



**Creating collaborations conference:  
Sharing learning from research, policy  
and practice to strengthen VCSE and  
health and care commissioning**

**Monday 30 October 2023  
10:30 – 15:30  
Bayes Business School  
(formerly Cass), London**



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## Creating collaborations conference:

### Sharing learning from research, policy and practice to strengthen VCSE and health and care commissioning

The National Health Service (NHS) and local governments regularly commission voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to deliver health and care services.

Whilst this offers considerable opportunities, it can often be challenging for VCSE organisations and commissioners alike. Changes during the pandemic, along with the development of Integrated Care Systems, a push towards prevention, and a desire to tackle health inequalities, all offer the potential to reset relationships, realising much wider roles for VCSEs and more collaborative ways of working.

There is much to learn from current research, policy and practice developments to help strengthen VCSE and health and care commissioning relationships.

Today's event brings together health and care commissioners, VCSE leaders, policy makers, academics, and wider stakeholders. It marks the launch of findings from a three-year National Institute for Health Research-funded study into the VCSE and health and care commissioning relationships (see summary sheet). The aim of the day is to strengthen collaborative relationships between VCSE and health and care commissioners through sharing insights and learning from research, policy and practice. Together, we hope to help shape the future of VCSE and health and care commissioning relationships.

## Programme

Monday 30 October 2023, 10:30 – 15:30

Bayes Business School (formerly Cass), London

10:30	<b>Arrival, with refreshments</b>
10:50	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> Angela Ellis Paine, Bayes Business School Rod Sheaff, University of Plymouth
11:00	<b>What's the expectation? Insights from policy</b> Pauline Allen, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Alex Baylis, The King's Fund
11:30	<b>What's the experience? Insights from practice</b> Jo Baker, NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board Pip Goff, Forum Central Nick Grudgings, Leeds Office of the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
12:00	<b>Break</b>
12:15	<b>What's the evidence? Insights from research.</b> Option to attend one of three workshops: <b>WORKSHOP 1: From commodified to collaborative?            How and why VCSE and health and care commissioning relationships vary (LG001)</b> Angela Ellis Paine, Bayes Business School Mark Exworthy, University of Birmingham <hr/> <b>WORKSHOP 2: Community-led social prescribing: Creating a working definition (LG002)</b> Ellie Munro, Sheffield Hallam University Olivia Engle, National Academy of Social Prescribing <hr/> <b>WORKSHOP 3: Mobilising community assets to tackle health inequalities:            A blueprint for change (LG003)</b> Angela Harden, City, University of London Katie Rose Sanfilippo, City, University of London
13:15	<b>Lunch</b>
14:15	<b>So, what's next? From insights to actions</b> Alex Boys, NAVCA Jacob Lant, National Voices Carrie McKenzie, NHS England Feodora Rayner, NHS England
15:30	<b>Conclusion</b>

## Workshop descriptions

### **Workshop one: From commodified to collaborative? How and why VCSE and health and care commissioning relationships vary**

Drawing on findings from a three-year research study exploring the voluntary sector and health and care commissioning relationships, this workshop will highlight two different modes of commissioning – commodified and collaborative – that co-exist, interacting in complex and often confusing ways. Participants will be invited to share their experiences, whilst also reflecting on what our research found to be some of the core building blocks for more collaborative approaches within commissioning.

### **Workshop two: Community-led social prescribing: Creating a working definition**

In this workshop we will explore the concept of ‘community-led’ social prescribing. There is currently no shared understanding or definition of what this is, and little research on its role or value to the health system. Our proposed starting point is that community-led social prescribing is a social prescribing intervention initiated by the local community, often involving other local partners, but based on community-identified needs and solutions. We want to work with you to help us critique, develop and refine the definition during the workshop, to help us inform and direct future research projects.

### **Workshop three: Mobilising community assets to tackle health inequalities: A blueprint for change**

In this workshop we will share some of the work we have done to develop the Well Communities Research Consortium, invite views on our blueprint for change, and illustrate some of the methods and tools we have used including stakeholder and community engagement and participatory system mapping.



