

Executive member feedback for Executive meeting May 2018

Devolution

- Meeting with VODA and Newcastle CVS. Following a discussion at the last VCS Assembly meeting, met with the CEO's from VODA and Newcastle CVS to discuss the VCS involvement with Devolution. We concluded that until the government had approved the dissolution of the current partnership to the North of Tyne partnership, and the appointment of the interim Mayor, that there would be little influence or information we could gain that would benefit the sector at this stage. We are all minded that at the first opportunity we will arrange to meet with Jacqui Lawton and her counterparts, from Newcastle and Northumberland Council

Empowering People and Communities Project

- The EPC theme is part of the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy, with the outcome being "People and communities in Northumberland are listened to, involved and supported to maximise their wellbeing and health. The aim is to develop a Strategy and Action Plan for people powered well being and health in Northumberland, promoting and encompassing a "more than medicine" approach which seeks to mainstream non-clinical outputs, such as befriending, volunteering and physical activity. Public Health are looking at employing 5 area co-ordinators, but hosted by the VCS! A launch event on 5th June will invite organisations who are interested in being a host to "bid" to support the co-ordinators. The successful organisations will be involved in the recruitment of staff. This will be a 3 year model, via a public health grant, to map the assets in the area, develop relationships with the VCS, GP's , healthcare professionals etc. Pressed for the staff to be employed by the VCS with joint support and management through Trust/Public Health.

Health and Well-Being

- Health and Wellbeing Board: allowed us to test out and confirm our current ways of sharing information and engaging in this board, and resulted in the invitation of the lead officer on the future arrangements for the Clinical Commissioning Group. Commissioning Intentions to meet with members of the Assembly Executive Committee.
- Community and Asset based approaches conference: The highlight of this was the address from two leads in Plymouth where the CCG and public Health and Social care are in one system, with 6 commissioners and 29

contracted agencies working together. They had assessed their previous commissioning system and seen it as: Top down, with consultation coming too late and being short term, not relationship based and creating problems not resolving them. The commissioners were seen by the VCS as doing things to them not with them, in order to meet the narrow needs of commissioners. They spent a year changing the culture in order to work together, avoiding competitive tendering which creates competition destroys sharing and creates distrust and secrecy. The conference then showed examples of practice in the North East, and also offered an opportunity for those from Northumberland to work together, taking forward that work started on the day looks like a very positive move. The need to start work on social prescribing is a clear area for future development as we seem to be lagging behind other areas such as Newcastle.

- The main item on the HWB agenda was the annual report of the Director of Public Health. An excellent report that bravely stated that direct medical intervention accounted for only 10 to 15% of all health outcomes. It focused on the wider social determinants of health, the "causes of the causes", which are: education, employment, housing and transport. This will enable the clear need to work and engage with the VCS. The focus of the accompanying H & W/being strategy is "empowering people and communities". The report is well worth reading. The Clinical Commissioning Group response was interesting. Sadly after this the review and update by NCC of the terms of reference and function of the Health and Wellbeing Board they completely failed to mention the VCS. However once I pointed this out it was immediately accepted. This epitomises the issue.
- Once again, despite Sustainability and Transformation Plan, Accountable Care Organisation etc. being listed as a "regular update" on the Boards there was none offered until I raised this and then just a perfunctory update. That the Health Services Journal is providing more information was noted by another board member.