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# Voluntary Sector NW



## VSNW Bulletin #126

### Warren's Words

#### Warren Escadale, CEO VSNW

Dear Colleagues



**February 2021: despite enduring some of the strictest lockdowns and battling to keep out new strains of the Coronavirus, the North West has made great headway with rolling out vaccinations to those over 70 and those with health vulnerabilities. VCSE sector organisations across the sub-regions of the North West are continuing to play vital roles within their communities, showing strength and resilience during this now extended period of existential change. VSNW continues to champion the amazing work of our colleagues across the North West and wants to make sure that the VCSE sector is at the forefront of the build back better conversation.**



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Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen). LOCAL is a conversation facilitated by VSNW surrounding what is important to the sector in this area. 2021 is the beginning of a lot of changes in the sub-region; this produces the ultimate opportunity for our sector to discuss how we would like to work with local authorities to build our communities back better. The upcoming local elections are a perfect deadline for a manifesto to be created for our sector. LOCAL wants VCFSE organisations to discuss suggested **priority areas** via their **own events**, and LOCAL's online **comment forum** to create a **collective sector vision**. We want to hear from small or large organisations in Lancashire and learn if these priorities are important to your organisation, how they can be achieved, and what has been missed? We are working on a 10 week consultation schedule. We would like all responses from events and the comment forum back by 22nd March. Please check out the **website** & if you are a VCFSE group from Lancashire, please help shape this conversation.

**Help make some noise about this fantastic opportunity & keep up to date with the process live, follow LOCAL on Twitter: @local\_lancs  
[www.locallancashire.org.uk](http://www.locallancashire.org.uk)**

Alan Yates, Chair of Cheshire & Merseyside Healthcare Partnership joined the C&M Health and Care VCFSE Leaders Group in February. He emphasised the **vital role of the VCSE sector in preventing ill-health** and the importance of **local level interventions**. He maintained that the collaboration of our sector with health and care providers is crucial for a future of making ethical and practical differences to our communities.

Reflecting this, Chris Bentley, a Non-Executive Director at Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust also recently made a presentation exploring the notion of 'place-based approaches to Health Inequalities in the System's Most Vulnerable Neighbourhoods' in Cheshire & Merseyside. He also bolstered the claim that **the gap between services and communities needs to be bridged**. As a suggestion, Chris proposed **linking primary care networks into the already existing structures** within the communities. You can find more info and his full presentation **here**.

The GM Combined Authority in collaboration with BMG Research are addressing the lack of detail in national surveys by conducting their own on the impacts of coronavirus across GM.

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- [Survey 1: 20th November- 2nd December](#)
- [Survey 2: 18th December- 31st December](#)

There is a final opportunity this week for young people aged 16-24 to create content for the **GM History Makers campaign** ahead of March 1st. they want two pieces of digital content about smoking and tobacco use to be created by a selection of young people, in return for a £400 grant.

Last year, as one of their coronavirus responses the **VS6 Partnership** (a partnership of support organisations working with VCFSE sector in Liverpool City Region) hosted a series of assemblies with the VCFSE sector in order to understand some of the impacts of the pandemic on the sector and the effect on certain vulnerable groups:

- [Children and Young People](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Shielded, Vulnerable People and Cares](#)
- [Inequalities through a BAME lens](#)

The outcomes of the assemblies included priority actions and recommendations for supporting the sector. This year, they have announced their latest report which summaries the findings from the first four assemblies: **“Recommendations for Building Back Better with the VCFSE Sector”**. This excellent report will form the foundations for the VS6 manifesto for 2021-24 as well as conversations with key stakeholders, including the LCR Combined Authority.

Furthermore, in partnership with Together Liverpool, the VS6 partnership also organised and hosted the Sustainable and Affordable Food Assembly in order to think strategically about how to develop a plan for the region beyond just emergency provisions. A **full report** has been developed summarising the feedback.

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If you would like VSNW to promote anything via our website or Twitter for your organisation such as job vacancies, please email [alana.tucker@vsnw.org.uk](mailto:alana.tucker@vsnw.org.uk).

Thank you & stay healthy,

VSNW

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