

GATESHEAD HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AGENDA

Friday, 26 January 2024 at 10.00 am in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1	Apologies for Absence
2	<p>Minutes (Pages 3 - 12)</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December 2023 are attached for approval, together with the Action List.</p>
3	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Members of the Board to declare an interest in any particular agenda item.</p>
4	<p>Updates from Board Members</p> <p>Items for Discussion</p>
5	<p>Director of Public Health Annual Report</p> <p>Presentation of Alice Wiseman</p>
6	<p>Refresh of Voluntary Sector Compact (Pages 13 - 28)</p> <p>Alison Dunn and Lisa Goodwin</p>
7	<p>Gateshead Health NHS FT Plans and Focus on Women's Health</p> <p>Presentation of Trudie Davies</p>
8	<p>Gateshead Cares System Board Update</p> <p>Mark Dornan / All</p> <p>Performance Management Items</p> <p>Items for Information</p>
9	<p>Pharmacy notifications (change of ownership) from NENC ICB (Pages 29 - 30)</p> <p>2 Ravensworth Road, Dunston (transfer of ownership from Boots to JSBH Ltd)</p>

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
GATESHEAD HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD MEETING

Friday, 1 December 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Caffrey (Chair)

Councillor(s): Dick, Kirton, Oliphant, Gannon, Burns, Wallace
Officer(s): Costello, Dornan

APOLOGIES: Councillor(s): C Donovan, G Haley, M McNestry, J McCoid,
Officer(s): Clark, Goodwin, Hindmarsh, Sibson, Udall and
Wiseman

HW60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

HW61 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2023 were approved as an accurate record with no matters arising.

HW62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

HW63 UPDATES FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Chair – The ICB have expressed an openness to forming a Joint Place Committee. This will be explored further to consider how a Joint Place Committee could serve our local system over and above existing working arrangements.
- Dale Owens – Work is being undertaken with the National Development Team for Inclusion on approaches to social care. A contract for this has been signed for 3 years. The first area to look at is the ‘front door’, including safeguarding. Work will be undertaken across all partners, and the first piece of work will involve putting focus groups together to understand what the ‘front door’ will look like. A report from this is expected to be prepared by the end of March.
- Dale Owens – LGA has been commissioned to conduct a peer review of adult social care. They are expected to be on site in March and they will complete an independent review across the system. A report on the outcomes from the peer review will be brought to the Board to show areas of strength and areas for improvement before the CQC inspection takes place.
- Steph Downey – Adult Social Care staff were nominated for an award on digital inclusion. Connected Voice have been awarded UKCF prosperity funding which allows work our together to extend for 18 months.

- A proposal was submitted on behalf of Gateshead Cares to develop a Women's Health Hub. £250,000 has been awarded by NENC ICB for the development of the Hub in Gateshead. Sunderland and North Cumbria have also been given the same level of funding.
- It was reported that, for the first time, all known counterfeit tobacco shops across the borough have been closed.
- Colleagues in the Housing Team have appointed a Sustainable Food Coordinator.
- Gateshead has seen the highest level of improvement of flu vaccination rates, particularly in care homes.
- CNTW is running a campaign on loneliness around Christmas.
- The Board wished to thank Dr Steve Kirk for his contribution to the work of the Gateshead health and care system.

HW64 ASYLUM & MIGRATION UPDATE

A report was shared with the Board providing an overview and update on asylum and refugee migration and the implications for Gateshead.

The report covered work that is currently being done by Gateshead Council working with local partners and set out details of the emerging pressures affecting the following groups and areas:

- Asylum Seekers
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)
- Refugee Resettlement

The following implications for the Local Authority were noted:

1. The increased volume of people via the asylum process granted positive decisions and presenting to the Council for support, this is predominantly for homeless support.
2. Not all who present as homeless will be considered in priority need for instance some single people, which may result in an increase in street homelessness/hardship.
3. The increased pressure on children's social care due to the allocation of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
4. The increased pressure on social care services due to the pace to receive a UASC within five days of a referral.
5. The wider implications/pressures due to the increased pace of cessations for other service areas /partnerships such as health and education.
6. Initial data indicates a higher level of single people than families being granted leave to remain and presenting to the council.
7. The increased pressures on the voluntary and community sector, more people are presenting with longer term support needs.
8. The Home Office requires a response to future resettlement programmes from 2025 by the 15 December 2023 and this will be subject to discussions with relevant Portfolio Leads.
9. The responsibility for future resettlement programmes (safe and legal routes) now rests on the commitment from councils.

