

# Devon VCSE & Public Sectors Creative Collaboration in a pandemic

**Health & Wellbeing Board**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022

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# Context



- Covid 19 – A unique challenge – immediate & focused
- A clearly communicated national challenge & a common understanding of the issues/needs of individuals and communities.
- Conditions created in public sector to work differently acting more like the voluntary sector – agility & flexibility
- Public sector relaxed processes and procedures to enable fast response - Emergency empowered individuals to think creatively
- VCSE flexible – adaptable – connected – infrastructure support aided and assisted community based voluntary action
- Existing VCSE networks were able to reach local communities quickly and provide effective support
- Communities rose to the challenge to help neighbours and residents – response/ recovery funding available
- Strong partnership working with public sector key service providers – co-ordinated response – with common aim and objective



# How has the VCSE sector worked together differently?

Devon Local Response and Devon Recovery VCSE sub - group  
(Devon Recovery Co-ordination Group)

- Funded by VCSE sector and DCC Tactical Management Group.  
4 Work Streams: Communications; Strategic Engagement; Capacity & Need Mapping; Social Value & Impact
- Mapped over 6,000 VCSE organisations contributing to our economy, environment and the health of our citizens
- Agreed on need for a collaborative, solution based, whole system VCSE/ Public Sector joint leadership approach
- Actively challenged the assumption that public services alone can solve problems & enable active citizenship and thriving communities



# How have the sectors worked together differently?

- Devon Adult Social Care Service invited VCSE participation in daily cell emergency response meetings
- VCSE included in Team Devon LOEB meetings
- Devon Recovery Co-ordination Group - VCSE/ Public Sector co-design and co-facilitation of a series of 8 themed covid data impact workshops during the summer of 2021

## “Seeing the Bigger Picture” Report

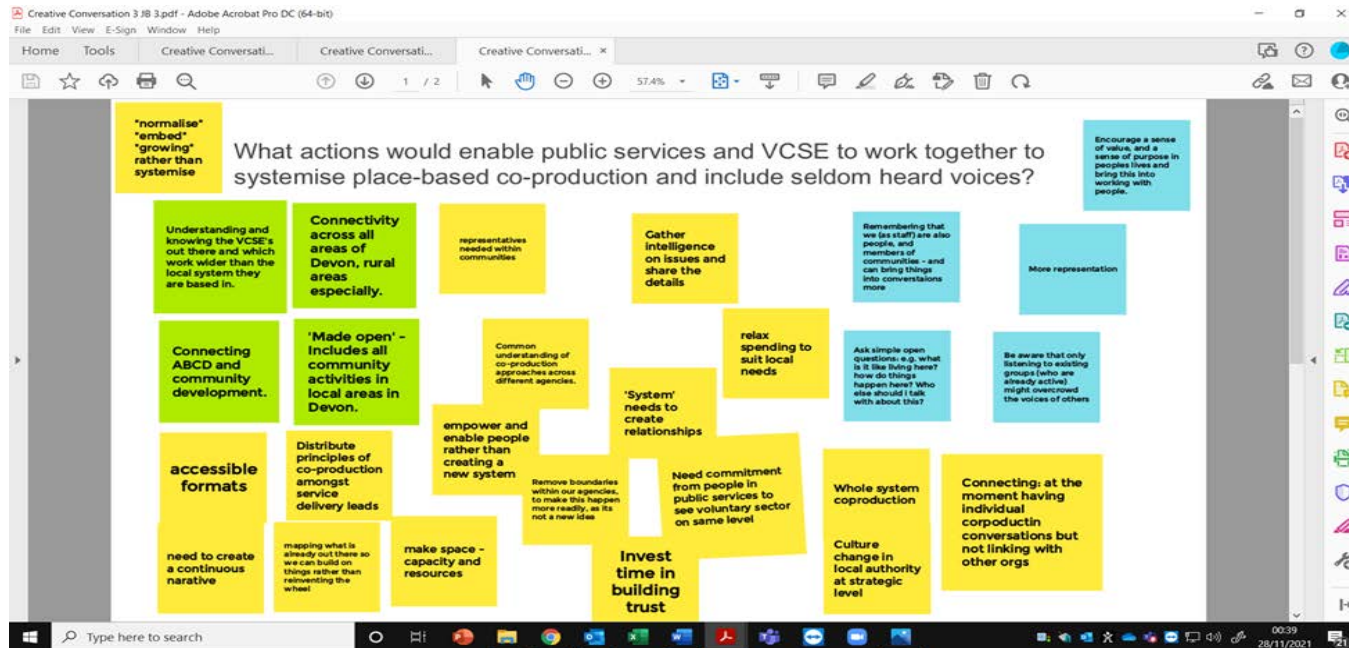
- 42 presentations combining public sector data with VCSE data & “lived experience” attended by over 100
- The data collated will contribute to the Devon Recovery dashboard.



