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Voluntary Sector NW

In this bulletin

An update on the work that VSNW has been taking across the region in response to Covid-19

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VSNW Bulletin #121

Chief Executive's Introduction

Warren Escadale

Dear Colleagues



Welcome to VSNW newsletter #122.

Obviously a lot has changed in the Voluntary Sector and wide society over the last few months. Needless to say, I hope you're all keeping well and staying safe.

Just to update you on operational matters, VSNW is continuing to work at full capacity, with all staff working from their homes across the North West. With the office closed we're not picking up physical mail as often, so the best way to contact us is by email or phone. Do please keep in touch and let us know if you have any information you'd like to share or things we can help with.

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, we've been keeping in close contact with our colleagues across the region, with all of our sub-regional meetings now moved to Zoom-calls. Despite one or two technical problems, these seem to have been working well on the whole, and we've actually found that in terms of using our time effectively and speaking to a wide-range of people, in some ways these have been more effective than face-to-face meetings.

So whilst there has been a steep learning curve, hopefully there are some positives that we will be able to take from the current situation in terms of more effective ways of working, making use of technology and operating more flexibly. This will particularly apply to such a diverse and dispersed region as the North West.

You may also find [this video](#) we have put together on how to do community

what follows is a quick summary of what VSNW has been doing in the different sub-regions over the past few weeks. Please let us know if you have any questions on these or would like any more information.

Please stay safe and we hope to see you all again soon.

Cheshire & Merseyside

Sally Yeoman and Caroline Whitney have been seconded into the Cheshire & Merseyside VCFSE Health & Care Leaders Group.



Sally Yeoman is the Chief Executive of **Halton and St Helens VCA** and has worked in the VCFSE sector for over 20 years. Sally is currently a Board member at the Saints Community Development Foundation, a Trustee of Voluntary Sector NW, Vice-Chair of VS6 (Liverpool City Region’s VCFSE sector partnership) and is a Non-Executive Director at Bridgewater Community NHS Foundation Trust. She is also an Institute of Directors (IoD) certified Company Director and an obsessive St Helens Rugby League fan.



Caroline Whitney has been the Chief Executive of **CVS Cheshire East** since its merger in 2010. She has worked within the voluntary sector for over 15 years and for a short time worked within the statutory sector coordinating engagement activities for what was Greater Manchester Police Authority, but returned to the voluntary sector, which is where her passion lies. Along with managing the team and operations at CVS Cheshire East Caroline’s key role is to represent the voluntary sector and work with partners locally and nationally to influence positive change for her members and the wider voluntary sector.

Sally and Caroline will work closely with VSNW in order to support the 14,000 plus VCFSE organisations working across Cheshire and Merseyside and the Cheshire and Merseyside VCFSE Leadership Group.

Cumbria

Cumbria CVS, led by CEO David Allen, have been working tirelessly within the region to co-ordinate efforts, working with the local Council and others. You can find out more about what they have been doing [here](#).

Greater Manchester

The Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group, for which VSNW provides secretariat support and Chief Executive Warren Escadale is the Independent Chair, have issued a **statement** relating to Covid-19 and the VCSE sector in Greater Manchester.

In addition it has also produced a **COVID Response update/assessment document** highlighting the action taken so far by the Leadership group on behalf of the sector during the current crisis, and the further steps it will be taking in the coming weeks and months.

Meanwhile, in partnership with Steve Rotheram, Mayor for the Liverpool City Region, Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham has launched the **#BuildBackBetter** campaign to ensure that the recovery and rebuild from the current crisis works for all communities.

Lancashire

A Lancashire VCFSE Sector Leaders Strategic Meeting has been established, Chaired by Warren with secretariat support from VSNW. This group includes representatives from Community Foundation Lancashire, Lancashire BME Network, along with local CVS's and CABs.

A document summarising actions in the Lancashire region has been prepared and can be viewed [here](#).

Liverpool City Region

The **VS6 Partnership**, for which VSNW provides secretariat and comms support, has played a key role in coordinating the sectors response. It has issued several statements, including a **Statement of Support** to the Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram; and a **statement in response to the Mayor's #BuildBackBetter campaign**.

The partnership continues to engage closely with the Mayor through a weekly

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