

Project Title: Eastern Devon VCSE Renumeration Scheme PIR Milestone: 2025/26 Budget Renewal Original Date of Approval: 01/04/2022 Lead department: Eastern Local Care Partnership Other departments Involved: All partners organisations Lead Contact: Jo Curtis/Jeff Chinnock	Post Implementation Review
	Review Date: 24/02/2025
	Type of Investment: Revenue
	Business Register Ref Number :
	Date of Completion: Choose a date.
	Recommendation: Keep/continue
	Overall Rating: Green

1. What were the objectives and outcome measures of this initiative?

The objective was to provide key Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations with an accessible fund to backfill their time when they contribute to Eastern Local Care Partnership meetings particularly at a strategic level.

The fund provides support for VCSE organisations when the request to participate goes beyond their business as usual delivery and enables key VCSE contributors to give their time without compromising their day job at their host organisation.

The fund reflects the current arrangements that NHS Devon has with the wider Torbay, Plymouth and Devon VCSE Assembly.

The fund has been instrumental in building and cementing relationships with the VCSE sector in the Eastern locality over the last 2 years and has helped build the partnership approach with the VCSE sector in a locality that has a challenging geography and has not had the support of a coordinated approach to VCSE engagement for a number of years.

The backfill funding helps enable:

- Engagement
- Involvement
- Co-production
- Partnership in development of specific pieces of work.

2. What evidence has informed the PIR?

The fund has been well used by key VCSE organisations but further claims are due to come from partners organisations over the next few months.

Verbal feedback from VCSE organisations that accessed the funds highlighted the importance of this contribution to backfill, the recognition that their time and contribution was important and that the funding helped them operate on a par with colleagues in the statutory sector.

The evidence from the previous year 23/24 has been used to inform the PIR as the current year is ongoing and subject to an end of FY review.

The funds were not available until Nov 2024 for organisations to make their first claim due to a delay in the funds being transferred from Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Trust to Ottery Help Scheme who are responsible for managing the invoices.

Administrative support in the previous year from the ICB locality team to promote the scheme with the VCSE sector and approve claims, which has not been available this year. This has likely contributed to the lower number of claims this year to date.

We expect organisations to resubmit their second claim for the rest of the financial year by 31st March 2025. We also plan to do further communication with VCSE sector organisations who have attended meetings to ensure they are aware that they are able to claim for this funding, why and how.

Therefore final costings will not be available until April 2025.

Verbal feedback from VCSE organisations that accessed the funds highlighted the importance of this contribution to backfill, the recognition that their time and contribution was important and that the funding helped them operate on a par with colleagues in the statutory sector.

3. To what extent have the objectives and outcome measures been achieved?

We have had contributions from the VCSE across all of the Eastern LCP Priorities. The sector co-chairs each of the priority delivery groups i.e. Unpaid Carers, Young People's Mental Health and Social Isolation/Loneliness; Healthy Ageing.

The sector also chairs and delivers the Eastern Devon LCP VCSE Partnership.

Over 250 hours (over 35v days) of VCSE time have contributed to LCP outcomes with 9 organisations actively involved across the partnership.

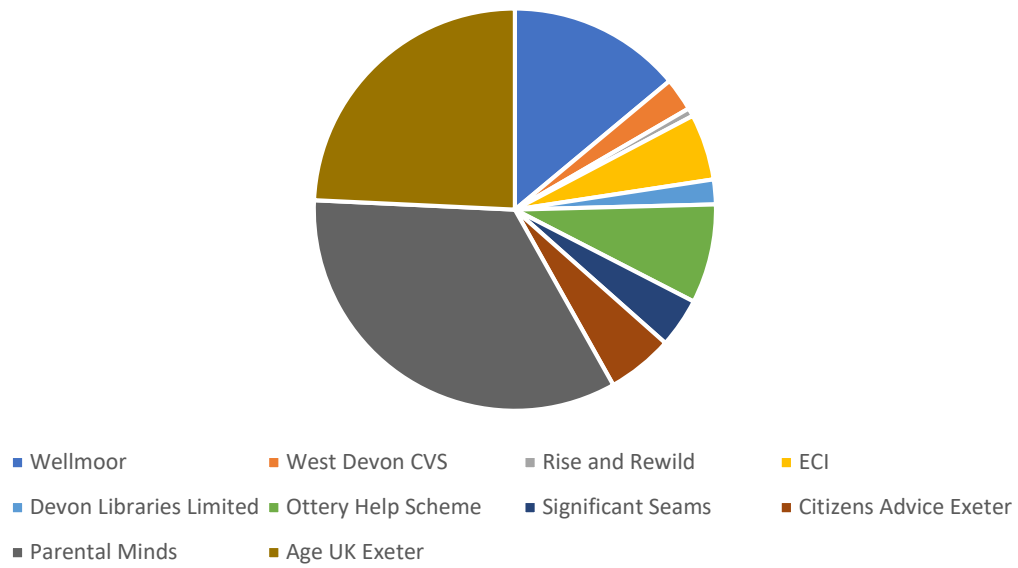
Where participation in an ELCP/OED meeting would otherwise incur detrimental costs to a VCSE organisation, the Eastern LCP/OED has been able to provide reimbursement funding in recognition of time away from service delivery or fundraising.

