Developing approaches to creating NHS-VCFSE equitable partnership principles for meaningful collaborative impact

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Start Optimistic | Open minded | Grounded

Our starting point

Our starting point was trying to unpick NHS commissioning structures. We wanted to create a new way for the NHS to work with grassroots community hubs as part of its neighbourhood priorities. This work is important because grassroots hubs reach the people that the system wants to support.

Experiment focus

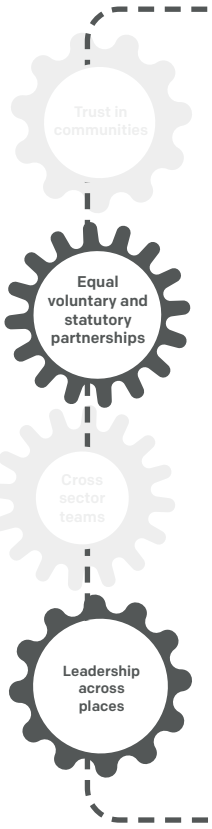
- Economic inactivity
- Live Well local leaders
- Live Well in later life
- Uniformed services

System barriers to Live Well

Our system shifting team

We have found being with fellow voluntary sector peers and leaders, really inspiring, thought-provoking and supportive throughout the whole process. The learning journey has really enabled us to reflect on the people within our sector and how special it is!

Lightbulb moments



It became clear very quickly that commissioning is not a structure grassroot organisations can exist in, let alone thrive in. So we decided to take a fresh approach and see what could take place, what could new ways of commissioning look like and push back on the structures in place, and the powers that hold them down.

We have been really encouraged by the conversations and support we have had from allies within the system, these connections have been vital, and sharing space with people within the system has been a central development point within our journey.

To change commissioning there is a risk that we might become part of the very system we are trying to change. We are determined to stay 'ourselves' and influence the system from a position of strong identity.

Our biggest challenges

We feel that this work is so big and encompassing that we could spend a lot of time on it - however being mindful of our capacity has supported a more focused approach to the work.

Our insights and breakthroughs

The key insight has been that there does need to be a new model to support grassroots community organisations have a central role in supporting people, elevated and valued in a tangible way. We feel very hopeful that we are making inroads for this to take place.

> **People within the public sector and in LAs - really are in a different paradigm which, even when they want to break out, still seems impenetrable and unmoveable. Hearing all the right words but seeing such little movement has been fascinating and really speaks to the power at play for everyone.**

Live Well everyday support in every neighbourhood

Next Steps

We continue!

We will be undertaking a longitudinal academic study on the preventative health and well-being work done within grassroots hubs, that enables people to thrive, be socially mobile and mitigate health inequalities.

Now

- Substantiated
- Hopeful
- Powerful