

Liverpool City Region VCFSE Manifesto 2021-2024 Building a Compassionate, Caring and Successful City Region Year One Manifesto Delivery Plan

Earlier this year the **VS6 Partnership**, in collaboration with the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector, published the **Liverpool City Region VCFSE Manifesto for 2021-2024**. The manifesto details the aims, ambitions, and priorities for the VCFSE sector over the next three years including our key asks of the LCR Combined Authority to support the sector and our communities for the future.

As part of our consultations with the VCFSE sector during the development of the Manifesto it was understood that whilst the Manifesto does reflect the needs and ambitions of the sector, further information was desired in terms of “how” the vision for the VCFSE sector across the City Region will be achieved. As promised with the Manifesto, we have produced a Manifesto Delivery Plan outlining our key actions and desired outcomes for year one of the Manifesto covering up until March 2022 and have summarised this planned activity within this document.

Our work for remainder of this financial year focuses on laying the foundations for years two and three of manifesto delivery, setting the scene for the next two years of working with the VCFSE sector, the LCR Combined Authority and others to build a compassionate, caring and successful City Region.

Securing the £25m VCFSE sector Resilience and Capacity Fund

The Resilience and Capacity Fund (R&CF) was one of the key elements of the LCR CA’s Building Back Better economic recovery plan, the implementation of which was committed to within Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram’s Manifesto to build the sector’s long-term capacity and resilience. However, the fund is noticeably missing from the LCR CA’s recent Corporate Plan.

Key activity

VS6 Partners with liaise with LCR CA policy colleagues to ascertain the status of the R&CF and work with the VCFSE sector to lobby to secure this investment to rebuild VCFSE sector resilience and capacity.

Scoping the feasibility of a 1% community levy on CA public sector contracts over £1m to be invested into VCFSE sector delivery

We want to understand how community levy models have been designed and implemented in other areas across the country and to develop clear, well evidenced recommendations for successfully implementing this in LCR. This will support us to achieve CA sign up to community levy principles with well evidenced recommendations.

Key activity

We will commission an expert organisation to undertake a feasibility study for implementing a community levy model in LCR and to explore the impact on social value including longer-term contracts and grants for the VCFSE sector.

Genuine collaboration for funding with greater transparency and the VCFSE sector as an equitable partner

VS6 partners will work closely with key LCR CA contacts to cement the VCFSE sector's place at the table when responding to national and City Region funding opportunities and commissioning, with social value embedded within processes, including representation in preparedness for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Key activity

We will secure VCFSE representation on the LCR Employment and Skills Board as a driver for the VCFSE sectors involvement with the UK-SPF.

We will produce a joint funding framework in partnership with the LCR CA highlighting best practice for effective partnership working with the VCFSE sector in larger funding opportunities.

Agreed working arrangements with the LCR CA with the profile of the VCFSE sector clearly understood

We want to improve communication, processes and partnership working between the LCR CA and the VCFSE sector to ensure that the voices of the sector and communities are heard with better ability to lobby and influence policy and decision making.

Key activity

We will map out structures and key contacts within the LCA CA, the Local Enterprise Partnership, and emerging Integrated Care Systems to identify levers for the VCFSE sector and gaps in VCFSE representation.

VS6 will form a relationship with the new LCR CA Chief Executive, Katherine Fairclough.

A LCR VCFSE sector induction video will be developed for CA staff to raise understanding of the role of and how to work with the sector in LCR.

Develop a coherent City Region volunteering offer to streamline the co-ordination of volunteering

The LCR VCFSE Volunteer Management System has been designed to streamline the co-ordination and delivery of volunteering across LCR places and volunteer centres to improve processes, recruitment deployment of volunteers whilst maintaining strong links to national prescribed programmes.

Key activity

The development and implementation of the LCR VCFSE Volunteer Management System, in partnership with Team Kinetic, will be finalised and rolled out.

Community approaches to digital inclusion with the VCFSE sector as a key delivery partner

Digital infrastructure is a significant area of the LCR CA's Corporate Plan, and we want to ensure that the VCFSE sector and our communities are fully represented in the LCR Digital Strategy with digital inclusion a critical ambition and the VCFSE sector as a key enabler.

Key activity

We will engage with the VCFSE sector on the role of digital in sector planning, service delivery and digital inclusion to produce recommendations for a more digitally enabled and connected sector. We will work with LCR Digital, the CA's digital infrastructure vehicle, to maximise digital inclusion focused social value and investment into the sector.

Review the gap in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic VCFSE infrastructure networks across LCR and identify opportunities to address this gap

There is a lack of specialist City Region level representation for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic VCFSE organisations to influence policy and decision making on behalf of their communities, and we want to work with the LCR CA to explore opportunities to address this gap sustainably and effectively.

Key activity

VS6 will work closely with the LCR CA's Race Equality Programme to support the voices of the VCFSE sector to be heard within individual workstreams and explore potential infrastructure development opportunities.

VS6 have initiated plans to support the development of a VCFSE working group of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic led organisations to understand what infrastructure support is needed across LCR, building upon VS6's Equalities Assembly recommendations.

A City Region, whole system approach to addressing food insecurity and food poverty

We want to ensure that the VCFSE sector is an integral and leading partner within City Region wide approaches to reducing food poverty, utilising the sector's expertise in this area and ensuring that strategic work is connected to what is happening on the ground.

Key activity

VS6 will ensure VCFSE representation on LCR CA food poverty workstreams and build upon the recommendations from the VS6 Sustainable and Affordable Food Assembly to act as a blueprint for change.

Ensure there is a whole system, joined up response to the mental health crisis working in partnership with the VCFSE sector

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the mental health of our communities and we need a collaborative approach to supporting emotional wellbeing and resilience, with dedicated VCFSE sector investment.

Key activity

VS6 will lobby for VCFSE sector representation and funding within City Region wide responses to the post-pandemic mental health response.

Please keep an eye out on the VS6 Partnership website for updates and news regarding VS6's work and progress on this manifesto delivery plan. You can also follow us on Twitter to keep up to date on what is happening across the Liverpool City Region.

VS6

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