

# Festival of North West Thinking

**Voluntary  
Sector**  
North West



**#FNWT21**

## Event Programme

**(& VSNW's AGM 2021)**

**Supporting the North West's VCSE sector**

Tuesday 9th November 2021 | 10am - 4pm



## Warren's Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for attending this year's Festival of North West Thinking, hosted by Voluntary Sector North West.

We are incredibly excited for our event this year, following the success of the 2020's Festival of Thinking, and even more excited to be able to host such a great line-up of guest speakers and attendees from the VCSE sector in person, with the festival taking place at the fantastic Gujarat Hindu Society and Community Centre in Preston, Lancashire. Whilst the move to digital has had many positive impacts on the way the VCSE sector has worked together over the past 18 months or so, being able to network with colleagues face-to-face is invaluable for generating new partnerships, ideas and innovation.

We hope that your attendance at this event reignites and strengthens sector feelings of collaboration and solidarity.

As we all know, the world has changed dramatically since March 2020 and there still remains some uncertainty as we look towards 2021 and beyond. However, what is certain is that the role of the VCSE sector in society remains as crucial as ever.

Therefore, our event this year focuses on three key topic areas that will help us to explore the VCSE sector's fundamental role, not only in recovery but in building a brighter and better future for society and our communities across the North West. The topic areas that will be explored and analysed throughout the day are:

- Economy: Exploring the VCSE sector's role in local and national economic agendas
- Health: Developing effective VCSE neighbourhood working within health and care system transformation
- Equality & Social Justice: How the VCSE sector can work to tackle inequalities and support our VCSE equality organisations

There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved on the day with our jam-packed agenda filled with keynote speaker presentations, a variety of workshops and panel discussions all led by leaders from across the VCSE sector and those with lived experience.

You can also find out more about the role of VSNW as the regional VCSE sector network for the North West of England, and how you can join VSNW as a member to support us to shape the future of the sector in the North West.

We look forward to seeing you on the 9th November and hearing great ideas and experiences from your organisation in our interactive workshops and panels. Together we can build a brighter, better future for the VCSE sector, communities and society.

Warren Escadale  
Chief Executive  
Voluntary Sector North West (VSNW)



