

VCSE Assembly Research Community of Practice

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What is it?

- Sub-group of VCSE Assembly
- Funded through the NHS Research Engagement Network, and supported by Health Innovation South West
- Funding for a year's worth of roughly six-weekly meetings

Aims

- In alignment with the VCSE Assembly's strategic vision, build a two-way communication channel between researchers in academic, clinical, local authority, and private contexts, and the VCSE sector.
- Provide a peer support and knowledge exchange opportunity for researchers based within with VCSE sector. Consider opportunities for capacity building.
- Make best use of VCSE sector skills, data, experience and insight. Enable a wider range of organisations to engage with research programmes.

Outcomes

- Improved connections between institutional researchers and VCSE contexts; developing 'matching mechanisms' to facilitate co-design and increase diversity of participation.
- Increased flow of funding and research opportunities into the VCSE sector
 - A stronger, more skilled, more supported VCSE research base
 - More opportunities for robust, high-quality, equitable collaborative research

Key Themes from First Meeting

- **Recognising research** - we didn't know we were researchers!
- **Untapped assets** –we're sitting on lots of data; we could make more of our insight
- **Accessing material** – access to libraries; grey literature repository
- **Building skills**– sharing approaches; building capacity in the wider sector; tech solutions; ensuring quality and robustness
- **Advocating for VCSE research** – access to funding; more upstream collaboration

What Next?

- Action Plan
- Core Community meeting schedule
- Opportunities for wider sector involvement, eg training
- Linking with researchers in other contexts
- Secure ongoing funding

Contact

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