The last publicly released asylum data in August 2023 identified Gateshead asylum numbers at 815 people. This figure fluctuates according to new arrivals and changes in procedures. Eight countries are being fast tracked, and a majority of those waiting on decisions in Gateshead are from these eight countries.

Currently, it is understood that there are no rough sleepers who are asylum seekers, although concerns have been raised about asylum seekers receiving little notice of eviction or needing to move properties. This is being monitored by the Home Office.

A follow up report will be considered by the Gateshead Cares System Board at a future meeting.

The Board commended the work that is happening in this area.

RESOLVED

- i. The Board noted the report.

HW65 HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES UPDATE

This item was removed from the agenda.

HW66 CONSULTATION ON CREATING A SMOKE FREE GENERATION AND TACKLING YOUTH VAPING

A report was presented to the Board seeking views on the proposed response to a national DHSC consultation “Stopping the start - plan to create a smokefree generation”. The report also sought the Board’s endorsement of the key recommendation around raising the age of sale of tobacco to those born after 1st January 2009 and the new North East Declaration for a Smokefree Future.

The report discussed ways that the key recommendation supports Gateshead’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

RESOLVED

- i. The Board considered and agreed to the proposed consultation response.
- ii. The Board supported the key recommendation to raise the age of sale of tobacco to those born after 1st January 2009.
- iii. The Board endorsed the new North East Declaration for a Smokefree future.

HW67 GATESHEAD CARES SYSTEM BOARD UPDATE

Updates were given to the Board on the following areas:

- Gateshead Place Plan, focusing on Priority 2: Better Health & Care Services – developing Integrated Neighbourhood Teams.

- Single Point of Access – Children and Young People Pathway (a report on progress will be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board in due course)
- Gateshead Cares Professional Forum
- Winter Resilience Plans
- Women’s Health Inequalities Hub

RESOLVED

- i. The Board noted the presentation.

HW68 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

The Board was presented with the 2022/23 annual report of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

The report included information on:

- The SAB in Gateshead, it’s partners and structure.
- Gateshead SAB Sub-Group arrangements:
 - Quality Learning and Practice Group
 - Safeguarding Adult Review and Complex Cases
 - Joint Strategic Exploitation Group
- Partner Governance Arrangements and Scrutiny
- Key Activities during 2022/23 and the Board’s strategic priorities
- Safeguarding Adults headline performance
- Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews

Activities from 2022/23 included:

- Launch of regional Self Neglect 7-minute guides and animation
- Adult Concern Decision Making Tool
- Northumbria Police Right Care Right Person
- Gateshead Housing Hoarder Support Group
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Safe and Well Visits
- Multi-agency training offer
- Safeguarding Adults Week

In looking forward to the 2024-26 Strategic Plan, a full review has been undertaken to identify what has been achieved, what needs to be achieved and to ensure priorities are current. This review has included a development day and partnership involvement.

The Board commended the reassurance provided by the report and presentation which it felt was encouraging to see. The Board also commended the focus on people being at the heart of the SAB’s initiatives.

There was also interest from the Board regarding the ‘safe and well’ Fire Service visits. The Fire Service has been able to establish different links with residents as they are considered a neutral service.

There were concerns about Right Care Right Person by the ICB and LAs in terms of the readiness for a launch over the Christmas period. The Police can inform relevant services where calls are being made from but not where a caller lives, which makes it difficult to link service users to the right LA. A partial phased approach is being undertaken, which includes support workers sitting in on calls in the police control room to help with any mental health concerns that arise.

RESOLVED

- i. The Board noted the report.

HW69 BETTER CARE FUND QUARTER 2 RETURN 2023/24

The Board received a report on Gateshead's Better Care Fund quarter two return for 2023/24. The report confirmed that national conditions are being met across the LA and ICB. It also set out details of performance against metrics and the position regarding demand and capacity across the local system.

RESOLVED

- i. The Board noted the report.

