



Cheshire and Merseyside VCFSE News

July 2025

Welcome to our July 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

New report highlights VCFSE sector's central role in health and care



Our new progress report from the Cheshire and Merseyside VCFSE Health and Care Transformation Programme shows how VCFSE organisations are already helping deliver key ambitions from the [NHS 10 Year Plan](#), including prevention, neighbourhood health and care closer to home.

The report was launched at the annual in-person C&M VCFSE Health and Care Leaders meeting on Monday 7 July, where attendees also heard from NHS C&M's new chief executive, Cathy Elliott and her thoughts on the importance of the sectors integral role in delivering the NHS 10 year plan.



Cathy said: "NHS Cheshire and Merseyside welcomes the 10 Year Health Plan for England and the opportunity to build models of neighbourhood health for the future. Working in partnership with the VCFSE sector will be key to delivering the priorities of the 10 Year Health Plan – especially neighbourhood healthcare."

Examples highlighted in the report include work on early cancer detection, hospital discharge, mental health transformation, support for carers and more inclusive health research, all made possible through partnership working across sectors.

As the programme moves into its next phase, it will continue to focus on strengthening collaboration, supporting prevention-first approaches, and embedding VCFSE organisations in neighbourhood health models.

[Find out more](#)

Want to know more about what the NHS 10-Year Plan means for the VCFSE sector?

As the NHS sets out a long-term vision for a more preventative, inclusive and community-centred health system, the VCFSE sector is already showing how this can be achieved in practice.

VSNW has published a short explainer highlighting how the sector is already delivering on many of the plan's key priorities - from prevention and neighbourhood working to inclusion and co-production. It also makes the case for stronger partnership working and resourcing, to ensure the sector's contribution is embedded in system planning going forward.

Alongside this, Alliance42, the national network of the 42 Integrated Care System-VCFSE Alliances, has published a coordinated response, calling for:

- Greater VCFSE involvement in ICS strategy and governance
- Recognition of the sector's critical role in tackling health inequalities and shaping neighbourhood health

Together, these contributions reflect a shared message: the VCFSE sector is ready, willing and already delivering — but must be treated as a full and equal partner in building the future of health and care.

- [Read the VSNW article](#)
- [Read the Alliance42 response](#)



Racheal Jones named Community Leader of the Year

A huge congratulations to Racheal Jones, a valued [VS6 partner](#) and CEO of [One Knowsley](#), who was named Community Leader at the Merseyside Women of the Year Awards 2025.

Racheal has spent over 25 years fighting for communities to be heard, helping grow partnerships, influence decisions, and bring more investment into community-led work in Knowsley, at a regional Cheshire and Merseyside level and beyond.

[Find out more](#)

Feedback needed on devolution manifesto

The Cheshire and Warrington Infrastructure Partnership (CWIP) recently held a webinar to introduce a devolution manifesto for the VCFSE sector.

Cheshire and Warrington has been accepted onto the government's Devolution Priority Programme, with plans to establish a Combined Authority and hold mayoral elections in May 2026.

The draft manifesto outlines 10 key themes to help the sector speak with one voice and influence the devolution process effectively.

- [Download the webinar slides](#)
- [Watch the webinar recording](#)

There's still time to share your views:

- [Add comments on the Padlet](#)
- [Complete a short feedback survey](#)

This is the start of an ongoing conversation, with more engagement and updates planned over the coming months.

New policy briefing on tackling child poverty

The Heseltine Institute has published a new policy briefing titled [*Tackling child and family poverty through a place-based lens: insights from Cheshire and Merseyside*](#).

The briefing uses work from Cheshire and Merseyside as a case study to show how local systems can take meaningful action on complex issues like child and family poverty, when supported by the right data, decision-making power, and a clear shared vision. It highlights the value of collaboration across sectors, including the role of the VCFSE sector, is essential to designing more effective, locally relevant responses to poverty and inequality.

Events and Opportunities

Just a few days to go until #DoWith North West



Our VSNW organised event with The King's Fund is a chance for your voice to shape the next steps of the #DoWith movement in the North West.

We're bringing people together from across sectors to ask how we make the shift to a real 'Do With' approach, not just in theory but in practice.

It's taking place on **at 10am on Monday 14 July**, at the **St. Thomas Centre in Manchester**.

Register now

Deadline extended – join us as a Partnership Officer for Cheshire & Merseyside!

VSNW is hiring a Partnership Officer (Cheshire & Merseyside) to help strengthen the voice of the VCFSE sector across the region. This 0.8 FTE role at VSNW involves coordinating programmes, supporting partnerships, and engaging with sector leaders. The role is fixed-term to March 2026, with hybrid working and a pro-rata salary of £26,692.80.

[Learn more and apply](#)

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



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