

The logo features a stylized 'W' composed of four vertical bars: a light green bar on the left, a medium green bar, a dark blue bar, and a light blue bar. To the right of the 'W' is the text 'VCSE' in a dark blue, bold, sans-serif font. Below 'VCSE' is the word 'Alliance' in a larger, dark blue, bold, sans-serif font.

WVCSE
Alliance

Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire

VCSE Alliance overview

BNSSG VCSE Alliance

The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Alliance is an exciting collaboration between the Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire regional health and care system and the VCSE sector.

Our mission is to enable VCSE organisations to engage with the health and care system at a strategic level, providing opportunities to share our knowledge of communities and influence the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care System to create positive change.

The VCSE Alliance is also the host of the VCSE Brokerage Framework.

BNSSG VCSE Alliance

The three aims of the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire VCSE Alliance are to:

1. Encourage and enable the VCSE sector to work in a coordinated way to inform policy, strategy and decision-making.
2. Provide the NHS & health and social care colleagues with a simple route of contact, engagement, and links to community.
3. Better position the VCSE sector to contribute to the design and delivery of integrated care.

Wider determinants of health

Health and wellbeing

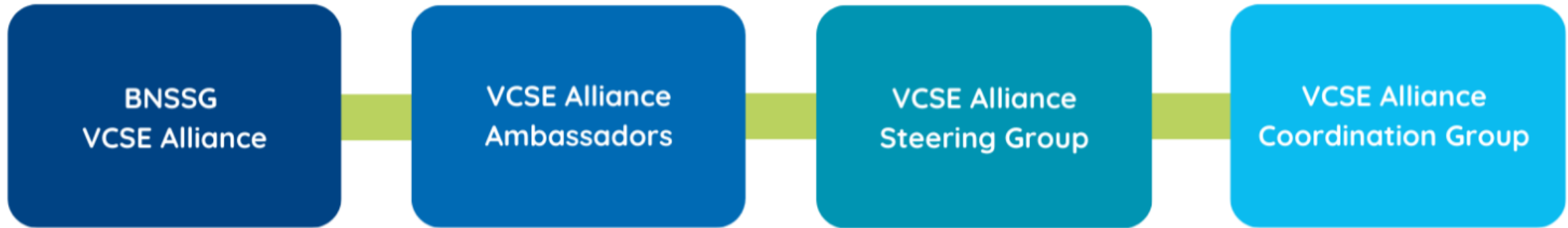
The VCSE Alliance works with charities, community groups and social enterprises in all areas.

We want to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities. The VCSE sector has a key role to play in local people's health, including by prevention of physical and mental health issues.

VCSE organisations working in areas that aren't traditionally linked to health have a really important part to play.

This includes the arts and cultural activities, as well as areas such as sport, food, housing, employment, childcare, and reducing social isolation.

VCSE Alliance structure



How to get involved

Ambassadors

VCSE Alliance Ambassadors

Our Ambassadors advocate for the VCSE Alliance across the Integrated Care System. This role allows individuals to share expertise and contribute to improving community outcomes.

Having a wide group of Ambassadors enables the VCSE Alliance to:

- encourage different experiences to be represented in strategic work
- draw from a wide pool of knowledge and expertise
- distribute leadership across the VCSE sector
- avoid recreating the status quo

Ambassador roles

Ambassador roles across Integrated Care System:

- VCSE Alliance Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working group
- BNSSG Strategy Network
- Healthier Together 2040 Steering Group
- Locality Partnership Review core group
- D2A Transformation Sprint meetings
- WorkWell Operational Group
- WorkWell Steering Group
- BNSSG Healthy Weight Declaration Working Group
- Community Collaborative Delivery Group
- VCSE Framework Implementation Group

Ambassador impacts

Women's health working group

VCSE Alliance Ambassadors from Womankind, Missing Link/Next Link/Safe Link, and Voscur have been involved in women's health working groups advocating for the VCSE sector and shaping strategic work. BNSSG ICB has just launched grants for VCSE organisations for women's health work, which we're pleased to see as it demonstrates the VCSE integration principles recently agreed.

Healthier Together 2040

12 VCSE organisations attended the kick off workshop and ensured the VCSE sector was recognised as having a crucial role in future healthcare and prevention plans. The VCSE Alliance will have a key role in this work going forward.

Ambassador impacts

BNSSG ICB Board

The VCSE Alliance has a non-voting board role on the ICB Board for 6 months which was covered by representatives from Citizens Advice North Somerset and WERN.

In June 2024, our representative worked with the VCSE Lead at the ICB to co-present a paper on 'VCSE Integration' and secured commitment to four new principles on working with the VCSE sector.

This included agreeing to investment in the VCSE sector, a grants first approach, designing for smaller organisations, and co-designing a Healthier Together VCSE Integration Strategy.

Get involved

- Join the VCSE Alliance – sign up form on [VCSE Alliance webpage](#)
- Become a VCSE Alliance Ambassador – part of [VCSE Alliance sign up form](#)
- Come along to the next VCSE Alliance event on 26 September – [register on Eventbrite](#)
- Join the VCSE Brokerage Framework – application form on [VCSE Brokerage Framework webpage](#)
- Any questions? Email contact@bnssgvcsealliance.org