Chair.....

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Item 2.2

**GATESHEAD HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
ACTION LIST**

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETE or STATUS
Matters Arising from HWB meeting on 1st December 2023			
Partner Updates	Following completion of the LGA Peer Review of ASC, report the findings to the Board	Dale Owens	To feed into Forward Plan
Asylum & Migration Update	Follow-up report on next steps to be considered by Gateshead Cares System Board in advance of a Members Seminar	Deborah Ewart and Claire Thew	Included on Forward Plan for Gateshead Cares System Board – meeting date tbc
Gateshead Cares System Board Update	Single Point of Access - Children and Young People Pathway: item on progress to be brought to the HWB	Angela Kumar and partner organisations	To feed into Forward Plan for 2024/25
Matters Arising from HWB meeting on 20th October 2023			
Updates from Board Members	To invite the Chief Executive of Gateshead Health FT to give a presentation to the Board on its plans to relating to women’s health	Presentation by Chief Executive of Gateshead Health FT	On the agenda of the 26 th January Board meeting
	To add a presentation on the National Women’s Health Strategy to the Board’s work programme	Presentation by Siobhan Brown	To feed into Forward Plan
Community Pharmacy Roles – supporting local	Gateshead Citizens Advice and LCP to meet to further	Alison Dunn and LPC representatives	

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETE or STATUS
communities	discuss poverty barriers to accessing prescriptions and pharmacy services and to put out communications		
	To recommend adding support for community pharmacies to the agenda of an ICP North meeting and to restate the commitment to community pharmacies	ICP North Committee	On the agenda of the ICG North February meeting
	To recommend that the application of elements of the community pharmacy model in South Tyneside be considered by the Gateshead ICB Place Committee	Gateshead ICB Place Committee	
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS FT Strategy and Community Health Transformation	CNTW to come back to the Board with an update on its clinical model at a future date	Anna English	To feed into Forward Plan
Matters Arising from HWB meeting on 8th September 2023			
SEND Inspection	To bring an update to a future Board meeting on progress in taking forward the SEND Strategic Priority Action Plan	Andrea Houlihan	To feed into Forward Plan
Trauma Informed Care	To report back to the Board next year on progress in implementing the service, including some case studies	Lisa Wood	To feed into Forward Plan

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETE or STATUS
Matters Arising from HWB meeting on 21st July 2023			
Partner Updates	Refresh of Voluntary Sector Compact to come to future Board meeting	Lisa Goodwin and Alison Dunn	On the agenda of the January Board meeting
A New Home Improvement and Assistance Service for Gateshead	To receive an update on progress being made in implementing the new service at a future meeting	Peter Wright	To feed into Forward Plan
Matters Arising from HWB meeting on 21st April 2023			
Physical Activity Strategy	To receive a further update report in the Autumn	Michael Lamb / Natalie Goodman	An update on Active Travel and Sector Led Improvement (physical activity) is due to come to the Board in the New Year
Matters Arising from HWB meeting on 27th January 2023			
Family Hubs	To receive a further update on plans at a future meeting	Gavin Bradshaw	To feed into Forward Plan
Matters Arising from HWB meeting on 29th April 2022			
Climate Change Strategy for Gateshead	To receive an update on progress in taking forward the Climate Change Strategy	A Hutchinson / L Greenfield	To feed into Forward Plan

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The Gateshead Compact 2024-2027

Valuing and supporting the VCSE sector in Gateshead

DRAFT

January 2024

The Gateshead Compact 2024-27

Contents **TO AMEND ONCE FINALISED**

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<i>4. Making the Compact Work</i>	

Foreword

Welcome to the Gateshead Compact, outlining how all the partners at Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board will work together to ensure a productive and successful relationship with the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in Gateshead.

Gateshead has always had an active and vibrant VCSE sector, with groups and organisations of all sizes making an invaluable contribution to the borough's many and diverse communities. Our health and wellbeing strategy and corporate plan recognises the key role the sector plays both in keeping people connected and well, and as a deliverer of services.

The role of the VCSE sector has changed radically in recent years, with many organisations now at the front line of supporting people with basic needs including food, clothing and warmth. The flexibility and responsiveness of VCSE organisations was recognised and greatly valued during the Covid pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis that came afterwards.

