



Highlights report January 2026

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

Health is created where people live, learn, work and connect, not only where they receive treatment. The emerging Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) are central to delivering the government's new Neighbourhood Health Service, shifting care from treatment to prevention. Effective INTs depend on authentic partnership with the VCFSE sector, grounded in trust and equity. The VCFSE Collaborative representatives have been working across North East London to influence actions locally and have set out the principles for doing this in our briefing on INTs: [here](#). Progress has been a challenge given that there are no new resources available.

NAVCA published a new briefing highlighting the challenges in making this vision a reality. The report sets out priorities to strengthen neighbourhood health in practice. The full briefing is [here](#).

Workforce development grants

Round 2 has now launched, offering grants of up to £250 to support individual professional development that strengthens the VCFSE sector's ability to tackle health inequalities across North East London. To apply click [here](#).



A webinar ticket?

Do you need some inspiration on how to spend a £250 grant to tackle health inequalities?

A book on migration and health inequalities?

Podcast and journal subscriptions?



Join us for a webinar introducing Round 2 of the NEL VCFSE Collaborative workforce development grant on February 2nd, 2026. The session will explain who can apply, what the funding can be used for, and how to submit a strong application. There will also be time for questions. To register click [here](#).

The workforce development grants are part of a project funded by the NEL Health Equity Academy to support and strengthen the VCFSE sector workforce across North East London to tackle health inequalities by building capacity and developing knowledge, skills and confidence. The other parts of this funding are:

Community of Practice – [Compost London](#)

Compost London is progressing the development of the community of practice designed to support VCFSE organisations working to reduce health inequalities across North East London. They have now completed a needs analysis through a survey and a focus group. The survey was carried out in late 2025, and the focus group took place online and in person in January with 35 attendees.

If you would like to be involved in the first community of practice session on Thursday February 12th, please contact us at nelvcse@thcvs.org.uk.

Knowledge Share – [Community Action Redbridge](#)

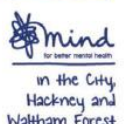
Community Action Redbridge is developing practical guidance and knowledge resources to support VCFSE organisations in building sustainability, strengthening capacity and maximising opportunities to address health inequalities across NEL. Engagement with local organisations will underpin what guidance is developed and how it is shared.

Care Closer to Home

The VCFSE Collaborative brought together a range of VCFSE groups from across North East London at short notice for an engagement session to feed into the consultation around Care Closer to Home. The session explored the scope of how to engage with the VCFSE sector regarding health and care services which support people to receive care on a home first model. We collectively advocated for longer time frames, sustainable funding which includes core costs and multi-year funding, meaningful engagement and equitable partnerships. Further details emerging from the programme will be shared at a later date.



Voluntary, community, faith & social enterprise organisations working with the NHS across North East London:



Representative updates

Recently, our representatives have been actively engaged across neighbourhood, place and system-level programmes. This has included contributing to the development of neighbourhood-based and population-health approaches to mental health and Care Closer to Home, supporting the design and delivery of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, and embedding resident and VCFSE voice through task-and-finish groups, workshops and commissioning discussions. Representatives have also supported regional community leadership activity across NEL, participated in cross-sector system leadership development at neighbourhood level, and raised awareness of the NEL VCFSE Collaborative, including presenting State of the Sector findings and promoting workforce development grant opportunities.

HIDDEN CKD Project – Health checks for in-person events

The LTC team at the NEL ICB would like to explore whether there are any in-person events taking place between now and March that could provide opportunities to deliver uACR health checks as part of the HIDDEN CKD (Chronic Kidney Disease) Project, with a particular focus on engaging under-represented communities. If you are aware of any events where the health checks could be delivered, please contact us at nelvcse@thcvs.org.uk.

Become a paid Community Kidney Champion in North East London for the HIDDEN CKD Project. This involves 2 to 3 hours a week, gaining valuable transferable skills while supporting kidney health in your local community (£20 p/hr). Apply by 6 February 2026 and get involved by contacting Roseline at ragyekum@nhs.net or follow @hiddenckd for more information.

If you have any questions about the updates above please email nelvcse@thcvs.org.uk. A list of representatives can be found [here](#).



Voluntary, community, faith & social enterprise organisations working with the NHS across North East London:

