**VCSE and Primary Care Network Collaboration Community of Practice**

**Introduction**

Locality, in partnership with [Power to Change](https://www.powertochange.org.uk/), is part of the [VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance](https://www.england.nhs.uk/hwalliance/) (HW Alliance), an initiative of the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement, and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID).

The HW Alliance exists to connect the VCSE sector with the health and care system to provide a voice and improve health and wellbeing for all communities.

As part of this work we are learning how VCSE organisations can work better with their local Primary Care Networks (PCNs). We are establishing a Community of Practice where both VCSE organisations and PCNs can meet to work through some of the challenges and solutions to better collaboration.

We are also working through the NHS Futures platform to develop an online Community of Influence where PCN members and VCSE organisations can share resources and information to help better collaboration.

**What is a Community of Practice?**

A community of practice (CoP) is a group of people who work together on a common set of issues and solutions to a shared concern.

https://www.communityofpractice.ca/background/what-is-a-community-of-practice/

We want to create an active space for 10-12 participants to share their experience and understanding of good practice of collaboration between PCNs and the VCSE.

Our CoP will meet (online) every 8 weeks over a period of 18 months to collectively tackle some of the challenges faced by PCNs and the VCSE with regard to collaboration.

P2C and Locality will support the group and act as knowledge management function. We will also liaise with other partners through the HW Alliance.



Taken from: [https://thesystemsthinker.com/communities-of-practice-learning-as-a-social-system/](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fthesystemsthinker.com%2Fcommunities-of-practice-learning-as-a-social-system%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmeena.bharadwa%40locality.org.uk%7C2d53657fbe4b44c4b55408d9b6586058%7Ce96294a410e243abbb63d3fc26975966%7C0%7C0%7C637741312969440966%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=buYAsC300wGQdKC7mM02z6yUNneLyPrDOFjGlv1LWwg%3D&reserved=0)

**What are we trying to do?**

* Identify and share good practice
* Collectively problem solve in order to develop good practice principles
* Develop a number of products including papers/blogs e.t.c. in order to influence national health policy and national and local health systems

**What will CoP members get out if it?**

* Direct links in to statutory partners (NHS England, NHS Improvement and OHID) influence the system and movement building
* Thought leadership within the sector
* Peer support and networking
* Ideas to build in to your practice/partnership

**Who can be part of it?**

We are seeking membership from a mix of VCSE and PCN representatives and from those who are leading the way in this space

Criteria:

* Current relationship/involvement with PCN
* PCN representation needs to be those involved in relationship development with VCSE

Please note:

To ensure the ability to be open about some of the challenges in local systems we will aim to avoid duplicate membership from the same PCN

Commitment

We estimate that time commitment to the CoP will take around 1 day/month (this may vary according to output development)

This will require a commitment to join and contribute to meetings as well contribution outside of meeting to outputs such as blogs, papers etc.

Timeline

EOI submission deadline – 6pm 26th January 2022

We will aim to inform members of the CoP by 31st January 2022

CoP meetings: Tuesday 15th Feb 1-3pm

 Tuesday 29th March 1-3pm

**How to apply?**

Please complete the attached expression of interest

This can also be found on the online platform [here](https://future.nhs.uk/CCAHW/view?objectID=32187440)

**What if I don’t have time to be part of the community of practice?**

We understand that you might not have time to be part of the CoP but are keen to share your experience and understanding of collaboration between the VCSE and

NHS England and NHS Improvement have created an online platform that can be used to share information and access resources related to collaboration between the VCSE and PCNs.

You can join the conversation [here](https://future.nhs.uk/CCAHW/view?objectID=32187440) (you may need to register for a Future NHS account)