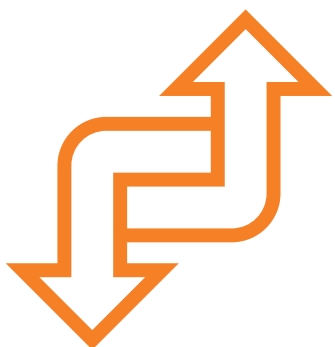


# An event made by the voluntary sector, for the voluntary sector



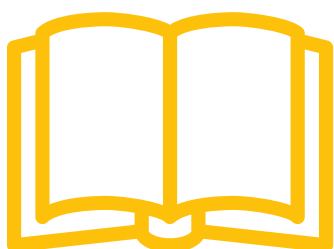
Make connections with VCSE sector peers

Breaking barriers with ingenious ideas



Put communities in charge of driving change

Make the voice of the sector heard



Learn from best practices

Positively shape the future of the North West



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# Programme Summary

10:00	Arrival, Coffee & Registration		
10:25	Welcome & Housekeeping		
10:30	Keynote Speeches:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Madison Kerr</b>, Economist - <b>Pro Bono Economics</b></li> <li>- <b>Peter Holbrook</b>, Chief Executive - <b>Social Enterprise UK</b></li> </ul>		
11:00	Morning Workshops		
	<b>Economy</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Equality &amp; Social Justice</b>
	<p>Making a case for the VCSE sector in the local economic agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ann-Marie Wrigley</b>, Chair – <b>Network for Europe</b></li> <li>- <b>Margaret Cheshire</b>, Chief Operating Officer – <b>Cheshire Community Foundation</b></li> <li>- <b>Angela White</b>, Chief Executive – <b>Sefton CVS</b></li> <li>- <b>David Burch</b>, Senior Researcher – <b>CLES</b></li> </ul>	<p>Health System Changes - Where are we up to with health system transformation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Alison Page</b>, Chief Executive – <b>Salford CVS</b></li> <li>- <b>David Allen</b>, CEO – <b>Cumbria CVS</b></li> <li>- <b>Joe Hannett</b>, Partnerships Manager – <b>Community Futures</b></li> <li>- <b>Warren Escadale</b>, Chief Executive – <b>VSNW</b></li> </ul>	<p>Devising a strategy for supporting VCSE Equality Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Melanie Close</b>, Chief Executive – <b>Disability Equality NW</b></li> <li>- <b>Tracey Gore</b>, Chair Liverpool Race Equality Task Force – <b>Steve Biko Housing Association</b></li> <li>- <b>Jonathon Prasad</b>, Project Officer – <b>IREP &amp; Lancashire BME Network</b></li> <li>- <b>Stuart Dunne</b>, CEO – <b>Youth Focus NW</b></li> <li>- <b>Gillian Halliwell</b>, North West Head of Regional Funding – <b>The National Lottery Community Fund</b></li> </ul>
12:00	Lunch		
13:00	VSNW's AGM		
14:00	Afternoon Workshops		
	<b>Economy</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Equality &amp; Social Justice</b>
	<p>National economic opportunities - Beyond Brexit (Levelling Up &amp; Shared Prosperity Fund)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Peter Holbrook</b>, Chief Executive - <b>Social Enterprise UK</b></li> <li>- <b>Madison Kerr</b>, Economist - <b>Pro Bono Economics</b></li> </ul>	<p>Mortar between the bricks - effective models of VCSE sector working in health neighbourhoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Christine Blythe</b>, CEO - <b>BPRCVS</b></li> <li>- <b>Jan Campbell</b>, Health and Social Care Officer - <b>Sefton CVS</b></li> </ul>	<p>Things that keep us awake at night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Alison Page</b>, Chief Executive - <b>Salford CVS</b></li> <li>- <b>Warren Escadale</b>, Chief Executive - <b>VSNW</b></li> </ul>
15:00	Coffee Break		
15:15	Panel Discussion: Building a Brighter Future - the role of the VCSE sector		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr Fran Darlington-Pollock</b>, Chair – <b>The Equality Trust</b></li> <li>- <b>Maddy Desforges</b>, CEO – <b>NAVCA</b></li> <li>- <b>David Burch</b>, Senior Researcher – <b>CLES</b></li> </ul>		
16:00	Close		



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## FESTIVAL OF NORTH WEST THINKING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Madison Kerr,  
Economist  
Pro Bono Economics



Peter Holbrook,  
Chief Executive  
Social Enterprise UK

### ECONOMY (11AM BREAKOUT)

Making a case for the VCSE sector  
in the local economic agenda.



Ann-Marie Wrigley  
Chair - Network for Europe



Margaret Cheshire, COO  
Cheshire Community  
Foundation



Angela White  
CEO - Sefton CVS



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**HEALTH (11AM BREAKOUT)** **Health System Changes - Where are we up to with health system transformation?**




Warren Escadale,  
CEO - VSNW



Alison Page, CEO  
Salford CVS



David Allen, CEO  
Cumbria CVS



Joe Hannett,  
Partnerships Manager  
Community Features


**EQUALITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE (11AM BREAKOUT)** **Devising a strategy for supporting VCSE Equality Organisations**




Gillian Halliwell, NW Head  
of Regional funding -  
National Lottery



Jonathon Prasad, Project  
Officer - IREP & Lancashire  
BME Network




Stuart Dunne, CEO  
NW Youth Focus



Tracey Gore, Chair  
Liverpool Race Equality



Melanie Close, CE  
Disability Equality NW

 **Lunch - (1 Hour)**

**VSNW'S AGM - (1 Hour)** 



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## ECONOMY (2PM BREAKOUT)



Peter Holbrook, CEO  
Social Enterprise UK

**National economic opportunities: Beyond Brexit (Levelling Up & Shared Prosperity Fund)**



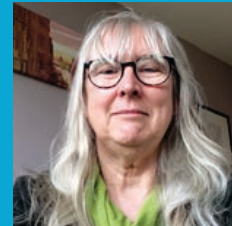
Madison Kerr, Economist  
Pro Bono Economics

## HEALTH (2PM BREAKOUT)



Christine Blythe, CEO  
BPRCVS

**Mortar between the bricks - effective models of VCSE sector working in health neighbourhoods**



Jan Campbell, Health and Social Care Officer  
Sefton CVS

## EQUALITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE (2PM BREAKOUT)



Alison Page, CEO  
Salford CVS

**Things that keep us awake at night**



Warren Escadale, CEO  
VSNW



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**Coffee Break  
(15 Mins)**



**PANEL DISCUSSION (45 MINS)**

**Building a Brighter Future - the role of the VCSE sector**



Dr Fran Darlington-Pollock,  
Chair - The Equality Trust



Maddy Desforges,  
CEO - NAVCA



David Burch,  
Senior Researcher - CLES

**Close - 4PM**



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## Keynote Speakers



**Madison Kerr,  
Economist - Pro Bono Economics**

Madison Kerr is an economist at Pro Bono Economics where she helps charities evaluate the impact of their services. Before working at PBE, Madison attained her Ph.D. in economics with specialisations in applied microeconometrics and gender economics.

