

North East London VCFSE Collaborative* highlights report

September 2025

***Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise**

Health Equity Academy expression of interest - workforce development grant

This month, an expression of interest for our Health Equity Academy work regarding workforce development has gone live and we are inviting applications from voluntary, community or faith organisation employees based in North East London to apply for a workforce development grant. After we were successful in our proposal to the Health Equity Academy, we have received funding which supports us to work with the VCFSE to enable the workforce to address health inequalities.

These small grants of up to £250 are designed to support professional development opportunities for individuals working within VCFSE organisations that have an annual turnover of £150,000 or less.

Workforce development grants can be used to support a wide range of professional development activities, including training, mentoring, and other learning experiences. This may also include attending local or national events, conferences, or training sessions with a focus on tackling health inequalities or improving health and wellbeing within communities.

Successful applicants will help facilitate inclusive practice by aligning training and development with the needs of communities and those most impacted by disparities in health outcomes.

We are seeking to fund approximately 17 applicants in each of the seven boroughs in North East London and will prioritise applicants in early career roles.

The deadline to submit an expression of interest is by **10th November 2025**.

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

The full information pack is available [here](#).

NEL VCFSE 'State of the Sector' report

In February 2025, we conducted a 'state of the sector' survey to help us understand the current climate of VCFSE across North East London, which received 158 responses. Alongside this survey, we have analysed Charities Commission, Companies House and 360 Giving data to give a broader overview of the VCFSE in North East London.

The data drawn from the survey and wider analysis have now been shared as a report and can be accessed [here](#).

Some of the key findings include:

- 5,534 VCFSE organisations operate locally and regionally across North East London, employing 22,626 people and engaging 98,247 volunteers (as well as 14,992 trustees).
- 61% of organisations have annual incomes under £100,000, including 30% with an annual income of under £10,000, indicating a predominantly small-scale, grassroots sector.
- Only 20% of organisations report secure funding, with 37% having no secured funding for the next 12 months.
- Global Majority-led organisations face disproportionate financial challenges, with 61% reporting deteriorating financial situations.
- Limited integration with NHS systems, with only 13% receiving health-related funding despite 43% receiving NHS referrals.

Fuel Poverty & Health Webinar by Green Doctors, Groundwork London

Book your free place on a Fuel Poverty & Health Webinar - three dates in September.

Delivered by Green Doctors, Groundwork London.

Join Groundwork and the Green Doctors team for an informative session designed for NHS East London frontline staff and advice workers, exploring the vital link between fuel poverty and health.

Click on the date to take you to the booking page (each session is the same content):

- [Thursday 18th September, 8:30 - 10 am](#) – Session 1
- [Monday 22nd September, 1:00 - 2:30 pm](#) – Session 2
- [Tuesday 23rd September, 5:30 - 7 pm](#) – Session 3

The Green Doctors are a team of expert energy advisers providing free, one-to-one support to vulnerable residents — helping them manage energy use, reduce bills, access grants, and tackle energy debt. Support is available through home visits or phone consultations.

This webinar will introduce the Green Doctors service and offer practical insight into how they support residents and how you can refer those in need.

Topics include:

- Introduction to Groundwork and the Green Doctors team
- Understanding fuel poverty: key drivers, risks & signs
- What residents may say & what you might encounter in the home
- The connection between cold homes and ill health

- Managing damp, mould, and condensation
- Carbon monoxide (CO) awareness
- Behavioural change advice
- Discounts, support schemes & current energy market conditions
- Case study and resident feedback
- Eligibility and referral process
- Q&A session

Don't miss this chance to learn how Groundwork and the Green Doctors team can support your patients and communities.

The Personalised Care Awards 2025

The Personalised Care Awards 2025 London are officially open!

These awards celebrate the passion, creativity, and commitment across our region to make care truly personalised — recognising the people, teams, and partners who put *what matters most* at the heart of care.

You can now submit your nominations!

Whether it's a colleague, a team, or a project that has made a real difference, this is your chance to showcase and celebrate their impact.

Today marks the exciting first step: opening the doors for your nominations.

Come together to celebrate the remarkable efforts across London that are changing lives through personalised care. Please do share with your networks.

WHO WILL YOU NOMINATE?

How to get involved:

For more information click here:

<https://www.coalitionforpersonalisedcare.org/london-personalised-care-awards-2025-2/>

To nominate click here: <https://www.coalitionforpersonalisedcare.org/london-personalised-care-awards-nomination-form/>

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 June. Full biographies and contact details of our representatives are available [here](#).