Close working, mutual respect and an understanding of both our strengths and differences are things which we know will be important over the next few years in the relationship between the VCSE sector and public sector in Gateshead.

In recognition of these changes it is more important than ever that we work together with trust, respect, consensus and creativity to support our communities in Gateshead.

The role of the Compact is to:

- Enhance the relationship between the VCSE sector, the Council, NHS and other key public sector partners
- Ensure a sustainable and resilient VCSE sector
- Improve communication, accountability and joint working between the VCSE sector, the Council, NHS and other key public sector partners
- Maximise our collective impact and resources to improve services for Gateshead communities and outcomes for local people
- Deliver the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and use the Thrive approach.

This Compact sets out the basis for our partnership over the next three years.

We look forward to working with you all on the implementation of this Compact.

Cllr Lynne Caffrey
Chair, Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board

What is a Compact?

A Compact is an agreement between public sector agencies and the VCSE sector to work together to agreed standards and shared objectives. It formalises shared commitments and priorities, which recognise the value and role of VCSE sector, and outlines how to make these commitments a reality.

Following the principles of the first national Compact in 1998 (revised and relaunched in 2009), local Compacts have typically sought to outline protocols, undertakings and ways of working which manage the relationship between public sector bodies and the VCSE sector. Compacts have always been voluntary, and are designed to demonstrate a shared commitment to joint working, and a process by which any issues can be raised and resolved.

The History of the Compact in Gateshead

Gateshead's first Compact was published in 2002. It set out a range of undertakings expected from each sector and provided a mechanism for closer working between the public sector and the community and voluntary sector. The original Compact also provided a number of Codes of Practice necessary to support this complex working relationship.

This first Compact developed as a series of agreements between individual statutory organisations and the VCS, and was not envisaged as a Gateshead-wide, partnership-based approach.

An updated Compact was developed in 2010. It differed from the original compact in that:

- a. It applied to all members of the Gateshead Strategic Partnership, and was based on a series of objectives which are shared by all partners;
- b. It focused on four key shared commitments and a proactive approach to the delivery of these commitments, and therefore moved away from the 'codes of practice' approach of the previous Compact;
- c. It was based around partnership working to deliver Vision 2030.

This Compact was the winner of the Local Compact Award in the Annual National Compact Awards for 2011. It was recognised as demonstrating the ongoing or long term impact that positive partnership working can have in a local community.

A third compact was written in 2014 and included the following changes:

- a. Recognition of the major changes regarding the financial context for the Council and the VCSE at the beginning of austerity
- b. A re-focussing and prioritising of shared commitments covering

maintaining a strong VCSE sector, long term planning and transparency in commissioning, volunteering, and Gateshead Communities Together

- c. Addition to the principles regarding a sustainable and modernised VCSE sector.

The Compact in 2024

The operating environment for the VCSE sector and public sector has changed significantly since the last Compact was adopted. Rates of poverty in the borough are at an all time high, and health inequalities continue to perpetuate. The VCSE sector finds itself in a front-line role with both need and complexity of need increasing, and volunteer capacity reducing. The challenging financial environment we all face highlights the need to refocus our attentions working together in co-productive ways to find collective solutions.

Against a backdrop of rising poverty and increasing health inequalities, a refresh of the Gateshead Compact is overdue as both public sector and VCSE agencies find themselves in an ever more critical frontline role with both need and complexity of need increasing.

We've all faced new challenges in the last decade, to include significant welfare reform, a prolonged period of austerity, and a global pandemic followed swiftly followed by a cost-of-living crisis. As a result of these significant national and international events, and natural staff turnover, knowledge of the Gateshead Compact and the practical application of it has fallen away, but the mutual respect between the public and voluntary sector remains, as does the willingness to collaborate.

The VCSE has a key role to play in the development and delivery of the Council's Locality strategy, and is an integral part of the 'team around the community' approach which the locality model fosters, enabling critical services and support mechanisms to reach individuals and communities which may otherwise remain isolated.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy has the following aims:

- Give every child the best start in life, with a focus on conception to age two
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- Create the conditions for fair employment and good work for all
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all, in accordance with international law on economic and social rights
- Create and develop sustainable places and communities
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

These aims rely on our organisations to work together and co produce solutions across organisational boundaries. They will only be achieved by the public and VCSE sectors working together in a meaningful partnership, supported by the principles in the Compact.