We have been able to provide backfill funding to any VCSE colleagues that have attended any of the below meetings:

- One Eastern Devon Population Health Partnership
- One Eastern Devon Partnership Forum
- Chairs strategic meeting
- Mental Health Partnership
- Healthy Ageing Partnership
- CYP Mental Health Partnership
- Unpaid Carers Partnership
- VCSE Partnership
- Social Health/Loneliness and Isolation Partnership
- Community and Citizen Voice Partnership

Claims have been received for a total of £4515 in 24/25 from a total of 10 organisations.

VCSE Backfill Claims



Sign-off for Post Implementation Review:

Signed:

Date:

Detailed information sheet

Please provide additional evidence in subsequent sheets, as required.

4. What were the original assumptions?

As the Eastern Local Care Partnership was developing, it became clear that key local VCSE organisations did not feel they could contribute their time and expertise at the expense of their funders and trustees who demanded that they dedicate their time to their host organisations priorities.

The backfill fund was developed for the following reasons.

- 1) It enabled key VCSE personnel to give their time and for that time to be paid for to the benefit of the host VCSE organisation
- 2) It demonstrated that the Eastern LCP values the contribution of the VCSE sector and
- 3) It enabled the VCSE to lead on several key areas of work.

In addition, the funding help cement trust based relationships because the VCSE partners could see that the evidence that their time and contribution was valued.

All of the above has benefitted as a result of the available funding.

5. Did any of the risks identified materialise? If so, to what extent they were mitigated?

The only risk was would the fund be enough to cover the demand from the VCSE. At this stage, it has been sufficient.

6. Were there any unintended consequences?

The amount invoiced for was lower than expected, despite extra efforts to repromoted this to VCSE colleagues at meetings in the latter months.

Discussions will be had with VCSE colleagues regarding this funding pot allocation for 25/26.

7. How does the approach compare with the implementation of similar measures in other trusts and systems and how other trusts have implemented differently?

Many other systems operate a backfill fund for VCSE contribution to overall strategy development and engagement priorities with communities. The only thing that varies is the amount or hourly rate that is paid. Eastern LCP currently pays £30 per hour which broadly compares with other systems. No other LCPs in Devon offer this facility.

8. Has the evidence identified any opportunities for further reducing the burden on business and are there any lessons learnt for future projects?

The VCSE backfill fund has been a catalyst for heightened VCSE involvement with the Eastern LCP which follows the pattern of VCSE involvement with the wider system as reflected by the work of the VCSE Assembly and the backfill fund they operate for their members.

The VCSE sector co-chair the partnership groups which assists in sharing the load, but also brings addition expertise into the partnership as well as a better community voice.

As our partnership develops, it will be important to ensure that the VCSE sector is supported in bringing its experience and expertise to the table. Voluntary sector and faith-based organisations have in-depth person-centred knowledge and insight, they are embedded in their communities, they are often able to be innovative and creative in tackling complex issues, they bring a diversity of views and experiences, they have significant expertise in their fields, and they are able to be nimble and fleet of foot in responding to crises.

It is vital therefore that statutory partners are able to harness these insights and to better enable VCSE organisations to participate in the shaping and creation of the partnership at a strategic level.

Learnings

We have had claims to date this financial year mainly from our co-chairs who are more heavily involved in our partnership work. However, claims are particularly sought from small organisations who would be harder pressed to attend a scheduled meeting. Therefore, further considerations and engagement is required to ensure that those whom are eligible are aware of the funding and how to access this. Also, we need to ensure that the application process is suitable for their needs, and the timings for the funding works for them e.g. how often would they like to submit an application, is it easier done in block payments, or more regular payments?

Actions from learnings

- We will be doing some further communication to VCSE colleagues in this financial year to ensure that all those eligible have submitted claims.
- We will engage with VCSE sector colleagues to ensure that processes meet their needs moving into 25/26.