# How have we communicated differently?

## ‘Creative Conversations’ Autumn 2021

- Built collaborative thinking - 3 strategic cross sector “Creative Conversation” endorsed by Public Sector Leaders focused on collaborative commissioning; social value & community wealth building and co-production.





# What have we done differently together?

Devon Public Health/ VCSE  
Contain Outbreak Management  
Partnership Approach



- VCSE have collaborated on **3 different levels**- working with individuals/ partnership between organisations & at a strategic level
- VCSE posts **seconded** to join Public Health Test & Tracing Team & **referral pathways** established to VCSE
- COM Self- Isolation & COMF **Community Grant Funding Schemes** Collaboration - Joint Grant Awarding Panels
- Joint VCSE/ CCG NHSX funded **community insight** programme researching barriers to accessing remote medical appointments
- Allocation of over **£1 million** Public Health COMF funding to a Devon VCSE Alliance November 2021 – March 2022 – Increased Trust & risk appetite



# DCC Perspective

- The value of VCSE DRCG R&R Group
  - A 'known' place to go to,
  - Enabled coordination for vaccine volunteering requirements,
  - Enabled data impact of covid work,
  - Has helped develop coordination in the sector – steps to the assembly,
- Self-isolation support,
  - Secondments to jointly set-up and administer practical support – grant and contact tracing,
  - VCSE perspective key in relationships and making informed panel decisions,
- COMF allocation to VCSE sector
  - Sector taking ownership and lead for delivery,
  - Has helped develop the 'trusted partner' relationship,
  - VCSE understanding of sector essential for delivery,



# What have we learned? Together is better!

- Developed better **relationships**
  - Built more **trust**
  - Improved understanding of expectations and pressures across sectors
  - Engendered joint sense of ownership of outcomes
- More **collaborative working** from a position of mutual **respect** & greater recognition of **VCSE expertise, adaptability & professionalism** led to
  - More **creative** and **flexible** solutions
  - Potential for sharing roles and innovative cross sector working
- Needs nurturing and investment to continue
  - Engaging all levels
  - Open and transparent

Communities benefit!





# Next Steps

- **VCSE infrastructure investment** to influence strategic, people centred and place- based policy & service development to enable positive change
- Grow **VCSE/ public sector collaboration** to improve local community outcomes including – health & social care; wellbeing; economy; community wealth building; affordable housing, community resilience, digital inclusion; transport, inequalities & climate change
- Develop **system change dialogue** on creating culture shift and improved outcomes through **Joint Leadership** & social value based collaborative commissioning to support a new way of working.
- Continue evidence – based approach through a shared **VCSE sector asset map data-base** of activity and social value adding **insight & intelligence.**
- Development of a new **Devon, Plymouth & Torbay VCSE Assembly** to pilot and develop new ways of working that benefit communities

