

Introducing the 3rd Sector Health and Wellbeing Group

The Group consists of key leaders from across the 3rd Sector in Lancashire. It was established, through the ONE Lancashire initiative, via a survey and mapping exercise of infrastructure organisations, with the express intention of working collaboratively. It has been advised by an external specialist consultant.

We believe we are stronger together, offering the best prospects for our Sector’s contribution to the health and wellbeing of the people, of Lancashire.

All involved are focused on leadership on behalf of the Sector. We believe that we can offer to the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board a vehicle by which crucial aspects of its strategy can be achieved, by doing work commissioned by its members.

These, we believe, are the benefits:

Benefits for Commissioners	Benefits for the Third Sector
<p>Reduced transaction costs</p> <p>Efficiency savings</p> <p>Development of a commissioning-ready provider base</p> <p>Overcoming fragmentation within service delivery arrangements through better co-ordinated and streamlined provision</p> <p>Single point of contracting</p> <p>Effective channelling of any bundling of existing, small-scale, multiple contracts/SLA’s/grants through the consortium’s intermediary infrastructure</p> <p>More effective management of escalating community demand, especially amongst disadvantaged and vulnerable service users</p> <p>Strengthening localism by ensuring that local services are safeguarded and sustained</p> <p>Capitalisation on the sector’s capacity for added value through, e.g. the ‘volunteer dividend’ and utilisation of wider charitable resources</p> <p>A focus on <u>social value</u> and opportunity to work in partnership on co-commissioning.</p>	<p>Overcoming the barriers to small local VCF organisations securing and delivering public service contracts by building critical mass and delivery capacity</p> <p>Protecting and consolidating the unique selling points that small, independent and niche providers offer</p> <p>Material net reductions in indirect/overheads expenditure within frontline providers</p> <p>Driving up standards and continuously improving quality</p> <p>Increased capacity to leverage social investment and community development finance</p> <p>More efficient use of resources and reduction in duplication Less confusion about where to go for infrastructure support</p> <p>Joined up back office functions (including support for frontline consortia); and,</p> <p>Better quality support outcomes</p>

The Group, which currently consists of 10 founding member local charities, has, by establishing at the outset clear terms of reference, over the past 4 months agreed a clear statement of purpose, signed a memorandum of understanding and produced a Business case.

The Group's statement of purpose is that as 3rd Sector organisations we jointly recognise the need for a health and wellbeing (HWB) Group for Lancashire, which enables the 3rd Sector to get the best opportunity to shape and design commissioned services and contract with the public sector. And that this Group will extend the reach and impact of existing consortia and other health and wellbeing providers through collaborative working.

And we would now like to ask the Lancashire HWB Board for the following fourthings:

- Endorsement for this approach and its continuing development
- A commitment to work in partnership
- A commitment to recognising social value in all commissioned work
- The opportunity to engage in the development of the Board's strategy and its outworking

In making this request the founding members; Age Concern Central Lancashire, Age UK Lancashire, Greater Together, Insight Network, Lancashire Association of CVS, Lancashire Mind, Lancashire Sport Partnership, The Family, Health and Wellbeing Consortium, Third Sector Lancashire and Young Lancashire, are keen to highlight a summary of their combined collaborative offer and potential reach which is:

- Coverage: Lancashire wide
- Range: Children, Families, Adults from 'cradle to grave'
- Contracting Experience: in excess of £10 million
- Workforce: Paid: over 500 employees. Volunteers: over 10,000 volunteers
- Partnerships: Four Consortia – in excess of 160 quality assured providers
- Reach: in excess of 6,000 local 3rd Sector bodies, from community groups to charities and social enterprises.
- Service Users: over 100,000
- Services: wide and extensive range from capacity building, specialist, and service user led.
- Offices: in excess of 20 offices

Bringing these resources together; organisations recognise the opportunity to develop and provide new services, jointly across the breadth and diversity across Lancashire and further details of individual organisations offers are included below.

Summary of founder members:

Age Concern Central Lancashire

Our mission is to promote the wellbeing of all older people and help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. Primarily supporting people over the age of 55 or their carers we provide a wide range of services

These are funded through a mix of commissioned contracts, grant funded projects or self-generated income, with several delivered in partnership with voluntary, community or public sector partners. Incoming resources in 2011/12 were £2.4million.

The charity employs 140 staff on a mix of permanent and zero hours contracts and is supported by over 275 volunteers, engaged in every aspect of our operations.

Age UK Lancashire

Age UK Lancashire's mission is to promote the relief of elderly people in any manner which is deemed by law to be charitable in and around Lancashire.

Our aim is to enable all older people to make more of life. Our services enhance well being, decrease isolation and enable older people to remain independent and involved in the decisions which affect them.

We primarily support people aged 50+ but have built up expertise to deliver services to all adults, through our commissioned services such as Help Direct, Caring Neighbourhood schemes and Hospital After Care.

We also run a Trading Company which runs many charged-for services which are open to all adults. These include a Personal Assistant/ Home Help service and Foot Care provision.

We strive to work with hard-to-reach groups and ensure we deliver services which are appropriate for older people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

We currently employ 255 permanent staff along with 37 casual employees and are supported by 900 volunteers. Together we reach over 55,000 older people annually. From our 12 local offices across the county we are dedicated to providing local services which are easy to access.

Lancashire Mind

Covering the whole of the County and unitary areas of Lancashire, the organisation has a turnover of £1m and employs 40+ staff supported by over 50 volunteers. We provide support to over 700 service users and carers at any one time. Our service is accessed by some 8,000 people every year.

