



Cheshire and Merseyside VCFSE News

October 2025

Welcome to our October 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



BRIDGE Research Network launched

We're proud to launch BRIDGE Research Network – a brand new, free platform bringing together the VCFSE sector, researchers and health and care professionals across the North West.

Too often, research happens to communities rather than with them but BRIDGE is here to change that. It hopes to create fairer partnerships where lived experience and local knowledge stand alongside academic expertise.

You can join our online launch event on Monday 20 October, from 1pm to 2.30pm, where you can explore the platform, hear from guest speakers and contribute to the future of community-led research.

Last week we teamed up with One Knowsley to give an introduction to the BRIDGE Community: Ethnic Minorities Voices in Research. Together, with The Phoenix Way Network, we explored the initiative and engaged in open, honest conversations about the changes they would like to see in how information is gathered and used.

Sign up now

Reminder: Have your say on children and young people's mental health support

There's still time to share your views and help shape the future of mental health support for children and young people across Cheshire and Merseyside.

If you haven't yet, please take a few minutes to complete or share these short surveys:

- [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.

Your insights will help build a fuller picture across all nine places, ensuring future services are shaped by the voices of both young people and providers.

Help shape research on social prescribing and kidney disease



Could you help with a research opportunity from Queen's University Belfast?

The research team is looking for social prescribers, link workers and representatives from organisations providing socially prescribed activities to complete a short, anonymous survey for a PhD study exploring how people with kidney disease can be better supported to engage with social prescribing. No prior experience of working with kidney patients is needed, and participation is entirely voluntary.

Take the survey

Events and Opportunities



£500 grant for small charities and community groups

As Network for Europe closes after almost 40 years of supporting the North West VCSE sector, VSNW is working with them to offer a £500 Legacy Grant.

This one-off grant is designed to celebrate and share an activity you're proud of.

Whether it be something that strengthens community life, brings people together or helps people take the next step forward. The funding is unrestricted, so you can use it where it's needed most.

The deadline for applicants is Monday 3 November and the successful applicant will be celebrated at the VSNW Annual Conference in Manchester on Thursday 27 November 2025.

Find out more

YOUTH GUARANTEE

Funded by **UK Government**

Liverpool City Region funding opportunity

A fantastic new opportunity is now open for organisations across the Liverpool City Region that are passionate about supporting young people.

VOLA's Community Grants programme has officially launched, offering funding for projects that help 18 to 21 year olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) to build skills, confidence and brighter futures.

Funded by the UK Government through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Youth Guarantee Trailblazer, as part of the Get Britain Working plan, the programme makes £711,000 available to VCFSE organisations based in the Liverpool City Region.

Find out more

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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