## Speaker biographies

### Alex Baylis

is assistant director of policy at The King's Fund, leading and overseeing research and analysis in a number of policy areas. He leads a joint programme with The National Lottery Community Fund to support equal partnership working between the statutory and voluntary and community sectors in five local health and care systems and has overseen various research projects exploring how the NHS and integrated care systems can work effectively with the VCS.

### Alex Boys

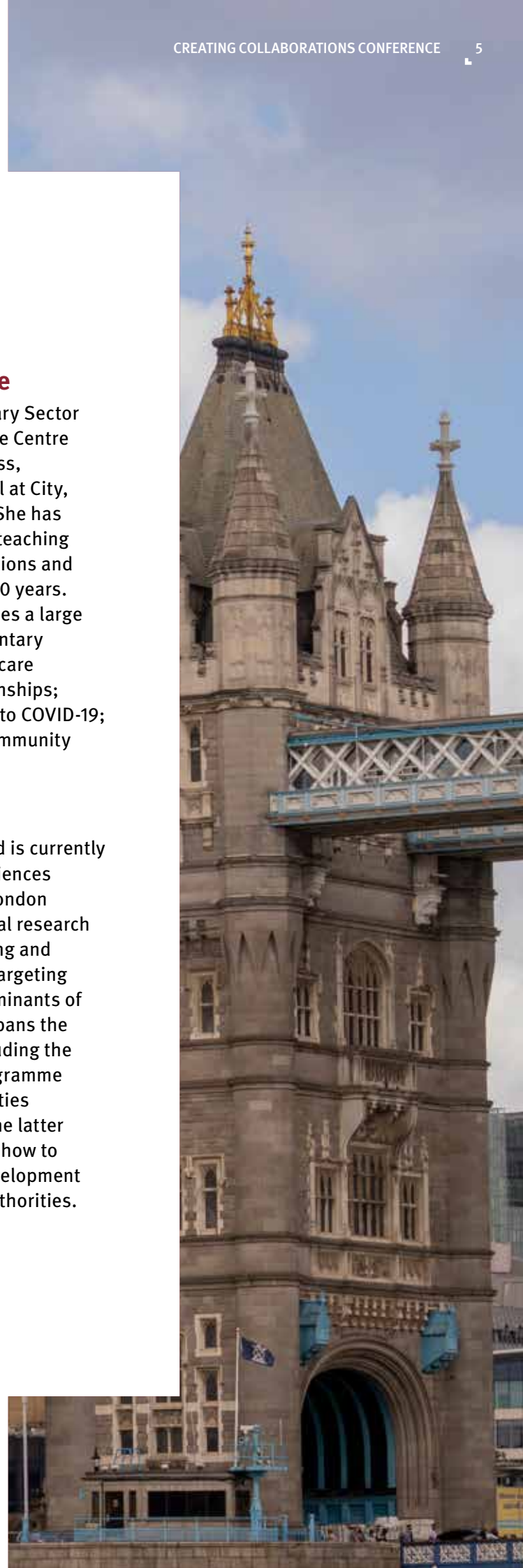
Deputy CEO at NAVCA, has over 15 years' experience supporting collaboration between VCSE and statutory organisations. Joining NAVCA in 2020, he has led the network's focus on health and wellbeing, including working with NHS England and wider partners to support the development of, and connections between, VCSE Alliance in each ICS. Alex is also a Director of Black Country Together, which leads the VCSE Alliance for the local ICS.

### Angela Ellis Paine

is a Lecturer in Voluntary Sector Management within the Centre for Charity Effectiveness, Bayes Business School at City, University of London. She has been researching and teaching on voluntary organisations and volunteering for over 20 years. Recent research includes a large scale study of the voluntary sector and health and care commissioning relationships; community responses to COVID-19; and volunteering in community businesses.

