

# VOLUNTARY

IMPACT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



## Voice of the sector

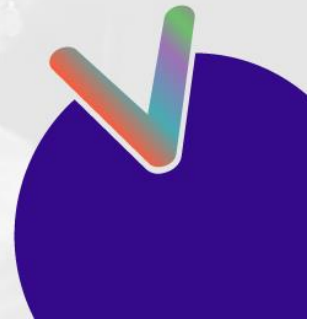
# A NEW COUNTYWIDE FORUM FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE VCS

# FORUM

VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR VOICE



# Aim

To increase and strengthen the collective voice of the community and voluntary sector in influencing and shaping decisions that are important to the sector in Northamptonshire.



# Objectives

1. Provide a structure and mechanisms for effective communication and engagement.
2. Provide opportunities for mutual support and learning to build the sector from within.
3. Provide effective communication and engagement, coordination and improved working relationships with the public and private sectors.

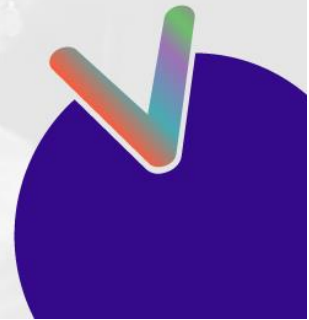


4. Ensure that the collective views of the VCS have influence on planning and policy decisions in Northamptonshire

5. Provide leadership for the collective voice of the VCS.

6. Promote and raise awareness of the forum to contribute to improving unity within the sector.

7. To improve working relationships between VCS and public and private sectors.



# How will it be done?

The Northamptonshire VCS countywide forum will be made up of “geographical” representatives.

We know there are lots of people and organisations that work locally and have a huge amount of local knowledge we want to embrace and utilise this knowledge and local networks.

We aim to have 7 representatives. 1 from each Borough/District in the county.



# And...

“Thematic” representatives; we recognise that many organisations work across districts and wider, often with a specific target audience.

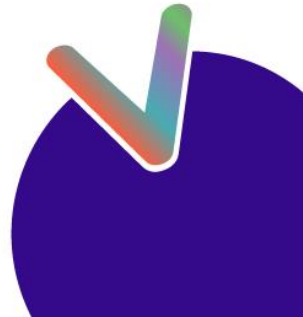
- Arts culture and heritage
- Advice and advocacy
- Crime and community safety
- Health and wellbeing
- Health and wellbeing - families and children
- Environment
- Housing and homelessness
- Equalities

- Representatives meet Quarterly
- Meet around the County - recognise distances and travel times
- Representatives in post for 2 years - continuity



# Measuring success

- The VCS is **represented** and is **influencing** planning, policy making and service delivery at strategic levels as a result of infrastructure support activities.
- There is **information and intelligence sharing, partnership working** and **collaboration** between VCS organisations and the private and public sector.
- The VCS in Northamptonshire has a **collective** profile and presence.
- The VCS in Northamptonshire is better **informed**.
- Sectors work together better to achieve best outcomes for individuals and communities in Northamptonshire.



# What will we do...

- Attend representative group meetings to feed in updates from the strategic meetings and groups we attend on behalf of the VCS.
- Support the development of representatives including the provision of training.
- Provide secretariat support to the forum,
- Communication is key to the success of the forum; VIN will create and deliver a publicity and communications plan for the forum that will include a web page
- This activity is currently unfunded; we will seek grant funding to support the on-going costs of the forum.



# How can you get involved?

Put yourself or a colleague forward to become a representative

Continue to attend your local forum, feed in issues and opportunities - be part of the discussion

Talk about it - go back to your other networks and spread the word



# The process and criteria

- All nominations must be directly involved in a voluntary or community sector organisation in Northamptonshire
- Members can nominate themselves or be nominated by other person with their permission.
- Nominated members must provide a brief profile about themselves which includes their experience, knowledge and linkages they have in the voluntary and community sector. They must also state that they can commit the time needed for the role.
- Members can be nominated or nominate themselves for more than one theme/area but can only be elected to one theme/area.
- If there are more nominations than roles in an area/theme, The VCS will be asked to vote for their preferred candidate. To clarify each organisation will have a vote. Profiles of candidates will be provided to assist in making a decision.

**NOMINATIONS WILL NOW  
BE OPEN UNTIL THE 28<sup>TH</sup>  
FEBRUARY 2017.**



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**FORUM**  
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