Our specialist and targeted service aims to improve mental wellbeing, increase awareness and reduce the stigma so often faced by people who experience a mental health need. We offer user- led services, commissioned services, pilot projects and grant funded provisions to support people in innovative ways to attain and sustain mental wellbeing.

We have extensive experience of managing external funding and grants including; LCC Multi-agency day services, Community Restart, Supported Housing, and Floating Tenancy support. MH Training, Corporate advice, signposting referral agents, income generation projects, The Eco Centre and volunteer opportunities. We also offer Counselling interventions and Targeted Youth Support

Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service (LACVS)

LACVS represents 6 district and multi-district Councils for Voluntary Service which offer a comprehensive range of practical services to frontline voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFS) groups across Lancashire.

We work with organisations across the sector from small, informal and volunteer led-groups to larger, staffed, service providers across rural and urban areas.

We have extensive experience of providing one to one support, information and training in areas such as start-up, governance, becoming commissioning ready, funding advice, good practice and quality standards, business planning, volunteer development, personnel and accounting.

LACVS includes CVS with experience of successfully delivering frontline services e.g. support for carers, volunteer centres, health champions, families health and wellbeing.

We reach out to over 4,000 VCFS groups through effective communication channels and networks with strong roots in local communities.

LACVS has a collective annual income in excess of £4 million and more than 70 staff. It has extensive experience of contract and project management both collaboratively and as individual CVS.

Lancashire Sport

Lancashire Sport Partnership is one of 49 sub-regional sport partnerships operating across England. We are funded by Sport England, by agencies to deliver specific projects on their behalf, by local government and by private sponsorship.

County Sports Partnerships are an integral part of the Government's drive to develop a 'single sports delivery system' across England, and we are the key bridge between local and regional networks. Lancashire Sport has access to a network of 2,000 sports club in Lancashire

Young Lancashire

Our aim is to support and develop high quality voluntary youth work and educational opportunities for all young people in Lancashire. We help voluntary youth services and groups to achieve the highest standards of practice and effectiveness.

Services include: development of financial and personnel procedures, fundraising support, bid writing, business and strategic planning, quality standards, guidance materials and support, access to an AQA moderation service to accredit participation and learning, support on safeguarding and access to CRB checks.

Currently Young Lancashire supports a network of 250 organisations working with over 80,000 children and young people, supported by 9,000 volunteers and over 500 paid staff.

Additionally four independently incorporated consortia are working together as part of the 3rd Sector Health and Well-Being Group – They are: Greater Together, the Families Health and Well Being Consortium the Insight Network and Third Sector Lancashire. These consortia alone bring a further 160 ‘quality assured’ front line voluntary organisations to the mix.

Greater Together

Our purpose is to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the charitable activities of not-for-profit organisations, voluntary groups and charities working with children, young people and families for the benefit of the public, and, to advance the education of those involved with voluntary and not-for-profit sector organisations working with children, young people and families.

The company was formed in 2011 and now has over 60 organisations in membership, committed to working in partnership with an agreed vision statement below:

“We believe that together we can learn more, progress faster and deliver better than we can apart and therefore have a duty to collaborate for the benefit of those we serve. The result will be a thriving local community in which all children, young people and families, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, are able to achieve their full potential”

Member organisations offer a wide range of services including targeted youth support; family intervention; therapy; domestic violence; diversionary and prevention; employability and supported employment, work with disability, drug advice etc. This membership is from a broad range of organisations, but especially local grass roots organisations (circa 88%) but also large national organisations (circa 12%) that have operated in Lancashire for at least three years.

The company’s business plan is focused on winning appropriate tenders: to date the consortium has secured a tender for the provision of Targeted Youth Support and Youth Services for the County Council and has secured a significant amount of working capital to realise and complete the businesses start up phase.

Families Health and Wellbeing Consortium

The primary goal of the Consortium is to improve the quality of life of local people, especially those who are most in need, through the provision of high quality, responsive, generalist, specialist and innovative services and initiatives. The focus of the consortium is building on the capacity and track records of existing civil society partners to deliver, collaboratively, a range of holistic and bespoke services for children, young people, families and their communities.

The Consortium, which has membership in excess of 20 organisations, aims to achieve this by securing funding for the delivery of services and will manage the ensuing revenue through a joint approach.

Insight Network

The Insight Network for Mental Health is a registered charity comprising 70 plus members drawn from across Lancashire. The members range from large to small organisations and local community agencies to those with a national footprint, together with service users and carers and other interested parties. The Network acts as a united body to develop the capability and capacity of its members. In so doing they aim to ensure that the mental health services in Lancashire meet the stated needs of Service Users and Carers.

The Network acts as a single point of contact for the sector and harnesses the views of the sector.

It has been in existence since 2005 and over that time it has established positive relationships with many parts of the statutory services. In particular it works in partnership with the Lancashire Mental Health Commissioning Network and has worked with them on several collaborative activities.

Third Sector Lancashire

Third Sector Lancashire is a consortium of Lancashire-wide infrastructure bodies. We have specialised over the past 18 months on the Health and Well-Being agenda, with a series of hearings and consultations for infrastructure and front-line organisations with experts in the field.

A similar programme is planned for 2013.

The aim is both to help the sector keep abreast of developments, and to feed into the policies and programmes of public sector providers, so that the sector is better able to make its contribution to the developing agenda.

Thus we act as a 'voice' and representative of the third sector, a process made more active by the position of the Chair of TSL sitting on the Health and Well-Being Board to represent the sector. We do not aspire to deliver services directly, but to act as an independent broker with public sector commissioners and our sector.