



VCSE Assembly

Thursday 13th March 10am-1230pm

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

Attendees

Jason Stamp (Forum CIO) Pippa Robson (Forum CIO) , Helen Grimwood (Hull CVS) Linda Conway (Forum CIO), Gail Baines (Forum CIO), , Louisa Ingleson (Forum CIO), Amy Hallett (Forum) , Marie Johnson (Forum) Natalie Spiking (Age UK) , Nikki Anderson (Alzheimer's Society) , Jo Kent (Blossom) , Daniella Ward (Kids)), Naomi Clark (Child Dynamix) , Lianne White (CISS) , Katie Bewell (Downright Special) , Julian Rice (Freedom Centre) , Tracey Wharvell (HEY CAB), Lionel Curtis (Hull District Diabetes) , Kristina Golijanin (Hull CVS) , Taiye Fatoki (HANA), Jenny Preston (Hull CVS) , Joanne Gibson (S2BH) , Sharon Clay (HCC) Matt Fawcett (HCC) Helen Nicholson (HCC) Bailee Garmston (HCC) , Phil Vincent (HomeStart) , Claire Thomas (Oasis) , Ruby Ramsay (NHS Trust) , Julian Rice (Freedom Centre) , Luana Smith (Hon Lok) , David Murgatroyd (Asylum Seekers/Refugee Support), Phil Langdale (Sutton Methodist) , Vickie Hillier (Fit Mums) , Lionel Curtis (Hull District Diabetes), Zeki Tasdemir (Education Summit) , Tracey Steel (Blue Door) , Sam Beckett (DAP) , Emanuella Boaky (Bora Shabaa) , Sana Benali (WOMENS Voice TARA) , Mike Scott (Groundwork) , Ahmed Seerat (Welcome House), Megan Browne (Giroscope)

Apologies

Laura Stead (Cash for Kids), Claire Champlin (Pickering & Ferens) Bashir Siraj (Welcome House),

1. Welcome & Housekeeping -Pippa Robson

2. Check inactivity and discussion -All organisations

What would you like from the VCSE Assembly?

Where do you find out about what is going on that affects your organisations aside from attending the VCSE Assembly?

Feedback from tables

What would you like from the VCSE Assembly?	Where do you find out about what is going on that affects your organisations aside from attending the VCSE Assembly?
<p>Coming to VCSE is good for networking but would like to see the networking grow and have more time</p> <p>Would like more involvement and engagement from the Police & Crime Commissioner</p> <p>Support with funding opportunities for smaller community groups who would like to apply for smaller funding pots</p> <p>Better networking opportunities and research updates</p> <p>Promote events more that are relevant to the VCSE groups</p> <p>Make it less formal</p> <p>Share experiences</p> <p>Need to change the structure regularly to stop meeting apathy</p> <p>Make it better for networking and developing new relationships and funding opportunities</p> <p>Be given information on new legislation and political agenda of the time</p> <p>Building better links</p>	<p>Word of mouth</p> <p>Newsletter</p> <p>Social media</p> <p>Hull Cohesion Meeting</p> <p>Hull City Council</p> <p>Member participation with other organisations</p> <p>Attending events</p> <p>Board meetings</p> <p>Colleagues</p> <p>Email</p>

Feedback slips on tables

- What are the benefits to your organisation by attending the VCSE Assembly

9 out of 31 attendees completed the feedback slip

- Networking, meeting people working in areas that may complement our own area of activity. How people operate etc. Letting people know how valuable small operations like ours makes an impact

- Really useful to keep up good links with VCSE organisations locally and learn what is happening in the sector. I often feedback to colleagues in the Council suggesting they link in with the sector
- Connecting with organisations and networking opportunities. It is useful to know what other services /projects are doing as we do lots of signposting for other service users & it can be overwhelming to find the right support.
- Is there a comprehensive list of different organisations / groups please, with our group included, we are not in the is booklet.
- Very informative already as always.
- Networking is a vital component - chance encounters and ideas for relationships.
- Networking, learning, conversations about ideas and just catch upon who does what -funding opportunities. What about an "office day" every quarter - a safe workspace people can have those opportunistic chats and have a dedicated protected diary day- to work in a shared space with other colleagues.
- Empowering my organisation, contribute to my organisations goal, helps me to find what I need.
- Networking and learning about what other people get up to and linking with each other.

