



Cheshire and Merseyside VCFSE News

March 2026

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

Some of you will already receive updates directly from us, or through your local infrastructure organisation. This newsletter complements those channels and provides another way to share key news, opportunities and learning from across C&M.

We hope you find this edition useful and relevant, and we encourage you to share the full newsletter, or individual items, with your networks.

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

Updates



Strengthening VCFSE involvement in neighbourhood health

VSNW has published a new [assurance framework](#) to help systems test, evidence and improve the involvement of VCFSE organisations in neighbourhood health. The framework sets out seven domains and key lines of enquiry to show what good VCFSE involvement looks like in practice, helping commissioners, system leaders and VCFSE partners assess whether the sector is consistently recognised, resourced and embedded as a core partner.

The framework complements our recent [practical briefing](#) offering guidance to anyone designing or delivering neighbourhood health models on how best to embed the VCFSE sector as an integral partner. It also aligns with the principles of the new CHAMPS, Cheshire and Merseyside's Public Health Collaborative, [All Together Fairer Neighbourhoods](#) framework.

Nationally, the government last week released its long awaited [Neighbourhood Health Framework](#), and [VSNW's briefing](#), published the day after, highlights what this means for the VCFSE sector.

All these publications help local areas turn national policy into practical, locally led action.



Working as one to build a fairer,
healthier Cheshire and Merseyside

[View VSNW's health creation work](#)



Community power in a moment of convergence

Across the Liverpool City Region, change is happening. In a new blog, VS6 Partner Gareth Prytherch, CEO of Wirral CVS, explores how community power is coming to the forefront as reforms around neighbourhood health, prevention and place-based leadership align. The piece highlights how communities, supported by trusted local partners, are shaping services, influencing decisions and driving real impact. It's a powerful reminder that when relationships and trust come first, communities can lead the way in creating fairer, stronger and healthier places.

[Read the blog](#)

Events and Opportunities

VCFSE Operations Leads Network

VSNW is launching a North West VCFSE Operations Leads Network. This new space is for operations leads and managers to connect, share ideas and help shape a network that works for you.

The first session is informal, collaborative and open to organisations of all sizes.

This is your chance to help co-create the purpose and direction of the network from the start.

Why join?

- Connect with peers across the region
- Share experiences and challenges
- Help shape a network that supports you

Thursday 9 April | 2pm to 3pm | Online via Microsoft Teams

Register now



New anti-racism development opportunities for Liverpool City Region

VCFSE organisations across the Liverpool City Region can now take part in two new development opportunities through the LCR Race Equality Hub, delivered by Mabadiliko CIC.

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1. **VCS Anti-Racism Self-Evaluation Framework** – Up to 20 organisations can complete this 30–45 minute reflective process, receiving a personalised report, an implementation guide, and an invitation to a cross-organisational learning event on 18 March. [Register interest here.](#)
2. **EMPOWER Workshops** – Two three-hour online sessions for 30 participants, focused on the mental health and wellbeing of racially minoritised staff, with practical techniques and tools to respond to racial discrimination. [Register interest here.](#)

Opportunities are first come, first served. For more information, contact teammabadiliko@mabadiliko.org.

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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