

North Yorkshire Partnerships

Working together

Workshop 6: Collaborative working to improve the health of our communities

Facilitators: Gary Sainty, Humber and North Yorkshire ICS and Dena Dalton Community First Yorkshire

Workshop Description

Improving the health and wellbeing of our population is a key objective of the Integrated Care System (ICS). It is recognised that to enable improvements in health and wellbeing there is a need to be more collaborative, with multiple stakeholders working together with our communities to understand the population needs and how we can best meet these needs.

The Humber and North Yorkshire VCSE Collaborative works across the system, facilitating greater partnership working between the VCSE Sector and partners to engage and support our population. The VCSE sector works with all ages and supports some of the most vulnerable people within our communities. These people, often termed 'hard to reach', may be reluctant to engage with statutory services, however often VCSE organisations are already connected and are a trusted organisation that provide support.

This workshop aimed to provide an overview of the sector and showcase contributions it can make to health and care and discuss key opportunities where collaborative approaches could create a positive impact.

Workshop Notes

The introduction explained that we all have knowledge of people in communities who might be in need of support, but often we don't see the full picture or know what we don't know. Essentially, do we know our communities, and do we know who engages with them?

The first exercise was to develop personas which illustrated the types of people in communities with different factors in their lives. We looked at younger, working age and older people, with groups considering people in towns, or rural settings, able-bodied or

disabled, isolated or with friends and family close. It illustrated that often the people who know these individuals best are not “services” as such but shops, postmen, bus drivers etc.

Discussion then looked at why services etc. don’t come together and what could enable collaboration. Some comments made were:

- People don’t know the system so can be difficult to know what is available
- Tailored Public Health info at a local level would be good, as opposed to cascade of national/regional messaging.
- Tech and Data may give solutions to allow us to drill down to understand things at a local level.
- We need to get rid of labels of volunteers and professionals – be “alongsiders” instead
- We need believe in the ability to influence people’s lives
- Better notice boards to share info would be useful at a local level
- Need to break down barriers – people want someone to talk to, not a system to deal with
- Transport is key. If you can’t get to people or services, there are few options
- You have to be proactive and go and find people.

Summary

Encourage you to build your networks, contact Community First Yorkshire for engagement with VCSE, contact VCSE Collaborative for system wide thinking.

Commitment to collaborative working, bringing organisations together at the earliest point and value each contribution as equal.