The VCSE Sector

A VCSE Organisation is any organisation or group that:

- (1) is established only for charitable, community or social objectives and
- (2) only or predominantly benefits the public (or a section of it) or a community and
- (3) uses any surpluses only or predominantly to further those objectives, rather than for private gain.

The VCSE sector has had many names over the years – for example Civil Society, the Third Sector, the voluntary sector and the VCS. ‘VCSE sector’ is the current catch all term that includes any organisation (incorporated or not) working with Social Purposes. This ranges from small community based groups (Good Neighbour Schemes, ‘Knit & Natter’ etc.), through to larger registered Charities that operate locally, regionally or nationally. VCSE organisations can have a range of informal and more formal structures, depending on their size and remit.

Typically, the organisational structures in the VCSE sector are:

- Unincorporated Association
- Charitable Trust
- Registered Charity
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- Company Limited by Guarantee
- Company Limited by Shares
- Community Interest Company
- Community Benefit Society
- Co-operative Society

Where VCSE organisations have a company structure, they have a social purpose which distinguishes them from a private company, and they may also be a registered charity.

Social Enterprise describes a *type* of organisation and not a legal structure. Social enterprises are organisations with primarily social purposes, which generate revenue through trading and reinvest any surplus back into the business or the community they serve. The term ‘Social Enterprise’ has no legal status and is not recognised by HMRC or any other regulatory body. Social enterprises use many of the same legal forms as other VCSE organisations – most often Community Interest Company, Company Ltd by Guarantee/ Shares, or Co-operative Society.

Section One Core principles:

The Gateshead Compact partners recognise that an independent, diverse and thriving VCSE sector is vital to the wellbeing of society and the prosperity of Gateshead. Voluntary and community action is an essential part of democratic society and life in Gateshead. These are the core principles which underpin the Compact.

Shared Vision: Partners share a commitment to the Thrive Policy Framework and the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Strategy. The policy framework, the HWB strategy and underpinning implementation plan provides a coherent means of partners working together to support the wider health and wellbeing of our communities in Gateshead.

Benefit: Everything we do as partners is done for the benefit of Gateshead, its people and communities.

Realism: All partners have to work within the available resources linked to priorities for the borough and established in consultation with each other.

Respect: Public and VCSE sector organisations are accountable in different ways, both need to act with transparency and integrity. Effective partnerships are built on mutual understanding, co-operation and an appreciation of the differences between partners of the Compact.

Honesty: It is only through open communication that strong partnerships can be built and maintained. Full, frank and mature discussions should be the basis for resolving difficulties.

Independence: The independence of the VCSE sector is recognised and supported. This includes the right within the law to campaign, to comment on and to challenge national, regional and local policy (whatever funding or other relationship may exist with government and other public sector partners) and to determine and manage its own affairs.

Diversity: The public and VCSE sectors value a thriving civil society, which brings innovation and choice through a multitude of voices and actions.

Fairness: The public and VCSE sectors will work together to achieve fair decisions. Fairness for everyone, across diverse backgrounds, is a fundamental goal.

Co-operation: By working co-operatively and recognising and focusing on assets, the public sector and VCSE sector can deliver change that is built around communities and people.

Volunteering: Volunteering activities are an important part of citizenship and essential to public life and democracy. All partners will aim to be volunteer-friendly and also volunteering-literate; that is, aware of ways that their actions and decisions may affect community and voluntary activity..

Section Two: Shared priorities for Gateshead

1. Strong, Sustainable VCSE Sector

A shared commitment to ensuring a strong, healthy VCSE sector by providing appropriate levels of funding, which where affordable are linked to inflation. Prior to the commencement of each financial year, and aligned to the Council's budget setting process, any voluntary sector organisations who have a contractual or grant agreement with the Council will have the opportunity to advise of any impact of actual or anticipated cost pressures on their ability to fulfil their obligations under these arrangements. The Council commits to having due regard to this information, and entering into discussions with the sector about options to mitigate such pressures.

