

# **North East London Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (NEL VCFSE) Collaborative highlights report**

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**July 2025**

## About the NEL VCFSE Collaborative

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) as well as our five thematic representatives (Workforce and Volunteers, Long Term Conditions (LTC), Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism, Babies, Children and Young People, and Faith) to work with the ICB and to contribute in a meaningful way to health outcomes.

## Membership of NEL VCFSE Collaborative

A reminder that our representatives have been in post since last month. Full biographies and contact details of our representatives are available [here](#).

## Health Equity Academy expression of interest

Last month, our expression of interest for our Health Equity Academy work went live and we are inviting applications to assist with the implementation and evaluation of two workstreams. After we were successful in our proposal to the Health Equity Academy, we have received funding which supports us to work with VCFSE workforce to enable the workforce to address health inequalities.

Through the expression of interest process, the VCFSE Collaborative is seeking a voluntary, community or faith organisation(s) based in North East London to support with the delivery and evaluation of two exciting strands of work: Community of Practice to address Health Inequalities and Knowledge share (guidance documents).

- 1) Community of Practice to address Health Inequalities is a series of structured Action Learning Set (ALS), to build closer and integrated ways of working with the health system. The purpose of these ALS is to support VCFSE leaders in furthering integrated working, support communities to engage with health systems and reduce healthcare inequalities.
- 2) Knowledge share (guidance documents)  
We want to create accessible and practical guidance for the VCFSE to sustain and maximise opportunities and tackle barriers to inequalities. This includes guidance on sustainability and funding for building capacity and capability in a

very fragile sector. We are seeking an organisation to co-develop with VCFSE, practical guidance to share expert and local knowledge.

Funding available for both areas of work:

- £9,487 Community of practice
- £18,970 Knowledge share and practical guidance documents

The deadline to submit an expression of interest is by **midday 30th July 2025**.

Further details on how to apply can be found [here](#).

### **NHS Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England**

The [NHS Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan](#) for England was published on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025. The document outlines the UK government's strategy and roadmap to transform the NHS over the next decade.

There are three main pillars of the 10 Year Health Plan which point to shifts in the NHS' structure and systems:

1. Hospital to community care, which will mean that more care is delivered locally through Neighbourhood Health Centres and other means
2. Analogue to digital will take place meaning that there will be an expanded use of AI, digital records and the NHS App to streamline care
3. Sickiness to prevention centring in on early detection and lifestyle interventions.

For a summary of NHS Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England, please see the recent NAVCA newsletter update [here](#).

### **Abolishment of Healthwatch**

The UK government recently announced its intention to abolish Healthwatch. The changes require legislative approval, which is expected to take between 12 and 24 months. Healthwatch England's functions will transfer to the Department of Health and Social Care with local Healthwatch roles being absorbed by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and local councils.

### **Cancer Alliance Community Games**

The Community Games are free local events open to people of all ages and abilities. They're especially welcoming if you're looking to become more active, connect with others, or find out more about your health in a friendly, relaxed setting.

At the event, you can:

- Try out light and enjoyable activities, at your own pace
- Meet local providers offering health and wellbeing support
- Access free health checks (e.g. blood pressure, smoking cessation advice)
- Connect with others and reduce social isolation

You don't need to be fit or experienced — just come as you are and feel free to bring your family or friends. The Community Games are here to support anyone living with or beyond cancer and their family and friends.

Date & Venue:

September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025, 11am to 3pm

Barking Sports House, Mayesbrook Park, Lodge Ave, Dagenham RM8 2JR

(Free, friendly, and for all abilities)

**Register now [here](#).**

**Find more information [here](#).**

### **Collaborate: safer spaces**

Collaborate: safer spaces offers the opportunity for four diverse-led teams to receive support and funding to develop collaborative ideas around the theme of 'Safer Spaces'.

Four shortlisted teams will receive up to £50k each in flexible funding, part of which will be a development grant. The commission will provide the time and space to develop, test and embed collaborative work alongside partners, with wraparound co-designed support across each stage of programme development. Teams will work in partnership with Foundation for Future London throughout this process, developing sustainable collaborative approaches together, supporting project development away from the restrictions of rigid applications.

Partner collaborations will receive:

- Shortlisted teams will be guaranteed up to £50k in flexible core funding. This includes an early-stage development grant, to provide the time and space to develop, test and embed your collaborative work alongside partners.
- Wraparound co-designed support from the Foundation and our partners across each stage of your programme's development to help shape plans and build your organisations' and/or network's collaborative capabilities.

- Ongoing strategic support from the Foundation to support collaboration opportunities between the networks/partnerships to work towards shared outcomes beyond the life of the grant. The use and management of this support will be co-designed with the partners to ensure that it meets their needs.
- Access funding support – small grants available to individual and micro-organisations to remove barriers to partnership and application development.

The deadline to complete the Expression of Interest is **Friday 18 August 2025 at 2pm.**

Find more information [here](#).