Madison's research focused on the importance of gender and family on attitudes and labour market outcomes of individuals.

**Peter Holbrook,  
CEO - Social Enterprise UK**



Peter Holbrook became CEO of Social Enterprise UK in January 2010.

Social Enterprise UK is the national trade body for social enterprise and represents a wide range of social enterprises, regional and national support networks and other related organisations. SEUK works to promote social enterprise as a model for changing both business and society.

Peter has established, developed and supported hundreds of diverse social enterprises over his career. He has advised government taskforces in the UK and overseas and chaired the Social Enterprise World Forum, the global network of social businesses until 2015.

He was appointed a CBE in 2015.



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## Economy Breakout AM

# Making a case for the VCSE sector in the local economic agenda

VCSE groups make a major contribution to the local economy: drawing down investment, employing local people, creating economic opportunities for communities, and, often innovatively, generating income.

As EU investment ends, and local post-pandemic plans to 'build back better' are being put to the test at a point when poverty and inequality are deepening, what should and could the future role of the VCSE sector in local economies look like?

In this session, you can hear the thoughts and expertise of VCSE economic leads:

- **Margaret Cheshire**, Chief Operating Officer of Cheshire Community Foundation, who has been supporting VCSE input into the non-Combined Authority LEP of Cheshire and Warrington.
- **Angela White**, CEO of Sefton CVS and VCSE representative on Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) – one of the few in England!
- **Ann-Marie Wrigley**, a founder-director of Lancashire's SELNET, Chair of Network for Europe, and social enterprise practitioner of over 30 years.
- All ably supported by **David Burch**, Senior researcher at the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). CLES, rooted in the North West, are the leading national think-do tank on community wealth building, anchor institutions as well as being the co-creators of the Preston Model.

Following these speakers, there will be an open discussion about how we work together to make the case for the VCSE role in local economies.

**Full speaker biographies overleaf.**



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**Angela White,**  
**Chief Executive - Sefton CVS**  
**AM Economy Breakout**



Angela has worked in the North West charitable sector for 35 years. As Chief Executive of Sefton CVS for almost 30 years, she has led and developed the organisation as a local infrastructure agency, recognised nationally for the delivery of support services, sector consortia and partnership collaborations rooted in and involving community groups and residents.

Angela is passionate about the role of CVS's as a social movement and their vital contribution to innovation, leadership and collaboration in local communities and as social and economic partners.

Angela has extensive experience in leading successful social, community and economic programme teams and initiatives involving Third Sector organisations.

She has held a number of roles as Chair of partnerships both in Sefton and within the Liverpool City Region. She is a member of the VS6 Partnership, a consortium of third sector organisations working together to support the sector's engagement with the Public Sector and City Region structures. She is the Third Sector Champion on the Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

She is a Trustee of the National Association of Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) and the VOLA consortium in Merseyside. Angela was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours List 2016 for services to community action in Merseyside.



**Ann-Marie Wrigley,**  
**Chair - Network for Europe**  
**AM Economy Breakout**

Anne-Marie is a founder director of SELNET - the Social Enterprise Lancashire Network, a director of Network for Europe, and was formerly a founding director of Co-operatives North West and has an M.A. in Social Enterprise.

She worked for over thirty years in community-based economic development for New Era Enterprises (E. Lancs.) Ltd. where she established a support and training service for registered childminders and established and managed a number of publicly funded services supporting community organisations, social enterprises and individuals.



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**David Burch,**  
**Senior Researcher - CLES**  
**AM Economy Breakout**



David Burch is a Senior Researcher at CLES and has been working on their Community Wealth Building agenda since 2017. He has worked with a wide range of authorities, from areas as diverse as inner-city London (Islington), coastal towns (Torbay) and rural Scotland (North Ayrshire), the development of which directly led to the adopting Scotland's first Community Wealth Building Strategy.

He has also developed an expertise in progressive procurement across a wide range of anchor institutions over the past 4 years, as well as sitting on the URBACT Making Spend Matter Preston Procurement Group, which brings together a wide range of anchors in Preston to advance progressive procurement practice.



