**VCSE Assembly**

**Thursday 16th January 1.30pm-4pm.**

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

**Attendees**

Pippa Robson (Forum CIO) Linda Conway (Forum CIO), Amy Hallett (Forum CIO), , Louisa Ingleson (Forum CIO), Chloe Buckley (Forum CIO), Helen Grimwood (Hull CVS), Hannah Meadway (Hull CVS) Duncan Edge (Choices and Rights) , Steve Calvern (Sutton Methodist Warm Welcome), Kate McDonald ( Time Bank) Jo Kent (CHCP Blossom) , Denise Robinson (Fit Mums & Friends), Claire Balfour (Sight Support) , Judith Lund (British Red Cross),Louise Hedley (British Red Cross) , Eric Cserna ( Groundwork) , Caroline Tomlinson (NHS) , Sharon Clay (HCC) , Tom Eastwood (Warm homes HCC) , Wendy Alexander (Warm homes HCC), Jane Ingram (HCC) , Jane Winter (HCC) , Jennifer Herbert( Lampstand) , Mel Whetton (St Johns Rosemead St) , Naomi Clark (Child Dynamix) , Dan Fryer (Jubilee) , Paul Hamnett (HKR Foundation), Luke Medcalfe (Active Humber) , Amie Wheal (Child Dynamix) ,Stevie Scott (HEY MIND) , Karen Tozer (Groundwork) , Janine Badge ( HKR Foundation ) , Cecil Jones (Open Door) , Rev Lindsey Pearson (St Hildas) ,Karen Van Diesen (Welcome to English), Sana Benali ( Welcome to English) , Mandy Abdulla (APLC) , Paula Stodard (APLC), Stev Ashton (APLC) , Severine Kipli (Boar Shabaa) ,Pedram Saied (Toranj) ,Michelle Stanley (S2BH) , Tas Pitt-Murphy (HEY CAB) , Rev Dan Broom (St Aidan’s) ,Dave Huntridge (St Aidan’s), Emma Bright (Herd Theatre Company) , Sophie Bartup (HEY Smile Foundation) , Lianne White (CISS) , Ayosola Odunsi (Welcome House) , Emmanuella Boayke (Bora Shabba) , Lauren Cox (YPIP) , Rachel Roberts (HCC), Nathan Turner (HCC) , Tracy Parker (HCC) , Neil Daynes (HCC)

**Apologies**

Jason Stamp (Forum CIO), Lesley Wilson (Therapy Services), Temi Makinde (Yoruba Community), Leila Goring (Bay Learning Academy) , Ayse Ozkurt (Turkish Community) , Bashir Siraj (Welcome House) , Gemma Brown (Homestart), Hilary Byers (Heritage Conservation) , Jayne Mercer (CIAC)

1. **Welcome & Housekeeping -Pippa Robson**
2. **Check inactivity and discussion -All organisations**

Table discussion was on **– Do you have time for planning whether it is strategy or financial planning?**

Feedback examples from tables:

* We had to plan post covid and still haven’t had a chance to plan with the current changes
* Depends on the size of the organisation, we did have a plan, but the NI changes has put spanner in the works
* As a community group we should plan for our communities but as we are funding led we cannot
* The size of the organisation depends on access to data and funding. Planning is difficult. We need to be more flexible – we try to be proactive rather than reactive.
* It is difficult to plan if working on contracts. We need work on bureaucracy of other organisations so not able to plan. It all links to how we plan for staffing and future spending. It is difficult.

