



Working together for health, wellbeing and community life.

BOB is a short way of saying Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire. This document explains how VCSE organisations work with the NHS in the BOB area.

This is the **second of two documents. Published December 2023.**

What is the VCSE Health Alliance?



A partnership is when people or organisations work together in an equal way.



All the health and care organisations working together in BOB are called the BOB Integrated Care System (ICS).



A Care System is when different organisations work in a partnership to plan and deliver health and care services.

These services improve people's lives.



Integrated is when two or more things are combined to work together well.



The VCSE sector and the NHS in BOB have worked together for a long time.



The VCSE Alliance is a network of organisations and their managers.

A network is a group of people who are connected for a reason, such as working towards the same goal.

How does the VCSE Alliance work?



The alliance helps all the VCSE organisations and the NHS talk to each other and work together.

VCSE Action groups:



VCSE Action Groups form a collective voice on important health and wellbeing issues.

A collective voice is when a group of people express their knowledge, ideas and opinions in a way everyone can agree.

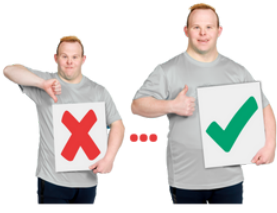


Action groups are regular meetings of VCSE leaders who have the same interest.



For example, the LD and Autism charities promoted the importance of Health Checks for People with LD to the NHS.

Representatives in ICS governance structures



Our representatives in ICS governance structures help leaders in care organisations understand what VCSE organisations know and experience.

NHS, local government and charity leaders discuss how to make things better.

A representative is someone who speaks or acts officially for another person or group of people.



Governance structures are groups of people who make decisions on how to run organisations well.

Research:



Research helps everyone understand what the VCSE is and how it contributes to health and wellbeing.

Research is finding out answers to questions.



For example, we found out that there are 44,500 people who have jobs in the charity sector in BOB. That is 1 in 20 of all working people.

This shows how important the VCSE is locally.

The VCSE Health Assembly:



The VCSE Alliance Health Assembly is a meeting where people can talk, learn and plan.



This event brings together VCSE and health organisations to learn about research on how the VCSE is helping people and how it can help more people in BOB.

What have we achieved?



Our achievements this year were about making sure the NHS-VCSE partnership in BOB will be strong in the future.

From August 2022 to July 2023 we achieved the following:



We agreed the values that will guide the partnership between the VCSE sector and the NHS in BOB.

Values are the things that we find most important in life. They help us know how to behave and work.

We supported deciding how to spend £4m of Health Inequalities funding in Oxfordshire and Berkshire West.



Health Inequalities are when different groups of people get affected differently by diseases or have different access to health services.

Access is the ability to get services that are needed.



We helped add Dying Well as one of the Integrated Care priorities for BOB.

Priorities are things that are seen as important.

Dying Well means looking after people well at the end of their lives.



We helped to write the section on Ageing well in the Integrated Care priorities.

Ageing well is helping older people stay healthy and independent for longer.



VCSE representatives joined eight BOB committees or groups.

These are meetings where NHS, local government and VCSE leaders come together around a shared topic or population group and discuss how to make things better.



We celebrated the fact that the VCSE in BOB comprises 7,500 registered organisations, has 44,500 full-time equivalent employees and 162,000 regular volunteers, making over £2bn of income.

Income is the total money an organisation makes.

What are our four values?

Trust



This value is about building trust between the VCSE, NHS, and people.



We can improve people's lives and experiences of health care by working together. The aim is to strengthen partnerships so that we can help improve health and wellbeing.

Purposeful



This value emphasises the importance of taking decisions together and doing what we have agreed to do.



This will help bring about change and be better for people and communities.

Inclusivity



This is about being open to everyone in our communities, especially those experiencing inequalities in access, outcomes, and quality of care.



We will focus on including people and communities who are excluded.

We will meet people where they live and help them with any health concerns they have.

Community Life



We want to strengthen community life because we understand that vibrant and resilient communities are important for people's health and wellbeing.



A vibrant community is where people are happy and have things to do.

A resilient community is when people can come together to face challenges.

The goals of the Integrated Care System are:



To improve health outcomes. Health outcomes are how the person's health will get better or worse.



To tackle inequalities in health outcomes, experience and patient access.



To increase productivity and value for money.

Productivity means to do a job well.

Value for money is about using the money we have in the best way.

To support broader social and economic development.



Social development is about making life better for everyone who lives in a community.

Economic development is about making a place better by improving its money and jobs.

SKILLS

We understand that the people who work in the VCSE and the NHS have different skills and backgrounds and we think that they fit together well.



An important thing we have in common is that we are all committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the people of BOB.

For example, the NHS and children's charities work together to prevent children developing mental health problems.



We want to focus on specific parts of healthcare.

An example is hospitals working with charities who support older people who need lots of care when they leave hospital.



The Health and Care Act 2022 makes it possible for the NHS and the VCSE to build stronger partnerships.



Learn

We will learn from our experiences of partnership and the different ways of understanding issues that different organisations bring.

Do you want to know more about how we work?



Visit our website at:
www.bobvcsehealthalliance.org.uk