



Cheshire and Merseyside VCFSE News

November 2025

Welcome to our November 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



CMCA's wins national award

Congratulations to the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance (CMCA), whose Community Partnerships programme has won Best Health Creating Cross Sector Programme at the Health Creation Alliance Awards.

Delivered in collaboration with councils for voluntary service across Cheshire and Merseyside, the programme funds Social Action Leads to work with local community groups, raising awareness of cancer signs and symptoms and encouraging uptake of screening. This helps ensure cancers are detected earlier, when treatment is most effective.

The initiative, originally piloted by One Knowsley, Halton and St Helens VCA, and Warrington Voluntary Action, is now part of the VCFSE Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Transformation Programme, led by VSNW.

Find out more

VS6 calls for bold action on public service reform

A new report from the VS6 Partnership sets out a vision for transforming public service delivery across the Liverpool City Region, placing the VCFSE sector at the heart of innovation.

VS6

"A journey, not a destination: The VCFSE sector and public service innovation" calls for courageous commissioning, stronger partnerships, and systems that value collaboration, trust, and shared power.

The report urges public sector leaders to move away from competitive funding and embrace community-led, flexible approaches that reflect the diversity of local needs.

VS6 is calling on the combined authority and wider public sector to adopt the recommendations and work alongside the VCFSE sector to build more inclusive, equitable, and people-centred services.

[Read the full report](#)

New e-learning: Staying Safe from Suicide

NHS England has launched a new Staying Safe from Suicide e-learning session, supporting best practice guidance published earlier this year.

The course encourages a person-centred approach to working with people experiencing suicidal thoughts, helping practitioners to move away from risk prediction and focus instead on shared safety planning.

Grounded in NICE 2022 guidance and aligned with the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, the 75 minute session includes case studies and practical exercises.

Open to practitioners across NHS, VCFSE sector and independent services.

Register and complete the course via the [NHS England Learning Hub](#).



Mapping Liverpool City Region's food system

Building on the work of the VS6 Partnership and the wider VCFSE sector, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has commissioned a new project to map and understand the region's food system.

The mapping will bring together local authorities, businesses, growers, producers, community food organisations, and the public sector to explore how food is produced, shared and accessed across the region as well to identify key gaps and opportunities.

The goal is simple: good food for everyone, grown and shared in ways that strengthen communities, local economies, and the environment.

Take the survey

Leadership updates at NHS Cheshire and Merseyside

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside has announced two key interim appointments as the organisation enters a critical phase of transformation and financial recovery.

[Sir David Henshaw has been appointed Interim Chair](#) for up to 18 months, bringing extensive leadership experience from roles at Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Wirral health organisations, and Liverpool City Council. He succeeds Raj Jain, who led the launch of the 10-Year Health Plan.

Meanwhile, Liz Bishop, former Chief Executive of The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, joins as Interim Chief Executive to steer financial recovery. She replaces Cathy Elliott, who will move to a new role supporting regional health plan ambitions after driving cultural and organisational change since June.

NHS reform updates

A series of recent NHS updates set out the direction for Integrated Care Boards and future planning.

These changes may affect how the VCFSE sector works with local systems, here are the key links:

- [Strategic commissioning framework](#)
- [Medium Term Planning Framework 2026/27 to 2028/29](#)
- [NHS Confederation summary](#)
- [Government announcement on NHS reform](#)

Events and Opportunities



Neighbourhood health webinar

Sefton and St Helens are among 43 national pioneers developing neighbourhood health services as part of the Government's 10-Year Health Plan.

We're hosting an online session exploring how the VCFSE sector is being embedded in these emerging neighbourhood models and what good looks like in practice.

You'll hear early learning from local leaders involved in the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme, including Sefton CVS, Halton and St Helens VCA, and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside.

8 December 2025 | 10am to 11.30am | Online via Microsoft Teams

Register now

The Great North VCFSE Exchange

Join VSNW for the first ever Great North VCFSE Exchange, a new event bringing together voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) leaders from across the North – including across Cheshire and Merseyside – to explore how we work with our strategic authorities.



The session will share experiences from across the region and create space to reflect on how different areas are building strong, effective partnerships.

This is a chance for C&M colleagues to connect, share learning, and help define what good collaboration looks like between the VCFSE sector and strategic authorities.

14 January 2026 | 1pm to 3pm | Online via Microsoft Teams

[Find out more](#)

Applications open for Parent Carer Peer Support Worker training

Applications are now open for the Parent Carer Peer Support Worker (PC PSW) training, commissioned by NHS England and starting in January 2026.

This fully funded course is for parents and carers with lived experience, working alongside a supporting service. PC PSWs use their own experiences to support families of children and young people with mental health difficulties, offering compassionate and culturally sensitive help across community and voluntary sector settings.

Delivered by The Charlie Waller Trust, University of Reading, and Northumbria University.

Deadline: 28 November 2025

[Apply now](#)



Apply now for the Green Growth Awards

Small Business Britain, in partnership with BT, has launched the Green Growth Awards and Green Growth 100, celebrating small businesses using sustainability to drive growth.

From cutting waste to rethinking supply chains, these businesses prove that what's good for the planet is good for business too.

Successful applicants will be invited to an awards event in March 2026, where two standout firms will each receive a £5,000 Green Growth Award.

Applications are open now – don't miss out!

Deadline: 9 January 2026

Apply now

Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway webinar

The North West is implementing the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Response Pathway throughout 2025/26. This one-hour repeat webinar from the [CSA Centre](#) will support professionals to put the pathway into practice.

One in ten children experience sexual abuse before the age of 16, yet most cases go unidentified. The Response Pathway provides clear, practical guidance to help professionals recognise and respond to concerns, protecting and supporting children and families.

The session is aimed at safeguarding leads and managers across all sectors.

Date: Tuesday 25 November from 10am to 11am

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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