All partners have an opportunity to maximise support for the VCSE sector via effective use of social value in procurement processes.

Gateshead Council will work towards building VCSE sector funding into the base budget, as a way of protecting their funding in the longer term. All public sector partners are encouraged to consider this. All partners commit to considering the best way to fund to provide longer term and sustainable funding to the sector for the delivery of measured outcomes, e.g. using a grant funding or a procurement approach taking into account the regulations that apply to the partner and the need for fairness and transparency. Contracts created through a procured process can often offer longer term and committed funding for the VCSE.

2. Long term planning and transparency in commissioning

A shared commitment to working together to provide transparency and objectivity in public sector commissioning and procurement. This will include public sector partners providing clear and annually updated information about the extent of their expenditure in the VCSE sector. It will also include implementing full commissioning cycles, which allow the VCSE sector to input fully, and providing co-production opportunities for people with living and lived experience.

A commitment to improved and proportionate contract management, with contracts linked to inflation. For the VCSE sector, this includes the commitment to provide the commissioner with good quality monitoring information regularly, and to receive feedback and engage in dialogue with commissioners.

For new opportunities, commissioners commit to ensure that thought is given to whether the funding should be in the form of a grant or contract as referred to in point one above, and to ensure that opportunities are widely shared and that the social value provided by VCSE organisations is acknowledged fairly and transparently in assessments.

3. Valuing and enabling volunteering

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities. We have a shared commitment to valuing the role of volunteers; removing barriers to volunteering; supporting the take up of opportunities; ensuring an effective infrastructure is in place to support volunteering; and working in partnership to encourage volunteering.

4. Gateshead Locality working

A shared commitment to the value of community development, the role of public sector organisations, VCSE organisations, faith groups and community leaders in engaging people in decisions that affect them, and co production and delivery of services.

Section Three: Our Commitments

Commitment 1: Allocating financial resources fairly

Shared Commitments:

- We will consider carefully whether grants or contracts are the most appropriate method of funding, as opportunities arise.
- We will integrate the principles of intelligent commissioning and procurement and social value into all commissioning and procurement process and policy.
- We will work co-operatively with partners, local people and communities, to inform service development proposals and to ensure resources are used effectively and value for money.
- We will ensure all stages of the commissioning and procurement process are as inclusive as possible.
- We recognise we are working in a fast-changing environment and will be sensitive to the challenges this presents.
- We recognise sometimes our collaborative approaches will cut across traditional boundaries and responsibilities.
- We will share best practice.
- We will share resources, where possible, to help increase our efficiency and effectiveness.

Public Sector Commitments:

- We will move towards co-production and ensure, where appropriate, the involvement of the VCSE sector in a range of opportunities from the earliest possible point in the process.
- All commissioning and procurement activity will consider local markets and the VCSE sector to maximise and embed social value in our communities.
- We will publicise information about funding and procurement opportunities and we will follow realistic, and clearly communicated, timescales. When this is not possible we will explain why this is the case.
- Commissioners will collaborate where appropriate, involve the social sector, and try to align decisions.
- We will seek multi-year funding commitments and engage in joint commissioning and/or procurement where demonstrably appropriate, and in line with our statutory and contracting requirements.
- We will recognise that the VCSE sector is made up of predominantly very small organisations and that their capacity to engage with us is increased if we appropriately fund their time and are thoughtful about our ask of them.
- We will balance the need for accountability and value for money with a commitment to proportionate and effective processes that monitor and evaluate.
- We will adhere to internal codes of practice when making payments to the VCSE sector and these will be clearly communicated.
- We understand that making payments in a timely manner is critical for smaller VCSE organisations and local organisations will benefit from our early payment discount scheme.
- We recognise that, in some circumstances, flexible payment arrangements may be required to enable more VCSE sector organisations to engage in financial and service development opportunities.

- We will seek to support the VCSE sector in ways other than funding. This support will differ between partners and may include, for example, supporting volunteering, in-kind support, or good practice dissemination and development.
- We will be aware of potential opportunities which may benefit Gateshead people and communities and we will share our knowledge with the VCSE sector.
- We recognise new ways of working may involve risk and require a supportive approach.

