

NEL Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE) Collaborative highlights report

January 2025

Background

The [North east London \(NEL\) Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise \(VCFSE\) Collaborative](#) works closely with [NHS North East London](#) to provide strategic advice and guidance on the VCFSE sector across NEL and ensures a two way flow of communication from VCFSE to the ICB.

The NEL VCFSE Collaborative is funded by NHS North East London and currently meets monthly with participation of VCFSE across the 7 London places (City and Hackney, Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest) to act with the ICB and to contribute in a meaningful way to health outcomes.

We are pleased to announced we are officially including Faith in the collaborative title. This ensures we are inclusive of faith based communities and interfaith dialogue.

Widening membership of NEL VCFSE Collaborative

As we start to formalise the collaborative and work towards transitioning to a formal sub committee of the ICB, we will be commencing an expression of interest process in late Jan 2025. We are seeking diverse, inclusive and compassionate leaders who not only reflect the community they serve and the staff employed but have the leadership style and breadth of perspective to make good collective decisions on our leadership group. There are 12 representative roles available:

- 7x Place based
- 1x Faith
- 1x Long Term Conditions
- 1x Babies, Children and Young People
- 1x Mental Health
- 1x Workforce and volunteers

Further details will be shared in the next highlights report.

NEL VCFSE ‘State of the Sector’ report

We will be conducting a ‘state of the sector’ report in February 2025. This will include development sessions and a survey which we are keen to engage the VCFSE to complete. This will enable us to understand the current climate of VCFSE across NEL and work towards tackling challenges.

Further details will be shared in the next highlights report.

NEL Social Welfare Advice – Stocktake survey

The NEL Health Equity Academy, North East London Health & Care Partnership and Bromley by Bow Centre Insights team are conducting a stocktake of social welfare advice

provision, and its role in reducing health inequalities, for NEL ICS.

Please find below a link to the social welfare legal advice survey which aims to better understand how frontline staff and volunteers identify and support clients who need advice with social welfare problems, and how this is affected by the levels of welfare advice provision across north east London. This survey covers the boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, City and Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest (Tower Hamlets has completed a survey last year).

Please do disseminate this survey to people and organisations that either refer residents into advice or provide advice themselves. The survey link is now open and should only take 20 minutes to complete.

[Link to survey](#)

Launch of the pilot North East London Enhance programme

NEL Enhance is a workforce development programme, open to all people working right across health, local authority, social care and the Voluntary, Community, faith & Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector. The programme is supported by NEL ICB Health Inclusion and Improvement and the Health Equity Academy, and funded by NHSE Education Reform.

The key themes covered by the programme are:

Person-centred practice	Complex multimorbidity	System working
Population health	Social justice & health equity	Environmental sustainability

The NEL Enhance pilot provides an opportunity to think together about how we can foster deeper collaboration and connection.

The Enhance programme kicks off in January 2025 with six webinars bringing speakers and experts from across our system and beyond. They will start the conversation on the above themes by sharing real life examples and ideas to inspire work in your neighbourhood.

To register for the webinars, follow the links below (webinars 1 and 2 are live, webinars 3 - 6 to follow).

[Webinar 1: Introducing Enhance - How we can build stronger, healthier communities](#) **[Tuesday 28th January 1pm - 2pm](#)**

This session provide an overview of the NEL Enhance programme, from understanding what the Enhance programme is with its six component domains, to what it means for you and your work in north east London in making a difference, and how you can get involved.

Webinar 2: Getting Creative with Health and Care

Tuesday 11th February 1pm - 2pm

There is a strong body of evidence, on a national and global scale, that creative health is a key enabler in reducing inequalities in our communities. But what is creative health and why is it important? How can we harness these key assets within our system to create lasting change?

Conni Rosewarne, NEL Creative Health Associate and Dan Hopewell, Director of Knowledge and Innovation at Bromley by Bow Insights, will share insights on how you can embed creativity into your neighbourhoods.

For more detail about the programme, please visit the [Health Equity Academy FutureNHS page](#).

Winter wellness

NHS North East London have developed downloadable versions of the 'Keeping Well This Winter' booklets at the following webpage [Keeping well this winter - NHS North East London](#). There is a slightly different booklet for each borough, depending on the services available in each one. This includes guidance on staying well this winter, local services, advice on winter vaccinations, and where to get support. Please share widely.

NHS Change consultation

The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) commissioned "thinkinsight.com" to lead engagement and consultation to gather feedback from the general public and people working in health and care to inform the governments 10 year health plan for England.

The focus is on creating 3 shifts that mean the NHS which is more preventative, closer to home and more digitised.

Approach taken:

- National team is here to cascade and help start conversations.
- Regional teams will hold events
- ICB Engagement Leads will be driving engagement on behalf of ICBs

You can respond as individuals/organisations and alliances on the change portal

<https://change.nhs.uk/en-GB/>

Deadline: February 14th 2025

We want to hear from you

If you have any suggestions or questions for our current place-based representatives or Partnerships Development Director then please contact nelvcse@thcvs.org.uk