

Associated guidance for this document can be found [here](#). Each section has a link to the relevant section within the guidance document.

## 1 Details of the activity (i.e. the policy, strategy, service, project or function)

<b>1.1 Directorate</b>	Health, Housing and Communities
<b>1.2 Service</b>	Housing and Communities

<b>1.3 Title of the activity (i.e. the policy, strategy, service, project or function):</b>
partnership working with the Sunderland Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Alliance.

<b>1.4 Brief description of the activity:</b>
To confirm agreement to partnership working with the Sunderland Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Alliance, to enable the continued growth and strengthen the capacity of the voluntary and community sector in Sunderland.

<b>1.5 If the activity involves working with other directorates, partners or joint commissioning please state who is involved:</b>
Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance Integrated Care Board City Board Gentoo Sunderland Business Network

<b>1.6 Will all or part of the activity be delivered through a provider external to the Council? If Yes, please refer to the <a href="#">Corporate Procurement</a> Processes</b>
Yes

<b>1.7 If Yes, please explain what element(s) of the activity will be delivered through an external provider:</b>
Capacity building of the voluntary and community sector will be undertaken by the VS Alliance as well as coordination of corporate volunteering and distribution of social value grants

<b>1.8 Which areas of the city will be impacted?</b>	
Whole City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coalfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
East	<input type="checkbox"/>
North	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>
West	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal Council Activity – Impact on employees	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.9 Is the activity targeted at protected characteristics or any other key groups?</b>	
All of the below	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Age (e.g. older people, younger people/children, a specific age group)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability (e.g. mobility, long term health conditions, sensory impairment or loss, learning disability, neurological diversity or mental health)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity (including breastfeeding)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief (including no belief)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care Experienced People	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other vulnerable groups and people with complex needs (e.g. veterans, children and young people who are cared for or care experienced, carers, domestic abuse victims and survivors, ex-offenders etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
People vulnerable to socio-economic deprivation (e.g. unemployed, low income, living in deprived areas, poor/no accommodation, low skills, low literacy etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Completed by:** Helen Peverley

Version	Status	Author	Comments	Date Issued
1		H Peverley		22/06/2023

## 2 Data and Intelligence

### [Guidance for this section](#)

#### **2.1 What data and intelligence has informed the activity?**

Significant consultation has been held across the city with the voluntary and community sector – to understand the needs of the sector to ensure they are able to sustain their existence and delivery as well as grow their offer to meet the needs of local communities.

In February 2020 Cabinet approved that the Council agreed to support the voluntary and community sector in Sunderland to develop an independent Alliance.

Over the last three years in particular, the sector has supported the residents of Sunderland throughout the COVID pandemic and most recently through the cost-of-living crisis. Households in Sunderland who require support within their communities is extensive and significant data has been developed to further ensure targeted support in households with multiple vulnerabilities.

The council has facilitated several large-scale consultation events with the sector most recently to ensure the Alliance has the resources required to grow capacity and to support the emerging Sunderland social prescribing programme – Links for Life.

JSNAs noted the number of residents in Sunderland who require community support to improve resilience. as well as Financial Wellbeing Strategy and the Community Wealth Strategy have also informed the development of the VS Alliance.

#### **2.2 Summary of data / intelligence / consultation outcomes to inform understanding of differences in:**

- the way people use, access or experience your activity;
- how the activity may impact; and/or
- outcomes for different groups?

Feedback from the voluntary sector and external stakeholders is telling us that the voluntary sector in Sunderland require support to grow and sustain their capacity. Social isolation is a key issue identified through feedback and the voluntary sector are supporting residents to reduce their isolation and loneliness which often stems from crisis or leads into crisis and poor health.

Consultation has been conducted through VCS Network meetings, as well as surveys and large-scale events Through this approach we have engaged with people from many protected groups, including veterans, BME Groups, Young People, Older People, people with disabilities, unemployed groups, etc.

Also used Welcoming Warm Spaces to gather residents' views on what should be included within the emerging social prescribing links for life offer, which will be delivered within communities by the voluntary and community sector.

### 3 Equality and Human Rights

[Guidance for this section](#)

<b>3.1 Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Supporting the voluntary sector will increase capacity to deliver support services locally which will include training and development - For example reducing anti-social behaviour, reduce social isolation, which will support meeting this aim of the general equality duty.
<b>3.2 Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements
<b>3.3 Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements
<b>3.4 Age (older ages, children and young people, middle ages, an age range or a specific age)</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements

<b>3.5 Disability (mobility, long-term health conditions, sensory, learning disability, neurological diversity or mental health)</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements

<b>3.6 Gender reassignment (the process of transitioning from one sex to another)</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements

<b>3.7 Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Explain how/why:</b>

<b>3.8 Pregnancy and maternity (including breastfeeding)</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements

<b>3.9 Race (colour, ethnicity, country of origin, culture, etc.)</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements

<b>3.10 Religion / Belief (including no belief)</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements

<b>3.11 Sex (male or female)</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements

<b>3.12 Sexual orientation</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements

<b>3.13 Will the activity impact on an individual's Human Rights as enshrined in UK law?</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Explain how/why:</b>

<b>3.14 Other vulnerable groups and people with complex needs (e.g. veterans, children and young people cared for and care experienced, carers, domestic abuse victims and survivors, ex-offenders, homeless or multiple complexities/characteristics)</b>
<b>What impact will the activity have?</b>
Positive
<b>Explain how/why:</b>
Any service delivery projects in the community, supported through the Alliance will need to build this into their service delivery method as part of funding conditions, for example social prescribing. This will be monitored through the VS Alliance Strategic Board as well as oversight at Area Committees via the Council's Area Arrangements