VCSE Sector Commitments:

- We will respond constructively to appropriate opportunities for coproduction.
- We will recognise and promote social value in our activities, leading others by example to value the impact of their activity on local communities.
- We will facilitate feedback from service users and communities to help improve delivery of programmes and services and ensure that consultation responses accurately reflect the views and experiences of service users / communities.
- We will share information based on our experience and knowledge to help shape and inform any analysis of the needs of communities and appropriate allocation of resources. We will enter into collaborative partnerships with other VCSE sector organisations and the public sector to develop, and deliver, appropriate services within the context of available resources.
- We will be open and transparent about reporting, recognising that proportionate monitoring is an aspect of good management practice and a reasonable expectation of distributors of funds.
- The VCSE will collaborate to achieve better outcomes for residents and where appropriate will involve the public sector

Commitment 2. Promoting equality, community cohesion and social inclusion

Shared Commitments:

- We will work together to agree outcomes and approaches to reduce inequalities in our Borough. The JSNA will help us to do this.
- We will ensure the voices of under-represented and disadvantaged groups, and those with living or lived experience, are heard and taken into account when designing and implementing policies, programmes and services. This will include an assessment of impact.
- We will ensure the decisions we take are fair and transparent and that we have appropriate communication plans in place.
- We will take practical action to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality and ensure a voice for under-represented and disadvantaged groups.
- We will embed service user and carer involvement in the commissioning and procurement process.
- We will seek advice and input from experienced organisations as well as service users and carers.
- We will promote good relations between diverse social sector organisations and between the public and VCSE sector.
- We will do this by communicating clearly and developing and supporting opportunities for collaboration and partnership working.
- We will value good working practices, promoting improved ethical standards to

others.

Public Sector Commitments:

- We will work with VCSE sector organisations that represent, support or provide services to people specifically protected by legislation and other under-represented and disadvantaged groups.
- We will recognise good working practices as creating social value and we will support organisations to improve their ethical standards and influence others.
- We acknowledge that organisations representing specific disadvantaged or under-represented groups can help promote social and community cohesion and should have fair access to funding and commissioning and procurement opportunities.
- We will evidence the effects of grant funding, commissioning and procurement through robust evaluation.
- We will respond constructively to feedback from the social sector.
- We recognise and value the perspectives of the social sector in influencing and shaping policy, strategy and practice.

VCSE Sector Commitments:

- We will share our specialist knowledge and best practice to assist the public sector to fulfil its duties under the Equalities Act.
- We will assist public agencies to engage with the community by providing advice on appropriate ways of engaging communities and by sharing consultation information to users of services and / or members of communities on issues of concern to them.
- We will take practical action to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality and build stronger communities.
- We will represent and reflect the views of people and communities, who are often excluded by using the reach and trust we have developed.

Commitment 3. Consulting and involving the VCSE sector, service users and governance bodies

Our Shared Commitments:

- We will use an appropriate range of tools to engage groups and individuals in consultations.
- We will aim to offer an appropriate level of consultation time wherever possible.
- We will work with our partners to find out what is already known and what other consultations are planned so that we can avoid duplication and explore joint consultations.
- We will only consult on things that we can affect the outcome of, and we will report back on what this is.
- We will consider social value in consultation, to increase the positive impact of our activity on our communities.
- We will acknowledge the contribution of others where it is given.
- We will ensure that consultations are clear about what they are asking and who should answer so that people contributing do not waste their time if it's not appropriate.

Public Sector Commitments:

- We recognise VCSE sector organisations are connected with people and communities and that those relationships can help make consultation more thorough and effective.
- We will facilitate appropriate involvement of the VCSE sector in all key stages of the commissioning and procurement process
- We will work together to minimise rolling over contracts
- We will consider social value in our consultation processes and use information to commission and procure for greater social value impact.

