VCSE sector meeting with the Chair of the One Halton Partnership Board, David Colin-Thome, St Marie’s, Widnes
20th June 2018

The session had been arranged by VCA to give an opportunity to Halton’s VCSE sector to meet the Chair of the One Halton Partnership Board and understand more about the work on the integration of health and care services in the Borough.

In attendance:  
Ruth Turner (Deafness Resource Centre)  
Pauline Ruth (Cheshire Children, Young People and families VCFS Hub)  
Claire Roberts (Stroke Association)  
Hitesh Patel (Haltons Citizens Advice)  
Matthew Roberts (HCR)  
Sue Molyneux (HDP)  
John Abbott, (HDP)  
Syd Broxton (Halton & St Helens VCA Trustee)  
Sally Yeoman (Halton & St Helens VCA)  

Speaker: David Colin-Thome (DCT)

Apologies:  
Helen Fitzgerald (Deafness Resource Centre)  
Tracey Tilston (NCNW)  
Mark Lunney (Age UK Mid Mersey)  
Jo Jones (Halton Citizens Advice)  
Angelita Woosnam (Recharge and Restore)  
Joseph Lavelle (Age UK Mid Mersey)  

David gave some of the background to the work that was now underway in Halton. The 2012, 2014 Acts of Parliament placed a greater emphasis on integration and working together. This was happening around the Country now. The One Halton concept had been underway in the Borough for a number of years, but the creation of the One Halton Board and the appointment of the independent chair in 2017 had given greater impetus.

David summarised his background and experience for the role, his previous life in Halton and in a national capacity and why he had returned to support the work and ambition that Halton had to integrate their services and working and improve health outcomes.

He set out, 3 main areas as he saw it:

1. Health of the public – Halton’s work is impressive  
2. As many services based in Halton – re-address the focus on hospitals. (neighbourhood hubs)  
3. More complex, but how does acute care work in Halton in a different way  

David set out what he thought of as the role of the sector – “Role of VCSE sector to bring patients and public to the table as well as provide services”. “of the people”
David suggested one area the sector could and does support on was “How do people manage chronic and LTC better themselves”.

He then went onto describe some of the work in Halton

**Structures** – 4 hubs – organising services – could the voluntary sector be organised around the hubs?
- **Widnes** – COPD / Respiratory and care homes
- **Runcorn** – Mental Health and treatment rooms
  (Test – beds) – testing out new ways of working and locality working would be key.

There was then an opportunity for an open discussion with questions, experiences and views shared from those attending.

- **COPD** – What will the work on COPD mean for people with the condition? GP / Nurse specialist with the skills in Halton.
- **Mindset** of people who run services – One Halton committed to a new way of working keen on localness – will help the sector.
- **Impact** on the sector from disinvestment from the two commissioners
- **Below Board level** – hostility to working with the sector – understanding of the role of the sector needs to filter down to middle and front line
- **Personal budgets / mdt** – personal budgets in discharge pack. – HDP could add value.
- **Faith sector role** – recognising and resourcing this.
- **Are commissioners asking about value and impact?** Are commissioners moving with the pace. Influencing the development of the commissioning strategy
- **monitoring** should match the contract - Relationships under-pinned by a contract not defined by one
- **Transparent commissioning** – within 12 months.
- **What’s being commissioned and what do we deliver/**
- **The sector needs** better ways to tell stories –
- **Barriers for D/Deaf communities / understanding what you’re commissioning.** Services understanding of what – you have to do
- **Low – level voluntary and community action** and how we are supporting that - how do we develop and support assets in Halton
  - non-commissioned support / resources etc
- **What else can the Council and CCG do to create the environment where the sector flourishes**