



Cheshire and Merseyside VCFSE News

September 2025

Welcome to our September update for voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) colleagues in Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M).

Some of you will already be receiving our news directly, or via your local infrastructure organisation and this email complements that and is another way to share our updates with you.

We hope you find this newsletter useful and we encourage you to share it in full, or any of its content with your networks.

You can also find past and future editions online [here](#).

Updates

£21.7 million a year confirmed for Cheshire and Warrington

Cheshire and Warrington will receive £21.7 million a year for the next 30 years as part of devolution plans, with the first £10.85 million expected in 2026–27 ahead of mayoral elections in 2027.

This boost, up from an initial £20 million estimate, takes the total investment to more than £650 million. Funding will be split evenly between capital projects and revenue.

[Cheshire and Warrington Infrastructure Partnership](#) is ensuring the VCFSE sector has a strong voice in shaping devolution through its [manifesto](#) and the upcoming delivery plan.

Over the coming weeks, local councils will decide whether to move forward with creating a combined authority.

Find out more

Sefton and St Helens become neighbourhood health pioneers



Sefton and St Helens have been selected as national pioneers in the development of neighbourhood health services.

This initiative is part of the Government's 10-Year Health Plan, aiming to shift care from hospitals to community settings, focusing on prevention and delivering better care closer to home.

The National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP) will support 43 areas, including Sefton and St Helens, in developing [neighbourhood health](#) systems. The initial focus will be on supporting adults with multiple long-term conditions.

Warren Escadale, Chief Executive of VSNW, and member of the NHS C&M Strategic Neighbourhood Health Group and Alliance 42, said: "While the NHS neighbourhood health guidelines published at the start of the year said little about the role of the VCFSE sector, this new programme shows clear recognition of the sector's importance, which is to be applauded. We now need to make the exemplar work with our sector in Sefton, St Helens and elsewhere the everyday standard."

Find out more

C&M work and health strategy launched

The Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership has launched [its All Together in Health and Work strategy](#), setting out how health, care, and system partners can work together to tackle unemployment and health inequalities.

Our C&M VCFSE Health and Care Transformation programme inputted to the strategy's development, reflecting the importance of embedding the sector's voice and role towards improving outcomes for all our communities.

Dave Packwood, who manages our Cheshire and Merseyside VCSE Children and Young People Network that's part of the transformation programme, said: "We welcomed the opportunity to be consulted and involved in the development of the strategy, and we value its recognition of the important role that VCSE organisations can play in tackling unemployment and health inequality."

Don't forget to make your nominations

Nominations are now open for the VSNW Funding and Commissioning Awards 2025, recognising commissioners and funders who go above and beyond to support the North West's VCFSE sector.

Categories include:

- Outstanding Grant Funder
- Outstanding Commissioner – Local Authority
- Outstanding Commissioner – NHS



Nominations are open until **Friday 3 October**. The winners will be announced at the VSNW Annual Conference and AGM on **Thursday 27 November**.

Nominate now

Help shape children & young people's mental health support

We're working with partners across Cheshire and Merseyside to better understand the mental health needs of children and young people, as well as the capacity of organisations providing support.

By sharing these widely, you'll be helping build a fuller picture across all nine places ensuring future services are shaped by the voices and experiences of both young people and providers.

- **Shape the Future of CYP Mental Health Services**: NHS Cheshire & Merseyside is asking organisations to share insights on emotional wellbeing and early mental health support.
- **You Matter: Help Shape Support for Young Minds**: NHS Cheshire & Merseyside wants to hear from children and young people about the support available for mental health. Please share this survey with the young people you work with so their voices can help shape future services.

Events and Opportunities

Strengthen your organisation's anti-racism practice

Applications are now open for a new development programme supporting VCFSE organisations across the Liverpool City Region to strengthen their anti-racism practice.

Delivered in collaboration with [VS6 Partnership](#), [Mabadiliko CIC](#) and the [LCR Race Equality Hub](#), the programme offers tailored support including workshops, organisational assessments, leadership development and one-to-one guidance.

It's open to charities, community groups, faith organisations and social enterprises in Liverpool, Wirral, Sefton, St Helens, Knowsley and Halton.

By taking part, organisations will build the tools, skills and confidence needed to challenge inequalities, embed anti-racism in their work, and better support diverse communities.

If your organisation is ready to take the next step in its anti-racism journey, you can submit an Expression of Interest form online.

Find out more



VSNW Conference and AGM 2025

Register now for this year's VSNW Conference and AGM, which will take place on **Thursday 27 November, 10am to 4pm** at **King's House Conference Centre, Manchester**.

In a year of welfare cuts, economic pressures and rising demand, the VCFSE sector is being asked to do more with less. This conference will ask how we can move from uncertainty to strength, focusing on capacity, collaboration and the sector's role in shaping public service delivery across the North West.

The event is free, with keynote talks, workshops, networking and lunch provided.

Register

Subscribe and feedback

If you didn't receive this newsletter directly from VSNW, you can [subscribe here](#) to ensure you don't miss future updates.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on this new update—what's useful, what could be improved, and how we can make it more relevant to you and your work. **Share your feedback with us at** cmhcl@vsnw.org.uk

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. If you have any updates or opportunities you'd like us to share in future newsletters, please contact cmhcl@vsnw.org.uk



0161 276 9300

St. Thomas Centre Ardwick Green North, M12 6FZ

www.vsnw.org.uk

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