1. **VCSE – Budget awareness / consultation from Hull City Council – Tracy Parker**

<https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/VCSE_Assembly_16_1_25_Budget_Consultation_HCC.pdf>

* We are working through 2025/26 budgets
* Here with four other colleagues who will be able to answer your questions after the session or during the break
* Government settlement has identified funding to go back into the council to off set 15 years of austerity
* The focus is on the needs of the city
* There will be a Spring settlement plan from the government.
* The NI increase will have a major effect on the council staffing budget
* Council Tax will remain at 4.99% the maximum limit
* Capital programme -900+ properties -overall affordable properties
* We have a local plan
* We feel confident about efficiency savings

1. **Survey Feedback-Pippa Robson**

[**https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/VCSE\_Assembly\_16\_1\_25\_Survey\_Feedback.pdf**](https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/VCSE_Assembly_16_1_25_Survey_Feedback.pdf)

* Went through the Post Budget Survey that went out to all VCSE groups in the city
* 40 groups responded t the survey and these are the snapshot of the findings

The link to the full survey is

<https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Data_All_250109.pptx>

**5**. **Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership (YPIP) – Lauren Cox & Kate McDonald**

<https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/VCSE_Assembly_16_1_25_Yorkshire_Policy_Innovation_Partnership.pdf>

* Aims and objectives discussed along with various packages for groups that are on the slides
* Looking at inclusive business practices for small/medium businesses to understand their communities.
* Predominantly working in South Yorkshire with Work package 2a – see slide
* Work package 2b-working in Bradford as City of Culture for 2025 and looking at creative industries.
* Work package 3 – we are piloting in York and Hull. It is a retro fit for rural areas and land use.
* One of our main aims is how do we move from engagement to participation. Linking academics with communities, policy makers-coming together in one space to listen to each other in an equitable way. We are working in Hull and Sheffield
* To apply for the fund – it will be an online application. Lauren Cox currently building the website. We will also be holding meet the funder webinars. There will also be an EOI. All evaluations need to be in by Autumn 2026.

1. **Sector Connect Updates – Hannah Meadway (Hull CVS)**

<https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/VCSE_Assembly_16_1_25_Sector_Connect_Hull_Updates_.pdf>

* Funding opportunities discussed
* Training opportunities discussed
* Let’s Talk money training through CAB
* Update in the Volunteer Academy

All details on the HULL CVS website and slide link

1. **Community Recovery Fund-Pippa Robson**

<https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/VCSE_Assembly_16_1_25_Community_Recovery_Fund.pdf>

* After the summer 2024 riots in Hull there has been a £15m national allocation of funding from central government to share between 20 local authorities.
* The spend needs to be by the end of the financial year
* Majority of spend will be on Youth Justice and Direct Council clean up
* £160k will be administered by HCC & Hull CVS
* Groups will be spoken to in the next few weeks
* It’s specifically for cohesion
* It is not just for BAME or migrant groups, but it is a balance of bringing groups together with challenging views.
* Ideas of bringing people together through food, music, multi culturalism.
* It is resilience to misinformation.
* Grants panel made up of community groups.
* We would like Hull to have 2 pilot areas

Thoughts from attendees

* Very positive
* Not sure if it is a long-term solution & how much this will work for community cohesion. As the riots did not start over night for no reason – it was simmering through misinformation.
* In order to engage with dominant white males with radical views, it will be very difficult to get them in one room together.
* Will young people be part of decision-making panel?

1. **VCSE Organisation Updates**

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

* Green Drs – ready to take referrals as now fully staffed
* Peoples Map / Peoples Plan – KMc will send an update to Forum to send out
* Welcome to English – shared booklet that has graphics and has a simple introduction to the NHS. Shared copy of booklet with attendees.
* Blossom – Jo Kent discussed service and how to make a referral for 18+. Supports individuals with suicidal thoughts, self-harm, LGBTQi+ group, Stitch and Bitch group. All details on the Humber Wellbeing website.
* Lampstand – DA service. Would like to make a change to family court. Looking for volunteers and Trustees. Acquiring 3 houses by the end of the year. Emphasis on trauma.
* Active Hull -talked about HCC & Sports England project.
* Warm Homes – not only for HCC properties but also for private and homeowners.

**Date of Next Assembly:**

* 5/2/25 Hull & ER Joint Assembly (Forum & Hey Smile) The Edge 11am-3pm
* 13/3/25 Forum@PQ 10am-1230pm