**Margaret Cheshire,**  
**Chief Operations Officer -**  
**Cheshire Community Foundation**  
**AM Economy Breakout**

Margaret joined Cheshire Community Foundation (CCF) as Chief Operations Officer in 2019 following a career working for a range of North West businesses. Having lived and worked in Cheshire for over 30 years, Margaret has a good knowledge of communities in Cheshire and Warrington and her CCF role has significantly improved her understanding of VCSE activities.

Although Margaret has been a volunteer for a range of community groups, she recognises that she is a committed but relative newcomer to the sector and has taken every opportunity to learn and develop relationships in the sector. For example, contributing to the development of the Cheshire & Warrington Infrastructure Partnership, working as part of the Community Foundation network and representing the sector during the pandemic on the LEP's economic resilience committee.

She sees the vital role the VCSE sector and the difference made when organisations within the sector work together and have productive relationships with external partners, including the public sector.



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## Health Breakout AM

# Health Systems Changes: Where are we up to with health system transformation?

As the NHS goes through one of its biggest (or most bureaucratic?) system changes in its for many years, where are VCSE groups being included and where are they being excluded? Is there a danger of falling through a gap when health and social care come under one body – with each of the two current bodies thinking that the “other” is developing the succession planning for passing on to the new body? On the eve of a new system beginning 1st April 2022, subject to the passing of the Health Bill, what do we need to know and do?

To find out the latest in your local ‘system’ we have brought together four local VCSE leaders:

- **Alison Page**, CEO of Salford CVS and VSNW’s Chair has been a trailblazer in both Salford’s place-based partnership and throughout the last five years’ of devolution in Greater Manchester, sitting on the current Transition Board.
- **David Allen**, CEO of Cumbria CVS. Cumbria has been divvied up between the North East and Lancashire, and yet there is much positive inclusive of Cumbria’s resilient sector happening.
- **Joe Hannett**, manager for Central Lancashire’s VCSE Health Partnership, who has worked tirelessly to support a grassroots up model of sector inclusion, leadership and accountability.
- **Warren Escadale** is the VCSE rep on the Integrated Care Partnership for Cheshire and Merseyside.

Following these speakers, there will be an open discussion about how we work together to share lessons, experiences, challenges and opportunities from across the North West’s four health systems and understand how we might want to influence the Bill and future guidance.

**Full speaker biographies overleaf.**



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**David Allen,**  
**CEO - Cumbria CVS**  
 AM Health Breakout



Under David's leadership, Cumbria CVS has made a significant contribution in responding to the pandemic and in building stronger relationships between the health, care and voluntary sectors.

David is a Non-Executive Director of North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and holds qualifications in management and psychology. He has recently contributed to ESRC, NIHR and Health Foundation research commissions.

David brings 30 years of experience of working in the voluntary sector: prior to his current role, David was Chief Executive of the Faculty of Public Health (of the three Royal Colleges of Physicians) for five years, which included representing the UK on the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

David began his career undertaking research in employment support for blind adults and has maintained an interest in health, research and in tackling social inequality.



**Joe Hannett,**  
**Partnerships Manager - Community Futures**  
 AM Health Breakout

Between 2009 and 2019, Joe ran a community transport charity in five districts of Lancashire with all that entails. This gave him a clear understanding of what it's like to work in a smallish charity and support people who make a difference to people's lives every day.

Prior to that he worked for over 11 years with Marriott International Inc. as a graduate management trainee and then ran a number of large, operational departments at a number of hotels.

With the announcement of Lancashire & South Cumbria's Integrated Care System in 2018, Joe worked with a number of VCSE colleagues in central Lancashire to secure a place on the Central Lancashire Partnership board and has tried to influence it's direction towards people, communities and prevention via VCSE ever since, becoming involved in a number of things to that end at larger scales.

Joe's current focus is delivering a programme, based on work in Hull, building trust between VCSE leaders and the statutory partners comprising the ICP.



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**Warren Escadale,**  
**Chief Executive - VSNW**  
 AM Health Breakout



Warren has been the Chief Executive of VSNW since 2014 and employed to advocate on behalf of the voluntary and community sector nationally and regionally for 20 years.

In addition, he is the Chair of the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group; Cheshire & Merseyside Health and Care Partnership ICS Board Member; Co-Chair NW Social Prescribing Network and National SP Network Steering Group Member; Member of the NW Leaders' Board; and Institute for Social Responsibility Advisory Board Member.

He has championed the role of the sector in driving social and economic growth throughout his career. Warren sees devolution, whatever it may be, as the starting point for a new understanding of what our sector is and could be.



