

[View this email in your browser](#)**Voluntary Sector NW** **Festival of North
West Thinking****#FestivalNWThinking****www.vsnw.org.uk/festival**

VSNW Bulletin #124

Chief Executive's Introduction

Warren Escadale



Dear Colleagues

Welcome to VSNW newsletter #124.

We have been working harder than ever since all of our lives drastically changed at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is our goal to continue to deliver essential services and support to communities across the North West of England. We want to find new ways of doing so whilst adhering to emerging governmental restrictions. We are now committed to envisaging a future that works for our communities, with the aim of rebuilding and protecting the sector with our Covid-19 recovery response.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that we communicate, cooperate and collaborate to find a way forward that preserves our communities and organisations. Although currently bridges and relationships are being built and reinforced digitally, it is imperative not to disregard the worth of these platforms. With this in mind, we wanted to invite you to our upcoming ***Festival of North West Thinking (FoNWT)***

Our vision of these digital four events is to encapsulate our recovery plan through coming together, listening, learning and discussing the issues we have faced, and formulating a strategy which can utilise this unique and unprecedented time to help combat inequality in the North West. Places are limited and your **registration** is required.

Covid-19 Recovery: VCSE Leadership Voices Assembly with a focus on inequalities

**Our opening event will be held on Friday 23rd October 10-12pm:
'Covid- 19 Recovery: VCSE Leadership Voices Assembly with a focus
on inequalities'**

Here, we welcome those of you in *leadership roles at VCSE sector organisations and equalities networks* with the aim of coordinating a strategy for using the Covid recovery to combat inequality. The event will comprise of a workshop, which will be based upon the results from this **survey**. Please complete to have your say.



In conjunction with this, we are very excited to announce that Natalie Creary, Director of **Black Thrive** will be speaking. She will be present how structural racism impacts health inequality evidence and therefore structurally racist responses.



We are equally looking forward to Farzana Kahn speaking in our opening event, the Executive Director and Co-founder of **Healing Justice London**. Her presentation will circulate around how trauma-informed practice can improve the way the VCSE sector supports community health and combats inequality.

Both incredibly relevant and important voices to hear in our journey to using the response to this global pandemic and aiming to help tackle issues of inequality in the North West.

Covid-19 Recovery: The Infrastructure Perspective

Our second event will be held on **Wednesday 28th October 3.00-4.30pm: 'Covid-19 Recovery: The Infrastructure Perspective'**

Here, we are targeting colleagues at *VCSE sector infrastructure organisations* across the NW. We are going to host a Q&A session, combining thoughts and queries both from you and our panel focusing on the issues that our infrastructure bodies have been confronted with. In doing so, our ambition is to coordinate a response to the hurdles we are facing in the current climate. Our confirmed panellist include Caroline Whitney (CVS Cheshire East), Lorraine Smyth (ACT), Naz Zaman (Lancashire BME Network) & Andrew O'Brien (Social Enterprise UK) with more to be confirmed shortly.

Participation in our **survey**, is imperative for us to structure the discussion.

Sign up for our second event and let your organisation's voice be heard.

Future of Funding & VSNW AGM Meeting

Our third event is the 'Future of Funding & VSNW AGM Meeting' on Thursday November 12th 2.00pm-4.30pm

Sign up to our third event, here, we shall discuss what we have been doing in the last year and our plan for 2021.

We are also hosting a discussion on the Future of Funding for the sector. Speakers confirmed include: Paul Streets (Lloyds Bank Foundation), Elly De Decker (The National Lottery Community Fund) and Sarah Longlands (IPPR North). VSNW members will also have the opportunity to vote on our board of trustees. **Become a member** and have your say.

We want to thank you in advance for **signing up** and helping shape the necessary and imperative conversations, relating to our organisations and the Covid-19 response strategy. Together, we can make the most of this new territory and use our response to combat inequality in the North West effectively.

The deadline to complete the **survey that shall shape the FoNWT discussions is 16th October. Fill out to have your organisation's**

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