### Angela Harden

is a social scientist and is currently Professor of Health Sciences at City, University of London where she leads several research programmes developing and testing interventions targeting the wider social determinants of health. Her research spans the entire life course, including the REACH pregnancy programme and the Well Communities programme. Work in the latter is currently examining how to embed community development approaches in local authorities.



## Speaker biographies

### Carrie McKenzie

is Voluntary Partnerships Senior Manager at NHS England. Carrie has spent the last 5 years working on a number of programmes to embed the VCSE sector in health and care systems, including supporting the development of VCSE sector alliances in all 42 Integrated Care Systems. Carrie has over 20 years experience of partnership development between the VCSE and public sectors working nationally, regionally and in local communities. She is currently a trustee of a charity called Quinns Retreat.

### Ellie Munro

is a Researcher at the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR), Sheffield Hallam University, with a background in voluntary sector research, policy and practice. Amongst other things, she is currently working on a community-led social prescribing research project for Local Trust.

### Feodora Rayner

is a Policy Manager in the Central Policy Group of NHS England. She is leading the implementation work on the Provider Selection Regime. Prior to NHS England, Feodora worked at UCL managing collaborations between the university and startups, charities and corporate partners.

### Jacob Lant

joined in May 2023 as Chief Executive of National Voices. He is a committed advocate for working with people accessing health and care services and the wider public to help improve the accessibility and quality of the care they receive. He loves to combine deep qualitative insights with quantitative data to challenge traditional thinking on how to tackle policy challenges. Prior to working for National Voices, Jacob spent almost 10 years helping to build the Healthwatch network.

### Jo Baker

is the Associate Director for the Power of Communities Programme at the NHS West Yorkshire ICB (Integrated Care Board). Power of Communities works across the Health and Care Partnership to strengthen the understanding of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE), and their role within the Partnership including in governance and decision making and shaping and delivering health and care services across West Yorkshire.

### Katie Rose Mahon Sanfilippo

is a Presidential Research Fellow at the School of Health and Psychological Sciences and a member of the Centre for Healthcare Innovation Research at City, University of London. Her overall research interests concern the function and application of music and the arts within healthcare and community contexts to address health inequalities.

### Mark Exworthy

is Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Health Services Management Centre, University of Birmingham. Since the 1990s, his research has focused on evaluating NHS commissioning. He was a co-applicant in the research being reported at this conference. His new book *“The NHS at 75: the state of UK health policy”* was published in autumn 2023.

### Nick Grudgings

is Head of Population Health Planning at the Leeds Office of the NHS West Yorkshire ICB, where he has been supporting efforts to develop a more collaborative, person-centred approach to service planning, redesign and improvement. Prior to joining the Leeds Health and Care system Nick worked in national strategy and population health roles at NHS England, where he helped develop the NHS Long Term Plan and establish the national Anchors programme.

## Olivia Engle

is a Senior Evidence and Evaluation Specialist at the National Academy for Social Prescribing. Amongst other things, she is currently working on a community-led social prescribing research project for Local Trust.

## Pauline Allen

is Professor of Health Services Organisation at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Co-Director of the NIHR funded national policy research unit in commissioning and the healthcare system (PRUComm). Her research interests include socio-legal theory, institutional economics and organisational theory; and she has published widely on these issues in relation to healthcare in England and other countries.

## Pip Goff

co-leads Forum Central which is the collective voice for the health and care third sector in Leeds. Forum Central is a membership network of around 300 organisations, working to support Leeds' vibrant, diverse but currently extremely challenged VCSE sector. Forum Central seeks to influence strategic developments, policy and ways of working across the health and social care system. This includes formal partnership working with the Local Authority, local NHS providers and the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Local Care Partnerships (LCPs) in Leeds. Pip is committed to addressing health inequalities; building and developing relationships and asset-based approaches. She has extensive experience of partnership working, system change and third sector innovation and a strong understanding of funding, health outcomes and social value.

## Rod Sheaff

is Professor of Health Services Research at the Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Plymouth. He researches the relationships between organisational structures, production processes and policy outcomes in the health sector and the public sector more widely.



## Notes



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