

# WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP ENTAIL?

## Gloucestershire Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Strategic Partnership

### Overall purpose

Gloucestershire VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) Strategic Partnership builds bridges between the VCSE sector organisations in Gloucestershire and the public sector. This helps us to work better together to grow our communities, tackle inequalities and make our county a great place to live and work.

### Who are we looking for in our members?

We are looking for people working or volunteering in the VCSE sector in Gloucestershire to join us. You must be within an organisation that supports people's health and wellbeing (for example a community hub, arts and recreation, through providing accommodation, or enabling people to experience nature). You could be in a paid or voluntary post (including being a trustee).

This could be your first step into a strategic role, or you could be a seasoned leader. What's important is that you are willing to bring your life and work experience to making Gloucestershire a fairer, healthier place to be.

We are especially looking for people from parts of the VCSE sector that are not well represented on the current VCSE Strategic Partnership; this includes VCSE organisations that serve people of the global majority and those that work with younger people.

You must be able to build relationships and communicate with tact. This includes a willingness to work collaboratively and learn together. Things don't always go right first time.

We need people who can make a 2–4-year commitment, who understand that relationships take time to build, and that transformative change grows slowly.

### What do we do?

#### Our shared activities

We develop and deliver on an annual plan that supports partnership working in the VCSE sector and builds relationships between individuals and organisations in the VCSE sector and the public sector. You can see our current plan on the [Gloucestershire VCSE Strategic Partnership website](#).

We have a particular focus on influencing how the VCSE sector is commissioned (i.e. how Gloucestershire's public sector organisations buy services from the VCSE sector), so that

commissioning practices lead to the delivery of services that are better tailored to the needs of local people.

We meet monthly for a two-hour face-to-face meeting, and we ask members to make this a priority.

We take part in (and sometimes lead) projects or events that develop cross sector thinking and relationships.

We set priorities for VCSE sector representation in public sector boards and workstreams, we appoint representatives, and we monitor this to ensure it is working well for everyone involved.

Some of us represent the VCSE sector on boards that are part of the public sector 'system'.

We make sure there is a flow of information between the VCSE sector and the public sector through events, a website and a quarterly newsletter.

### **How we work**

We ensure that we focus our work on topics that are important to the VCSE sector and that we strive to be inclusive of the whole sector, including small community-based organisations, peer support groups and neighbourhood initiatives.

We are committed to behaving in a collaborative way, even when we sometimes disagree; this is a starting point for helping us encourage a culture of collaboration between VCSE sector organisations and between voluntary and community organisations and the public sector.

We are committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our work.

We are ambassadors for the VCSE sector, building understanding and awareness of the sector and its unique contribution to Gloucestershire.

We are responsible for maintaining impartiality when representing the VCSE sector; this means not advantaging our own organisations, groups or interests at the expense of other VCSE organisations.

### **Time commitment and payment**

The estimated time commitment for this role is 4-6 hours per month.

A fee of £115.40 per calendar month will be paid to the employing organisation of each VCSE Strategic Partnership member, provided that organisation has an annual income of below £3,000,000 (based on the organisation's most recently filed accounts).

If, in addition, a member of the VCSE Strategic Partnership represents the VCSE sector on a Strategic Board, Clinical Programme Group (CPG) or Integrated Locality Partnership (ILP) a further payment will be made for their participation.

There is no payment for other activities associated with undertaking this role.

### **More information**

There is more information in our [Terms of Reference](#). Please also see the VCSE Strategic Partnership Eligibility Criteria. Before you complete your nomination form it's important to look at both and check that your organisation is eligible to put forward a representative. If you'd like to discuss the role further, please email [info@glosvcsalliance.org.uk](mailto:info@glosvcsalliance.org.uk).

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