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# Actions

* Diana to look into calculating cost impact of National Insurance increase on Torbay, Plymouth, and Devon’s VCSE sector.
* Luke to find a speaker from Torbay to share an overview of their locality work in the VCSE. Sue Julyan is attending the Citizens Advice Torbay Health & Wellbeing Network Steering Group meeting tomorrow (WED18DEC24) where they may be possible development.
* Diana to initiate strategic conversations with Devon and Cornwall Police, and the Police and Crime Commissioner, to discuss formal engagement with the Assembly.

# Attendees

1. Charlotte X Collyer
2. Nrvan Zowal
3. Sue Julyan
4. Paul Trainer
5. Helen (Nutriri)
6. Diana Crump
7. Fergus Paterson
8. Zoe Sydenham
9. Sophie Smith
10. Caroline Aird
11. Nicola Salmon
12. Gareth Dix
13. Nikki Fuller
14. Fiona Carden
15. Beth Harris
16. Ellie Barnes
17. Nee Bedford
18. Ian Smith
19. Darin Halifax
20. Jo Garbett
21. Luke Groves-Davis

# Minutes

## Chairs Welcome

Diana led the Chairs Welcome. Diana addressed three items in introduction:

1. National Insurance increase
2. NHS 10 Year Plan Consultation update, featuring grant funding opportunity
3. Meeting with Devon County Council re. Civic Agreement.

Diana introduced the 3 speakers for this meeting:

1. Charlotte Collyer – Devon County Council
2. Zoe Sydenham – Plymouth City Council
3. Fergus Patterson – Devon and Cornwall Police

Their respective slide decks are attached on same email that these meeting notes are included on.

### National Insurance increase

Diana discussed the National Insurance increase and its impact on organisations:

* Emphasising the need for lobbying to lessen policy’s impact on VCSE.
* Increasingly unlikely that government will reverse National Insurance increase, which has been significant concern for many organisations
* Ongoing lobbying efforts aim to mitigate impact of policy on VCSE, ensuring that increased costs are funded
* Government has pledged to fund increased costs for statutory sector organisations (e.g. police) argued funding should be extended to VCSE
* Assembly looking at calculating cost impact on Torbay, Plymouth, and Devon’s VCSE sectors to have headline figure for lobbying purposes.

### NHS 10 Year Plan Consultation update

Diana updated on consultation, highlighting involvement of local voices and small grants offer that has been made available for VCSE organisations to engage harder-to-reach communities.

* Nicola Bonas and Steve Clarke have been working hard to ensure that local voices are heard in consultation.
* Small grants offer, up to £500 per organisation, to engage harder-to-reach communities in Devon for their views on the NHS 10 Year Plan.
* Grant opportunity will be sent out via email with simple application form, with expressions of interest required by end of January.
* Consultation being launched and will be available on NHS Devon website, with emails sent to ensure better visibility.

### Meeting with Devon County Council re. Civic Agreement

Diana shared update on meeting with Devon County Council, with planned attendees including Donna Masnson, James McInnes, and various other senior figures.

* For various reasons outside Assembly control, meeting postponed to January.
* Diana was able to attend separate meeting, on the Combined Authority, with Councillor James McInnes, and other officers involved with design and development of the Combined Authority

## Train4Tomorrow Skills Bootcamps

The first speaker at December’s Full Assembly meeting was Charlotte Collyer, the Employment & Skills Manager at Devon County Council.

Charlotte looks after ‘sector skills’, more specifically a skills strategy at the Council.

* Strategy aims to build skills for foundational sectors across Devon.
* Skills Bootcamps on offer may be relevant for service users, or for upskilling staff or volunteers.
* Bootcamps are for:
  + Unemployed people – are matched with interview at end of learning, if unsuccessful they are supported for up to 6 months to search for opportunity.
  + Employed people– looking to change sector, or develop skill needed for business.
* Criteria: 19+, eligible to work in the UK, must live in postcode within Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay. Can only complete one bootcamp per financial year.
* Range of different bootcamps on offer – including digital marketing , business skills, leadership and management.

A query was raised around the opportunities for VCSE Assembly organisations for

delivering training for bootcamps.

* Charlotte emphasised importance of having conversation with her to discuss further, particularly as tender process will be launched in February 2025.
  + Example of costing: DCC pay £35 per learner at a bootcamp
  + If bootcamp required 60 guided learning hours, this leads to approximately £2,500 per individual if they go through each of stages of bootcamp.
  + Payment milestones for number of learning hours, or if interview attained.

Contact Charlotte Collyer for further discussions on upskilling workforce or becoming training provider for Skills Bootcamps. [Charlotte.x.collyer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Charlotte.x.collyer@devon.gov.uk)

## Engaging with VCSE organisations in Plymouth

The second speaker at December’s Full Assembly meeting was Zoe Sydenham, the Community Empowerment and Operational Lead at Plymouth City Council.

Zoe explained the Community Empowerment programme in her presentation:

* Programme focusing on community asset transfers, and the support for VCSE organisations based in Plymouth.
* Programme aiming to foster collaboration between Plymouth City Council, VCSE sector, and communities.
* Promoting volunteering opportunities, providing support, and coordinating network of volunteer coordinators.
* Community asset transfers – facilitating community ownership of built assets.
* Implementing community building, income maximisation, food security, and nature-based solution programmes.

Zoe highlighted different initiatives that as part of the Community Empowerment programme:

* Thrive: 10-year partnership to reduce health inequalities.
* Community Builders: team of community builders working with specific neighbourhoods and identity groups.
* Wellbeing Hub Network: network of VCSE-led wellbeing hubs providing various services.
* VCSE Planning and Response Network: network for sharing information, building relationships, and discussing strategic issues.

Ian added to the presentation to explain the food security programme in Plymouth:

* Plymouth Sustainable Food Place: pioneer member of national movement working towards systemic change in food systems.
* Emphasising the importance of the alliance model, shifting from food aid model to food access model, reducing need for free food parcels
* The Food Security Collective, a CIC known as the Bridge, focuses on cooperative bulk buying, storage, and redistribution of food to supplement existing food support programmes.
* Cooperative collections, which including 20-person food co-ops, where members share word and costs, provide balanced diet for £3 per week.
* The role of social supermarkets in transporting food, to prevent waste and ensure balanced mix of food available for support.

## Right Care Right Person initiative

The third speaker at December’s Full Assembly meeting was Fergus Paterson, the Project Officer for the Devon & Cornwall Police: Right Care Right Person initiative – which is addressing police responses to mental health callouts.

Fergus explained the project in more detail, and the need for VCSE organisations to understand their role:

* Fergus explained the 4 phases of the Right Care Right Person approach
  + Focused on reducing police involvement in non-crime-related welfare checks and mental health crises
* Significant reduction in police demand for welfare checks and missing persons,
  + Allowing officers to focus more on crime-related incidents
* Importance of VCSE organisations understanding role in supporting mental health crises
  + Directing appropriate cases to health services rather than the police
* Need for clear professional boundaries, ensuring police focus on crime
  + While health services handle mental health emergencies.

## Conclusion

Diana concluded the meeting by wishing a Happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year to all.

In the New Year, Diana is keen for the Assembly to focus on highlighting work around criminal justice and supporting crime victims.

# Next meeting

Thursday 30th January 2025, 10-11:30am on Teams.

Contact [info@tpdassembly.org](mailto:info@tpdassembly.org) for any further information.