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**The VCSE Mental Health Alliance**

**Coventry & Warwickshire**

**Background:**

This is a fantastic opportunity to help shape and develop a new structure for the VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) Mental Health Sector in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Over the last year we (VCSE organisations and NHS partners) have identified the need for improved communication between agencies, a lack of capacity within VCSE infrastructure organisations to attend meetings to fully represent the VCSE MH sector in Coventry and Warwickshire; a need for transparency and openness within the VCSE sector that ensures service users, grass roots groups and small, medium and large MH service providers can all influence and inform; and more recently a need to embed an approach that strengthens the impact of the Community MH Transformation Fund in delivering true change to individuals/service users.

The VCSE MH Alliance will be developed to meet the need for better defined and resourced VCSE MH sector involvement that can build on the work of Working Together (a partnership of VCSE and Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust); strengthen representation and engagement of grassroots MH providers, simplify communication between stakeholders and in particular build effective relationships at all levels of the Sector across Coventry and Warwickshire.

The Alliance will also explore the creation of a vehicle to enable funding to be applied for and disseminate across VCSE MH organisations and other partners.

**Our next steps:**

* Establishing a structure for VCSE MH stakeholders that includes a strategic Steering Group comprising Coventry & Warwickshire Mind, Springfield Mind, Rethink, WCAVA and VAC initially.
* Develop terms of reference for the VCSE MH Alliance.
* To seek an independent chair for the VCSE MH Alliance strategic steering group.
* Explore opportunities for VCSE MH Alliance members to apply for funding to address gaps in provision and to explore opportunities for the VCSE MH Alliance to collaborate with other agencies to secure funding/make improvements to services.
* Explore how Working Together and VCSE MH Alliance continue to coexist or to coalesce.
* Explore and establish the strategic system role of the VCSE MH Alliance alongside CWPT, Local Authority, CCG
* Establish an alignment with Community MH Transformation Fund activity
* Appointment of a VCSE MH Alliance Partnership Officer for Coventry and Warwickshire to:
* Establish relationships within VCSE MH Sector
* Establish relationships with staff from key stakeholders.
* Represent the VCSE MH Alliance at meetings i.e., HCP Board, Suicide Prevention etc.
* Support the VCSE MH Alliance Steering Group to establish and to ensure fair and appropriate representation of users/grass roots groups is incorporated.
* Liaise with Working Together to strengthen relationships/opportunities to collaborate (or merge)
* Explore relationships/learning alongside the Kings Fund Thriving Communities and Community MH Transformation Fund activity
* Appointment a Communication and Administration role to:
* Support VCSE MH Alliance Partnership Officer
* Develop a range of media/communication tools to promote the VCSE MH Alliance
* Liaise with Working Together on shared communications
* Develop a database of VCSE MH Alliance members
* Support meetings and events through room booking, co-ordinating diaries, sending invites, on-line meeting hosting, minute taking and circulation.