3. Speaker Jo Kent Humber Wellbeing Hub -Blossom

- Jo Kent gave a brief on her career history and a brief on the project and how it started during Covid at a portacabin at the Humber Bridge.
- Jo was supported by volunteers
- The service came about as individuals who attempt suicide go to A& E then discharged to GP and then no other support, and those who self-harm has no services to support them.
- Blossom came about to support individuals who have no other support, we work with the Ellesmere Centre & Humber Referral College and support individuals and their families.
- We are seeking funding as the service is run by 3 staff for 6 days a week.
- Blossom is not a crisis service – people can come and talk and occupy their minds with crafts and a place where they feel safe and at ease.
- We support a lot of Children and Young People with arts, crafts, games and a silent book club.
- More importantly if you want to know why I do what I do? It is because I don't want to see people go through what they go through after a loss of a friend or family member.
- We will be holding Festival of Hope which will be held on World Suicide Day 10/9/25. It will be a 5-day event and would like all stakeholders to take part. Look out for further information.
- Leaflets circulated

Jason Stamp advised that we will be having thematic groups for example for Mental Health. We will invite large and small VCSE organisations to take part in the discussions. By working together, we will be able to evidence how important the work of the VCSE is.

4. Speaker Matt Fawcett Get Hull Active

Get Active Hull link - [https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/VCSE Assembly 15 4 25 Get Hull Active.pdf](https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/VCSE_Assembly_15_4_25_Get_Hull_Active.pdf)

- Matt Fawcett Public Health lead discussed the Get Hull Active project.
- The project through Sports England has been given to 140 places working at place and our place is Hull
- It is not about being sporty it is about getting people moving and addressing health inequalities.
- Sports England are promoting a shift change and promoting opportunity to get people moving more and not in a sporty way.
- Hull is becoming more sedentary and over time has become more inactive.
- We have demonstrated to Sport England we can do this.
- We have already started getting an insight and have worked with Forum, Street Games and already have engaged with over 1000 people.
- We want the changes that are implemented to last and would really appreciate your support.
- We have questionnaires here with us and will have SAE soon. Please take the questionnaires and share. We will come and collect them from you until we get the SAE.

5. VCSE Organisations – Speakers at the Assembly - Pippa Robson

- There is a community directory on the Live Well Hull site that has all organisation details, but we have taken on board that you would like to find out more about each other's organisations so we would like to showcase this through a Spotlight feature in our bulletin and having 3 organisations at each VCSE Assembly give a brief into to their services, e.g. 3-5 minutes. **Action:** If you are interested in either the spotlight or speaking at the Assembly, please email Linda Conway – linda@forumcio.org.uk
- We will try for the May Assembly do a kind of speed networking session for you to have a chance to network and find out more about each other.

Jason Stamp advised the following:

- that the group will be aware that Forum commissioned a video on the organisation, and this will shortly be on our website. For the video we also

spoke to organisations and service users. At the recent Forum AGM I committed to having a video made about the VCSE – “*You think you know the voluntary sector? You don’t.*” We would like to do a series of videos on the sector. We will need your support to get your service users to talk about the difference the VCSE has made to their lives.

- We are also later in the year going to do a big event that will showcase the VCSE sector and the difference your services make to people’s lives.

6. Sector Connect Update -Louisa Ingleson

- Louisa Ingleson -Organisational Development Coordinator gave a brief on her role.
- Sector Connect through Forum and CVS can support on governance, funding and training.

Louisa went through slides on

- New
- Vacancies
- Funding
- Training

Sector Connect Hull - https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/VCSE_Assembly_15_4_25_Sector_Connect_Updates.pdf

7. VCSE Organisation Updates

- **Get Hull Active:** We will be staying behind after the meeting to give out questionnaires
- **Fit Mums:** working with the Police on a survey about safety for women on the streets. Will share link to be circulated.
- **Women’s Voice TARA:** responded to any questionnaires/surveys that are being done. Please take into consideration that not everyone has access to doing online questionnaires/surveys and it would be better for individuals that English is not their first language to do these with a group.
- **Groundwork:** We now have a pack called Bright Futures which is a check list for individuals moving into a new home.
- **Age UK:** We are currently doing our familiarisation services with the bus services and Trans Pennine to look at assisted support on public transport. We do a tour of the ticket office and the area and finish off with a cup of tea in the hub. Also, we will be celebrating Bee Lady Day on 13/5/25, all details on our website.
- **Welcome House:** Talked about services at Welcome House



Date of Next Assembly:

20th May 10am-1230pm Forum@PQ