VCSE Sector Commitments:

- We will support local people and communities to be engaged in civil society and to contribute to consultations as appropriate.
- We will be clear about whom we are representing, in what capacity, and on what basis that representation is being made.
- We recognise that some consultations will be subject to statutory requirements or involve significant changes and the desired 12 week consultation time may be different for these

Commitment 4. Promoting and supporting volunteering

Shared Commitments:

- We recognise that volunteering is the bedrock of the VCSE sector and that volunteering capacity has reduced since the Covid pandemic.
- We recognise that volunteering has positive health benefits for individuals, as well as a positive impact on wider society.
- We recognise volunteering has costs which impact upon the resources and capacity of volunteer involving organisations and we recognise volunteers should not be used as replacements for paid employees
- **Mutual Respect:** We support the idea that volunteers should expect to gain something in return for giving their time, energy and skills. This could include, for example, a sense of worthwhile achievement, useful skills, experience and contacts, sociability and fun or inclusion in the life of the organisation.
- **Recognition:** We recognise volunteers' contribution to the health and wellbeing of the community, public sector organisations, and the social economy and to wider social objectives.

Commitment 5. Managing changes to services

Shared Commitments:

- We will have mature and sometimes difficult conversations but will maintain relationships as we both work for the benefit of people and communities in Gateshead.
- We recognise that it may be necessary to end or change funding arrangements (for example, when people's or communities needs change, when funding specific activities becomes unaffordable or when funding streams cease). Where changes are necessary, we will work together on understanding the effects, including the wider social impact.
- We will work together to ensure any changes are implemented respectfully.

- We will be aware of and seek to proactively mitigate any potential adverse impact on service users, communities and employees.
- We will engage in consultations to identify future gaps in provision or services.
- We will work together to try to ensure appropriate transition arrangements and/or temporary measures can be put in place to maintain services and / or buildings. However, we recognise that sometimes this may not be possible.

Public Sector Commitments:

- We will consider the potential effects of any proposed change to services, including the wider social impact.
- We recognise the VCSE sector require advance notice when changing or ending a contract or funding relationship or other support and will seek to work together to create a satisfactory exit strategy.
- We will discuss the implications of any restrictions or changes to financial resources with the VCSE sector and consider comments before making final decisions. If a programme or service is encountering problems, our first response would be to work with the provider to support performance improvement.
- We will ensure standards of acceptable delivery are clearly communicated and are realistic, providing a reasonable period of time for implementation where improvement is needed
- We will ensure all parties are up to date with information and changes by using appropriate communication and thinking about the best way to communicate.

VCSE Sector Commitments:

- We will contribute positively and in a timely manner to reviews of services.
- We will advise funders on the social, environmental or economic impact of funding changes, and on ways to minimise their effects on people in vulnerable situations.
- We will highlight any difficulties we are experiencing with delivery as early as possible and seek constructive support.
- We will work creatively to minimise negative aspects of service change, as appropriate

Section 4: Making the Compact Work

Successful implementation of the Compact will rely on:

1. A robust monitoring, review and accountability structure
2. An ongoing commitment to working together closely, changing cultures and working differently
3. A programme of awareness raising and education about the Compact, particularly for public sector Commissioners. **This will be led by>>>**

Monitoring and Accountability

- The implementation of the Compact will be overseen by a joint Compact oversight group, supported by Connected Voice and Gateshead Council.
- The actions relating to each commitment will be monitored by this group and by

Connected Voice in their role as VCSE infrastructure support provider for Gateshead

- Progress will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board annually
- A bi- annual review of the Compact will be undertaken to assess impact and working practices and this will be reported to Gateshead Health and Wellbeing board who will provide guidance on whether or not the outcome of the report demands further scrutiny by Cabinet.
- As part of progress reporting, information will be shared about any positive impacts emerging from using the Compact.

Section 5: Signatories:

TBC

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Our Ref: CAS-261631-L0W6G4

Primary Care Support England
PCSE Enquiries, PO Box
350
Darlington DL1 9QN
Email
PCSE.marketentry@nhs.net
Phone 0333 014 2884

Sent via email to all interested parties
on distribution list

28th December 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Change of Ownership application for Boots UK Limited at Ravensworth Road, Dunston, Gateshead, NE11 9FJ by JSBH Limited.

North East and North Cumbria ICB has considered the above application and I am writing to confirm that it has been granted. Please see the enclosed report for the full reasoning.

Yours Sincerely

N Hussain

Naheem Hussain
PMAS Officer

NHS England's [Privacy Notice](#) describes how certain services are provided on behalf of Integrated Care Boards and how personal data is used. It also explains how you can invoke your rights as a data subject. We will protect your information in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018.

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