Otuleughe (BGMCA), Jean Templeman (HCHFH), Lauren Murtagh (Living with Water), Naomi Clark (Child Dynamix), Amie Wheal (Child Dynamix), Julian Rice (Freedom Community Trust), Tracy Wharvell (Citizens Advice), Christina Simma (Giroscope), Kial Sigsworth (Hull Churches), Paul Matson 9Hull 4 Heroes), Karri Harold (HEY Smile), Janine Badger (Hull KR Foundation), Vikki Tate (Hull KR Foundation), Kate Arksey (Health Captains CVS), Josie Davies (Artlink), Dan Fryer (Jubilee Church).

**Check in and Feedback**

*Reflecting on the weekend of civil unrest, protests and violent disorder in Hull (3rd/4th August):*

*What was the impact on your service?*

*What has been the impact on the people you support?*

*What are you concerned about?*

The following feedback was given:

During the weekend of unrest, there was prominent scaremongering on social media sites such as Twitter (X) and Facebook, which carried through into the following week and caused some organisations to close. This presents an issue of unpoliced social media and the spread of misinformation online due to unreliable media sources online.

The weekend of unrest showed a lack of educations within the public on identifying what it means to be a refugee or asylum seeker, with the younger generation treating the unrest as an opportunity to commit acts of violence and disorder.

**Forum - Community Inclusion Team**

Yanina Chicaiza from the Forum Community Inclusion team introduced the project which began in April of this year. Yanina shared some statistics in relation to Hull diversity, which is below average compared nationally. The project came from a report commissioned by Hull City Council. By using focus groups and surveys, Forum CIO was able to identify what mattered most to local people and inform Hull’s social inclusion strategy. The research also helped shape the priorities of the Hull Community Plan 2024-2034 in which the Community Inclusion project will contribute to the priority of safer and stronger communities.

[Click here for the presentation slides.](https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VCSE_Assembly_5_9_24_Forum_Community_Inclusion_Team_-002.pdf)

**Hull City Council – Proposed Changes to Public Sector Procurement**

The Government aims to improve the way public procurement is regulated, and this will open opportunities for new entrants such as small businesses and social enterprises so that they can potentially deliver more public contracts. There will also be a new ‘Prompt Payment’ initiative which will ensure all council contracts will be paid in 30 days which should theoretically speed up payments to VCSE groups and organisations.

[Click here for the presentation slides.](https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VCSE_Assembly_5_9_24_Hull_City_Council_Public_Precurement-002.pdf)

**Emergency Planning**

Following the civil unrest at the beginning of August, Sector Connect received enquiries from VCSE organisations regarding Emergency Planning and Lockdown procedures as organisations felt they were unprepared and due to misinformation online, were unsure whether to remain open or close temporarily for the safety of staff and service users. When developing an emergency lockdown procedure, it must align with other policies are procedures such as Lone Working, Business Continuity and Health and Safety. All written policies and procedures must highlight the importance of dialling 999 if there is a risk of immediate danger. Sector Connect can help organisations to create these processes, but the following must be considered for developing a plan:

* Layout and location of building, including security measures like shutters, door locks, windows. What are the escape routes? What can you change? What potential is there to add/create safe spaces?
* What are the surrounding travel arrangements and how do people get to and from your building? Could you implement a buddy system where people don’t have to travel alone?
* Contacts list that is easily available, including nominated people, and agencies that you can liaise with e.g. Police, Local Authority
* Where information is kept and in what languages – in an emergency people need clear, visual reminders of the procedure and may not be able to log on to a computer or spend time looking through a folder
* If you work with marginalised groups and have an increased risk of being the subject of an attack, you may want to consider additional issues like safer procedures for checking post and how visible your signage is
* The balance between causing distress and keeping people safe
* What plans you have in place for working remotely and communicating with service users – big overlap here with business continuity

[Click here for the presentation slides.](https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VCSE_Assembly_5_9_24_Emergency_Planning-002.pdf)

**Sector Connect Updates**

Hannah Meadway provided an update as CVS has introduced a new ‘Volunteer Academy’ which provides a free one-day training course to those looking to volunteer or seeking employment. The following topics are covered in the course:

* Safeguarding Adults and Children
* Health and Safety
* Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
* Data Protection

There is also a similar course directed at young people to help them prepare for the world of work.

[Click here for the presentation slides.](https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VCSE_Assembly_5_9_24_Sector_Connect_Hull_Updates_-002.pdf)

**ICB Update**

Jason Stamp provided an update on the Integrated Care Board and the Hull Health and Care Partnership.

[Click here for the presentation slides.](https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VCSE_Assembly_5_9_24_Integrated_Care_Board_Update-002.pdf)

**VCSE Organisation Updates**

Organisations present gave updates on their groups and distributed leaflets to attendees.

 **Post meeting note**

*VCSE Organisations Supporting Home Educated Children in Hull*

Through the Sector Connect service and our attendance at safeguarding boards and other meetings, Forum has become aware of an increase in the number of voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations who are supporting parents and families that are home educating their children.

We are interested in bringing some groups together to explore this, and to see:

* What the challenges, issues and opportunities are
* How we might work in partnership as a sector to ensure people get the help they need
* If VCSE organisations can work with schools/the local authority to provide stepping stones back into mainstream education where this is appropriate

If you work for a charity, community group or social enterprise and are working with parents or families in this way, or even if you’ve just been asked if you could run some activities or sessions for children who are not in school and want to understand more, please contact:

Pippa Robson, Deputy Chief Officer, Forum - 07791 040433 or email pippa@nbforum.org.uk

We will organise a meeting to discuss this further once we have an idea of who would like to be involved.

**Next Meeting**

* 17th October 1:30 - 4pm
* 14th November 1:30 - 4pm
* 19th December 10am-12:30pm