**Alison Page,**  
**Chief Executive - Salford CVS**  
 AM Health Breakout

Alison has worked in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector for 30 years and has been the Chief Executive of Salford CVS since 2013. Alison is chair of Salford's Social Value Alliance and sits on a number of key board across Salford and Greater Manchester, including Salford's Health and Wellbeing Board.

Alison's background includes founding a successful and large social enterprise in Lancaster, Furniture Matters, which now operates across Lancashire; Alison was founder and Chief Executive for 14 years. Prior to this, Alison worked in Manchester co-operatives for over 10 years.

Previous roles in a voluntary capacity have included acting as Chair of the Pankhurst Centre in Manchester; Vice Chair of George House Trust; and Vice Chair of ICOM (national umbrella body for worker co-operatives). Alison was also a governor of Lancaster and Morecambe FE College for over 10 years.

Alison is a dynamic leader, a driving partner in the development of the Greater Manchester VCSE Devolution Reference Group which is committed to 'eradicating inequality in a generation's time'.



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## Equality and Social Justice Breakout AM

# Devising a strategy for supporting VCSE Equality Organisations

Over the past decade, equality networks have been decimated. While Black Lives Matters, arguably the most significant civil society movement of the last ten years, has changed our world, following a pandemic that has exploited inequalities in our society there is a moment in time where we can build new equalities networks and reinvigorate key pillars of our sector.

Speaking about how we might seize this moment are:

- **Jonathon Prasad** will talk about Lancashire BME Network and IREP's vision for Lancashire. Not only have Lancashire BME Network been a key player in Lancashire's and England's Covid response, they have also established an Independent Race Equality Panel (IREP).
- Disability Equality NW are a North West-wide organisation campaigning for disability rights. We will hear from **Melanie Close**, their Chief Executive, on challenges facing the disability sector and how we can address them.
- **Tracey Gore**, Director for over 17 years of the Steve Biko Housing Association, a black and racial minority housing association, who is now seconded into Liverpool Council as Chair of the Race Equality Task Force, will outline the role our sector should be playing.
- **Gillian Halliwell**, the North West's Head of Regional Funding at The National Lottery Community Fund, will outline what The Fund is doing to support VCSE equality organisations across the region including opportunities to work differently and ways to improve access to National Lottery funding.
- **Stuart Dunne**, CEO of NW Youth Focus, will outline their work to support the representation of networks of young people for a range of equalities perspectives.

Following these speakers, there will be an open discussion about how we work together to share lessons, experiences, challenges and opportunities to support equalities organisations in the North West.

**Full speaker biographies overleaf.**



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**Gillian Halliwell,**  
**North West Head of Regional Funding -**  
**National Lottery Community Fund**  
**AM Equality and Social Justice Breakout**



Gillian has been at The National Lottery Community Fund since 2018. Prior to this, she was involved in developing, managing and evaluating a variety of community-led interventions aimed at tackling health inequalities.

Currently, The NLCF has approximately 1,500 live grants across the North West ranging from £1,000 to £45m, totalling approximately £250m. Gillian's focus is primarily on The Fund's Reaching Communities and Partnerships programme which awards around £35m each year to organisations that work with communities in the North West to help them prosper and thrive.

Gillian remains committed to tackling inequality across the region by maximising the role National Lottery funding has to play in creating a fairer society.



**Tracey Gore,**  
**Chair - Liverpool Race Equality Task Force**  
**AM Equality and Social Justice Breakout**

Tracey Gore is the Director of Steve Biko Housing Association (SHBA), a position she has held for almost 19 years. SBHA is a community-based housing association and is one of the only two Black & Racial Minority Housing Associations based on Merseyside. SBHA provides quality, affordable homes, and services primarily, though not exclusively, for Black & Racial Minority (BRM) people in housing need.

Tracey has recently completed a secondment to Liverpool City Council, as Chair of the Liverpool Race Equality Task Force. The Taskforce was set up in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the resurgent Black Lives Matter Movement. The task force formed Liverpool's response and consisted of 11 other members and investigate race inequality in 3 key areas: Education, Employment Skills and Economy; Health and Wellbeing.

Tracey is a member of BME National Executive Group, a National BME Housing Association Forum; has chaired the Equalities in Housing subgroup (a subgroup of Liverpool's City Region Strategic Housing Group); is a member of Liverpool's CitySafe partnership group; chairs Liverpool's Strategic Hate Crime Group; and recently became an advisory member of Liverpool City Councils Employment & Skills Select Committee.