## 4 Reducing socio-economic and digital inequalities

### [Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

<b>4.1 Impact on residents' financial circumstances?</b>	Positive
<b>4.2 Impact on housing, including type, range, affordability, quality and/or condition?</b>	Positive
<b>4.3 Impact on digital inclusion or access?</b>	Positive
<b>4.4 Impact on education, skills and lifelong learning?</b>	Positive
<b>4.5 Impact on employment, including quality and access?</b>	Positive

<b>4.6 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes</b>
The VS Alliance will coordinate funding and investment opportunities to maximise capacity for the sector in Sunderland, enabling them to deliver activities which: 4.1 –support people to access benefits, employment, training and volunteering 4.2 –improve green spaces around housing estates 4.3 – improve community assets to become digital hubs and supporting residents to improve digital skills 4.4/5 – support people to gather more skills and experiences, connecting them with work experience and businesses.
<b>4.7 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)</b>
The VS Alliance will be monitored via the Strategic Alliance Board, which includes membership from the Council, ICB, Gentoo and the sector themselves.

## 5 Improving population health and reducing health inequalities

### [Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

<b>5.1 Help promote healthy living?</b>	Positive
<b>5.2 Help promote safe and inclusive environments?</b>	Positive
<b>5.3 Impact on children, young people and families?</b>	Positive
<b>5.4 Impact on natural and built surroundings?</b>	Positive
<b>5.5 Impact on accessibility and active travel encouraging active behaviours?</b>	Positive
<b>5.6 Impact on living independently?</b>	Positive

<b>5.7 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes</b>
The VS Alliance will coordinate funding and investment opportunities to maximise capacity for the sector in Sunderland, enabling them to deliver activities which: 5.1/5 – enable the provision of social prescribing activities 5.2/4 – improve green and open spaces within communities 5.3 – further develop of Community Hubs and the delivery of youth activities and family projects, i.e. cooking/ exercising together as a family 5.4/5 – improve parks and open spaces and walking and cycling activities 5.6 – improve digital inclusion in communities, supporting families to support each other. Community Hubs will reduce social isolation. Community transport is being considered in the Coalfields area via the Alliance working in

partnership with the ICB

**5.8 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)**

The VS Alliance will be monitored via the Strategic Alliance Board, which includes membership from the Council, ICB, Gentoo and the sector themselves

## 6 Carbon reduction and sustainability

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

<b>6.1 Impact on carbon reduction or the use of renewable energy?</b>	Positive
<b>6.2 Impact on the effects of climate change adaptation?</b>	Positive
<b>6.3 Impact on reducing, re-using and recycling resources?</b>	Positive
<b>6.4 Impact on construction?</b>	Positive

**6.5 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes**

The VS Alliance will coordinate funding and investment opportunities to maximise capacity for the sector in Sunderland, enabling them to deliver activities which:

6.1/2 – support community assets to reduce their energy bills. As well as secure funding to improve assets to be carbon neutral and or support offsetting

6.3 – Asst Director of Economic Regeneration will attend VCS meetings to discuss local electric charging points and tree planting activities and enhancing green space

6.4 – Area Teams doing push on social value from major builds in the city, i.e. new footbridge, to ensure that social value clauses are built in to contracts to benefit VCS and residents.

**6.6 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)**

The VS Alliance will be monitored via the Strategic Alliance Board, which includes membership from the Council, ICB, Gentoo and the sector themselves

## 7 Community wealth building

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

<b>7.1 Impact on community wealth and social value?</b>	Positive
<b>7.2 Impact on social inclusion, integration, and fostering good relations?</b>	Positive
<b>7.3 Impact on crime reduction, anti-social behaviour and community safety?</b>	Positive
<b>7.4 Impact on access to services?</b>	Positive

**7.5 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes**

The VS Alliance will coordinate funding and investment opportunities to maximise capacity for the sector in Sunderland, enabling them to deliver activities which:

7.1 – secure investment for the voluntary sector and enable the sector to become accredited real living wage employers

7.2 – as above

7.3 – secure investment for the sector to enable the delivery of activities which integrate communities, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour



7.4 – secure investment for the sector to enable the delivery of additional and sustained activities will improve access to services.

**7.6 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)**

The VS Alliance will be monitored via the Strategic Alliance Board, which includes membership from the Council, ICB, Gentoo and the sector themselves

## 8 Key Actions

Any key actions identified throughout the IIA should be recorded here. This will be the action plan linked to your activity and should be implemented to ensure all inequalities or negative impacts are mitigated.

Key Actions	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Review Date
Ensure the IIA is presented to the VS Alliance	26.6.23	Helen Peverley	27/06/2023
Cabinet approval	8.8.23	Helen Peverley	09/07/2023
Ensure criteria within IIA specifically referenced in future call for projects distributed to the VCS via the Alliance – Links for Life	2023/2024	Helen Peverley	31/03/2024

**Responsible officer sign off:**

**Name** Graham Scanlon

**Job Title** Assistant Director Housing and Communities

**Responsible officer for reviewing actions:**

**Name** Helen Peverley

**Job Title** Area Arrangements Strategic Manager

Once the Integrated Impact Assessment is complete, please send to [IIA@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:IIA@sunderland.gov.uk).

