



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD PAPER FORMAL PUBLIC MEETING

Report of: Terry Hudson

Date: 25th March 2021

Subject: Statement of Intent for the Health and Wellbeing Board's Strategic Relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector

Author of Report: Rosie May

Summary:

This paper summarises discussions in the Health & Wellbeing Board's strategy development sessions considering the Board's relationship with the Voluntary & Community Sector in Sheffield, and proposes a Statement of Intent for adoption, to guide this relationship in the future.

Questions for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

N/A

Recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

The Health & Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- Endorse the Statement of Intent and publish it on the website
- Agree to review the statement annually
- Agree to produce a short action plan owned by the Board and ask all partners to report back on progress against these actions annually

Background Papers:

Draft Statement of Intent - Appended

Which of the ambitions in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy does this help to deliver?

This contributes to all the ambitions in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Who has contributed to this paper?

- David Warwicker
- Maddy Desforges/Helen Steers/Helen Sims
- Dawn Shaw
- Paul Wood
- Dan Spicer
- Emma Dickinson

STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD'S STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This paper summarises discussions in the Health & Wellbeing Board's strategy development sessions considering the Board's relationship with the Voluntary & Community Sector in Sheffield, and proposes a Statement of Intent for adoption, to guide this relationship in the future.

2.0 HOW DOES THIS IMPACT ON HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN SHEFFIELD?

2.1 Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations are critical partners in addressing health inequalities in Sheffield, both from the point of view of community level service delivery, and from the point of view of engagement, intelligence gathering and understanding of the challenges facing Sheffield and its citizens. Strengthening the relationship between statutory sector and VCS organisations is a key part of a comprehensive approach to delivering on the Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

3.0 CONTEXT

3.1 Despite the demands put on the City by the Covid-19 pandemic, work to support the Health and Wellbeing Strategy has continued by all partners.

3.2 Whilst it is understood by all members of the Board how integral the VCS is to reducing health inequalities, the COVID pandemic response has highlighted just how much it can do flexibly, expertly, efficiently and compassionately, if properly empowered to do so.

3.3 The possibilities that better valuing the VCS can bring has been highlighted in many Health & Wellbeing Board meetings, with a strategy workshop in October 2020 focused on Ambition 8 (Everybody has the level of meaningful social contact that they want) repeatedly referring to the centrality of the VCS (alongside work by elected members and by statutory agencies) in achieving the aims of the strategy in this area.

3.4 Following this strategy workshop a number of participants came together to discuss action planning focused on how different systems and structures can work together better, noting the importance of the VCS in the city as a key component in reducing social isolation and loneliness. It was noted that the same is the case for many of the ambitions of the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy. This indicates the need for the Board to work more strategically with the VCS, recognising its strengths and value, if Sheffield is to make progress against health inequalities.

3.5 At its February 2021 Strategy Meeting, the Health and Wellbeing Board focused on how it and the city at large could reconfigure the relationships they have with the Voluntary

and Community Sector. A number of ways were discussed in which this can happen. The JHWBB was asked to consider how to:

- Find ways to recognise and honour the centrality and leadership of the VCS in both the COVID crisis response and in the delivery of the 9 ambitions of the health and wellbeing strategy in the longer term.
- Recognise the VCS as a vital source of lived experience and community intelligence which must be heard and responded to, including in identifying where investment is needed across the city. It will important to allocate funding to ensure that quality engagement is able to bring lived experience to the Board in all aspects of its work.
- Recognise the current threats/challenges to VCS stability and longer-term financial viability: in particular consider how best to support the VCS to restore its funding and staffing levels depleted over the course of the pandemic
- **Examine** barriers in the Council and Health system that need to be removed to connect it to the VCS and individual/community needs. This plan should complement similar work by other partnerships across the city and coordination is essential for a joined up approach.
- Ensure that any plan to support the VCS is based on mutual support, trust, openness, joint working and a two-way flow of information and not rigid or short-term performance targets which place statutory agencies solely as commissioners of VCS services

3.6 Following this meeting it was agreed that the first step towards a renewed relationship was to draw up a Statement of Intent for new working practices in the spirit of the above points. A small working group was established to do this and the Statement is brought to this meeting for approval by the full Board. The draft statement is appended to this paper.

4.0 WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS AREA?

4.1 This paper sets out an initial step in the Health & Wellbeing Board developing a long term strategic relationship with VCS organisations. The Board will need to continue to engage with and develop this, and to consider its role in challenging other bodies to do the same.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Health & Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- Endorse the Statement of Intent and publish it on the website
- Agree to review the statement annually
- Agree to produce a short action plan owned by the Board and ask all partners to report back on progress against these actions annually

APPENDIX

Health & Wellbeing Board Statement of Intent for its relationship with the Voluntary & Community Sector

Sheffield Health and Wellbeing Board recognises and values the voluntary and community sector in Sheffield, and the crucial role it plays in improving Sheffield's health and wellbeing. We will support it to make more of the integral role it plays, particularly as we move forward through Covid, recovery, and beyond. We will develop a more strategic, mutually respectful relationship, recognising the strengths of each partner. We recognise that the VCS has unique knowledge and understanding of our communities and is able to move quickly and flexibly to meet their needs.

Specifically we commit:

Short term:

- **That no VCS organisation in Sheffield is contractually penalised as a result of Covid.** We will be consistent in how we treat our expectations of outcomes from contract or grant funding, recognising that many services have had to be significantly altered as a result of the constraints placed on organisations during the Covid pandemic.
- That we will ensure the **VCS is integral to planning recovery initiatives** from a health and wellbeing perspective. The VCS has in-depth knowledge about local community needs, resilience and opportunities that must be factored into future planning.

Longer term

- **To prioritise business continuity through financial arrangements, and commit to taking every opportunity to foster collaboration not competition.** We will extend grants and contracts rather than going to competition wherever possible, working with organisations to co-produce arrangements and recognising the expertise that lies in VCS organisations in the city.
- **To move from a purely contract-based approach to a collaborative and mutually supportive relationship** whereby we work with the VCS to identify needs and develop solutions collaboratively
- **Make timely decisions and take timely action.** Where funding arrangements are coming to an end, or where delivery arrangements are changing, we will make decisions in good time, and implement changes promptly
- **To value the authentic voice and leadership of the VCS, its connection to communities and the unique local knowledge it holds** and involve it in strategic health and wellbeing decision making wherever possible.

- **To develop a plan for organisational and cultural change** in city partnerships and systems to create a new relationship with the VCSE We will remove as many barriers as possible which prevent us working to the principles of this statement

How we will make this happen

We will develop our approach over the coming months, to further embed the contribution the VCS makes to our city, enabling it to play its full role in recovery. We will produce a short action plan outlining how we plan to bring the above to fruition and the Board will require regular updates on how these aims are being met. This Statement will be reviewed annually by the Health and Wellbeing Board.