

VCS Assembly Projects 2013-14



Note: This project list includes projects that have been supported by the VCS Assembly Team and is not a comprehensive list of all projects (i.e. it does not include projects led by the VCSA Forums of Interest).

	Project name	Description	Category
1	The Big Debate 2013 and Welfare Reform Awareness Project	The VCSA has supported work to raise awareness of Welfare Reform changes more widely within the VCS.	Communications
2	Council accommodation request process	The VCSA has worked with Shropshire Council's Property and Estates Team to design a new way of handling external enquiries for use of Council premises. A clear process with appropriate forms is now in place.	Infrastructure
3	Market Place Projects	Every 6 months the VCSA has provided the opportunity for VCSA members to promote their services to commissioners and public sector staff. These events form an important opportunity to not only showcase VCS services to Shropshire Council's Elected Members and commissioners, but also to increase networking and awareness within the VCS. The events are often used as a communication activity for other initiatives at the last event a Call to Action was included to allow the CCG and other health colleagues to present to VCSA members.	Communications
4	CCG Market Place Events	The VCSA has supported market place events run by the CCG and facilitated the attendance of a range of VCS services. The events have brought GPs, GP practice staff and Community and Care Coordinators together with the VCS to learn more about community services in their areas.	Communications and new partnerships
5	Compact Refresh	The Compact has been extended in the last year and undergone a re-write to ensure it is appropriate for all Public Sector bodies and commissioners to support and brought in line with changing relationships between the VCSA and its commissioners. Work has included the delivery of Compact design workshops, a consultation survey and support for the Compact Group.	Compact
6	Partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office	2013/14 has involved building a relationship between the VCS and Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. The PPC now regularly communicates with the VCS via the Assembly Support Team.	Communications and new partnerships
7	Building Health Partnerships	Shropshire won the place on a national programme called Building Health Partnerships. A series of workshops followed. All were designed to secure new partnerships between the VCS, CCG and Shropshire Council. The first session explored partnership relationships between the VCS and CCG	Communications and new partnerships

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		and highlighted a number of key themes. The second event looked in much more detail at the key themes emerging from discussions and the end result is a draft action plan against which the £50,000 funding is allocated. September's workshop took the form of an expert learning session around on-line service information and tools. Since then a small working group has been established to take forward the main project of establishing a 'map of maps' that will enable health information (and wider information about VCS services) to be more easily available within the county.	
8	Working with GP Practices	As a result of Building Health Partnerships the CCG and VCS Assembly have been working together to develop a project that will complement the GP Community and Care Coordinator scheme. The project is designed to establish closer working between the VCS and CCG through work in GP practices where a Community and Care Coordinator is not in place. There are approximately 20 practices spread throughout the county. The project aims to see VCS organisations joining quarterly GP practice meetings (12 VCSA members are involved) to consider the most frail and vulnerable patients using the GP practice, and then offer information to allow signposting to community based and VCS services.	New partnerships and delivery
9	Early Discharge	The VCSA has facilitated VCS representation in the Optimising Capacity for Discharge Project. Findings that show that a significant proportion of patients stay in hospital beds when care could be provided at home or closer to home. Work is taking place to bring statutory and VCS services together to deliver a new model of local integrated health and social care services with responsibility for complex patients who are ready to leave hospital.	New partnerships and delivery
10	Impact Networks	The VCSA identified the Impact Network model as a tool that could help commissioners and the VCS work together to design outcomes and move towards new models of commissioning. The approach is currently being trialled by Information, Advice and Advocacy providers.	Commissioning
11	Employ with Conviction	On September 20th, the Criminal Justice Forum hosted Employ with Conviction, an event aimed at private, public and voluntary sector employers. The event was held at Willowdene Farm, Bridgnorth. Speakers from high street giants Greggs and Timpson extolled the virtues of employing ex-offenders at the event. The event was supported by various VCS organisations and public services including West Mercia Probation Trust and the Department for Work and Pensions. Work continues to deliver work to support offenders into employment.	Communications and new partnerships
12	Representation Review	The VCSA have reviewed representation this year. There have been more requests for VCSA	Representation

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		representatives than ever before and the Support Team have secured each request. A record is kept and representatives required to feedback.	
13	VCS Community Hubs Forum	The VCSA are supporting work to consider establishing a new forum that will bring community based VCS service providers together (community buildings and organisations such the Mayfair Centre, Whitchurch Community Centre and Craven Arms Community Centre). The group will allow collaboration around county projects delivered at a local level and allow community hubs to share good practice. There is considerable interest in taking forward this group but it is at the early stages of development.	Collaboration
14	Carers Forum Support	The VCSA has supported work to develop stronger links between the VCSA's Forums of Interest and the Carers Forum. As a user group the Carers Forum cannot join the VCSA but it needs to work with the sector in informing responses to local needs and raising issues in need of attention.	Collaboration
15	Annual State of the Sector Survey	Every year the VCSA monitors the State of the Sector in Shropshire. The work started as a recession survey many years ago but has developed to take a broader approach. The evidence collected is very helpful and informs the VCSA's annual planning.	Research and Policy
16	VCS Evidence Base 2013	The last VCSA Evidence Base was developed in 2010 and 2013 has seen an update take place. Understanding the contribution the VCS makes to the economy and to meeting needs of individuals, groups and communities is really important and informs the design of future projects and models of delivery. This year the work links strongly with social inclusion research commissioned via the VCSA Support Team and paid for by the LEP.	Research and Policy
17	Mental Health links	During the last year many public services have been keen to make links with VCS mental health services. The VCSA Support Team facilitated VCS involvement in the CCG's COPE events which looked at mental health service provision. DWP have more recently been in touch and work will take place to facilitate joint work with DWP and the VCS over the coming months.	New partnerships and delivery
18	Social Inclusion and the Marches LEP	This project has been one of the main projects undertaken this year. The VCSA have, on behalf of the Marches area, organised workshops and supported a project group to develop the social inclusion theme of the Marches LEP Strategy. The work has included detailed research and consultation. Further work will be required to ensure delivery is carefully designed and investment opportunities maximised for the people of Shropshire.	Research, Policy and Funding

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19	Armed Forces Community Covenant and the VCS	Working with David Fairclough, the VCSA has worked to promote the AFCC in a wide range of ways through attendance at an event in RAF Shawbury, to a workshop for VCS bodies interested in the fund, to regular communications and updates via the VCSA news.	Funding
20	Social Value	The VCSA brought together a group of public sector commissioners and VCS representatives to influence the way the main Public Sector commissioners in Shropshire recognise and respond to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. The group is working its way through an action plan.	Policy
21	Health and Wellbeing Consultation	The VCSA supported work by the Health and Wellbeing Board (CCG and Shropshire Council) to consult on priorities for 2014+. The 16 Forums of Interest were asked to conduct workshops to feed comments into the engagement process.	Policy

Other work

Other work forming a focus for 2013/14, but not included above has included support for:

- Shropshire Council's commissioners
- Support for other public sector commissioners (Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals Trust (SATH), DWP, CCG, Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Fire Service, West Mercia Police etc.)