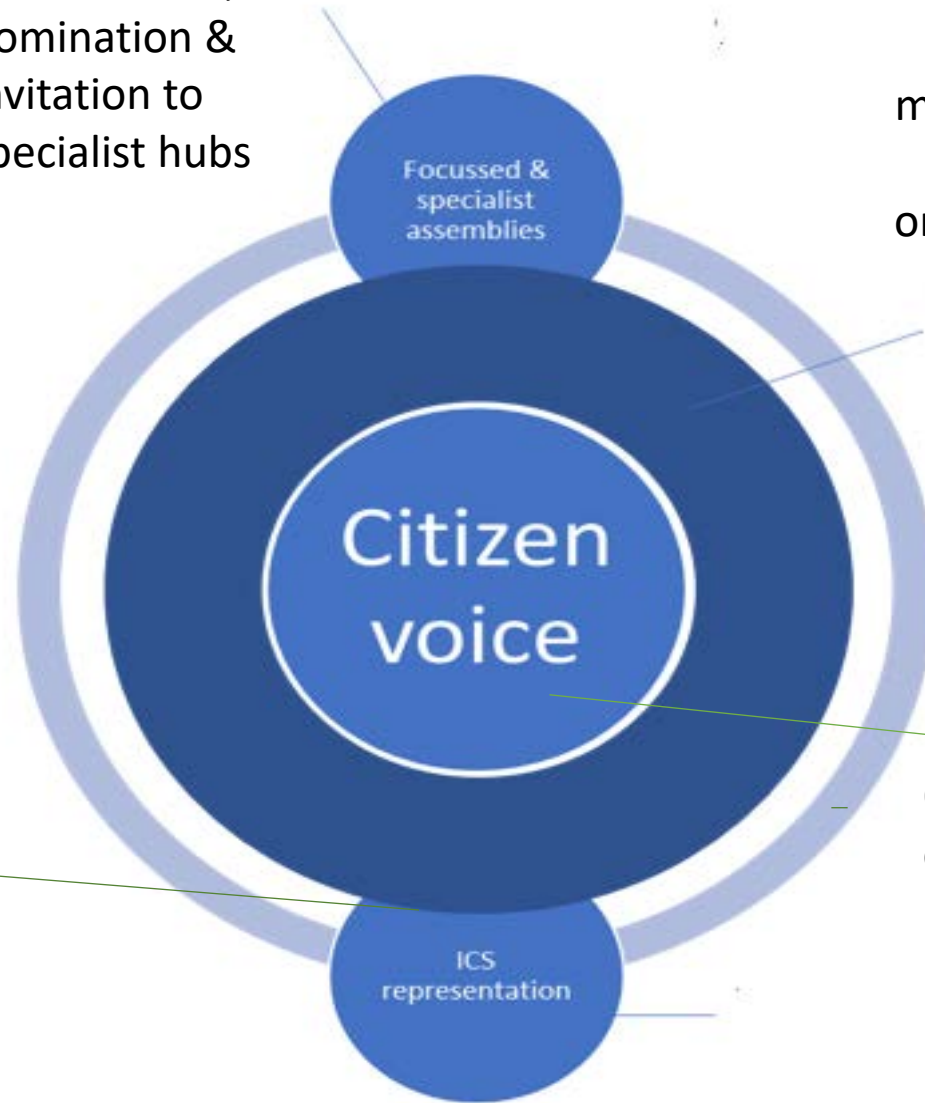


## VCSE General Assembly

The appropriate number of seats on the ICS statutory Partnership Board that reflects the size & diversity of the sector:

- 3 consistent seats (Devon, Plymouth & Torbay)
- 2 seats for focused / specialist input

Self selection, nomination & invitation to specialist hubs



Open membership. any organisation/ group can join.

Opt-in, opt-out model of participation.

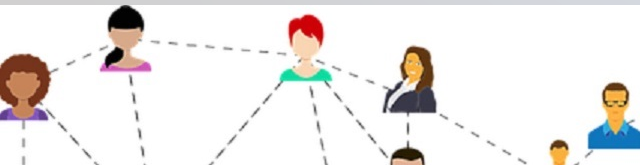
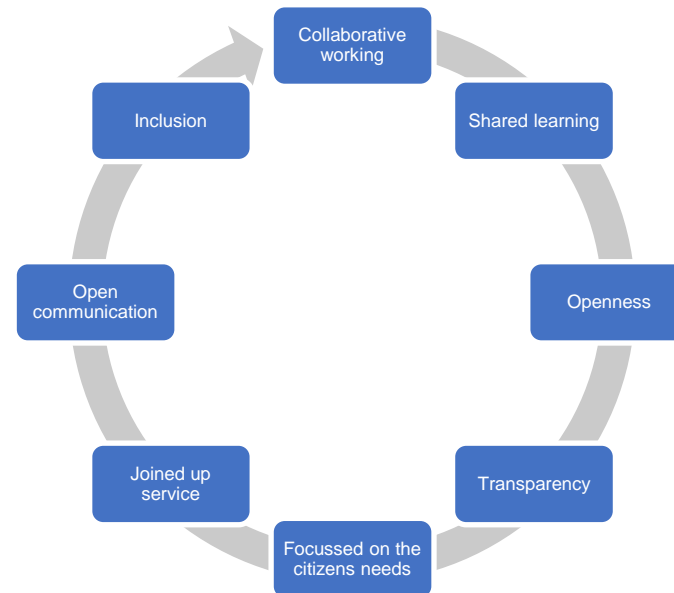


# VCSE ASSEMBLY VALUES

There is a co-designed shared mission & set of values. This will be honed as we develop the model

## Vision of successful partnership

What does good look like? What would it feel like?



**Thank you**

**Any Questions?**