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**Jonathon Prasad,  
Project Officer -  
IREP & Lancashire BME Network  
AM Equality and Social Justice Breakout**



Jonathon Prasad has a long-standing interest in progressing the race equality agenda which he does as part of his role at the Lancashire BME Network.

He established the Independent Race Equality Panel for Lancashire in 2019 which seeks to address the historical inequalities between communities.

Jonathon is also a PhD candidate at the University of Central Lancashire, where he is researching Poverty and Inequality in Lancashire's BAME communities.



**Stuart Dunne,  
CEO - NW Youth Focus  
AM Equality and Social Justice Breakout**

Stuart Dunne, CEO at Youth Focus NW is an experienced participation officer with a Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) qualification in youth and community work.

Stuart has twenty years' experience of working with children and young people, with a particular interest in working with young people with additional needs and engaging them in youth participation projects. Stuart is academically and professionally experienced in participation and research delivery with hard to reach groups. Stuart has an MA in Participatory Action Research.

**Melanie Close,  
Chief Executive - Disability Equality NW  
AM Equality and Social Justice Breakout**



Melanie is Chief Executive of Disability Equality (NW) Ltd where she has worked for just over 24 years. During this time she's also supported a number of smaller charities through being a trustee or adviser and, in addition to being an active campaigner for disability rights, likes to think of herself as an advocate for the voluntary and community sector and for disabled people's organisations and the importance of lived experience.

She is passionate about furthering the rights of individuals and working with service providers to remove barriers in service provision, ensuring the voice and lived experience of minority communities are listened to and heard.



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## Economy Breakout PM

# National economic opportunities: Beyond Brexit (Levelling Up & Shared Prosperity Fund)

Economic investment via the VCSE sector has been downscaled over the last decade. As the European Structural Funds, and any formal equality framework, draw to a close, promises made to “level up” are becoming ever more vital. The Shared Prosperity Fund was first formally mentioned over 4 years ago....

*“We will use the structural fund money that comes back to the UK following Brexit to create a United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund, specifically designed to reduce inequalities between communities across our four nations. The money that is spent will help deliver sustainable, inclusive growth based on our modern industrial strategy.... The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be cheap to administer, low in bureaucracy and targeted where it is needed most.”*

Conservative Party, Forward, Together: Our Plan for a Stronger Britain and a Prosperous Future, 18 May 2017

As a number of funding streams are aired, like the Community Renewal Fund, what does the future economic role of the sector look like in reality? What are the opportunities for sector investment around jobs, training, community renewal, inclusion (e.g. digital), and anything that levels up or shares prosperity?

Speaking about the reality and opportunities for the sector are:

- **Peter Holbrook**, Chief Executive - Social Enterprise UK
- **Madison Kerr**, Economist - Pro Bono Economics

Following these speakers, there will be an open discussion about how we work together to make the case for the sector’s role in driving prosperity.

**Full speaker biographies overleaf.**



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**CEO - Social Enterprise UK**  
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**Madison Kerr,**  
**Economist Pro Bono Economics**  
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Madison's research focused on the importance of gender and family on attitudes and labour market outcomes of individuals.



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## HEALTH BREAKOUT PM

# The mortar between the bricks - effective models of VCSE sector working in health neighbourhoods

This workshop looks at how the Health and Social Care system is dominated by large statutory institutions. The NHS has many contributors: Hospitals, Community Services, GP's, and many more. There are professions allied to medicine like paramedics, ambulance services and first responders. Social care has occupational therapists, family help, social workers and support workers.

These institutions are regulated and mandated by statute; they form the bricks of our health and care system, but what is the mortar that keeps this system strong, solid and anchored in place? How can the mix of voluntary, community and faith based organisations work to bind together the institutions of health at a local level, and where does social prescribing fit in the mix?

Full speaker biographies below.

### Christine Blythe, CEO - Burnley Pendle & Rossendale CVS

Christine first began working for Burnley Pendle & Rossendale CVS (BPRCVS) in November 2004 and was appointed Chief Executive Officer in July 2014. Her previous work life for many years was in a bank.



In addition to her role at BPRCVS, Christine is also the North West Regional Lead on the National Academy for Social Prescribing Thriving Communities programme.

### Jan Campbell, Health and Social Care Officer - Sefton CVS



Jan Campbell is the Health and Social Care Officer at Sefton Council for Voluntary Service, where she facilitates the forums that support Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations to engage with health and social care systems.

For two days a week she works for the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) as part of the Thriving Communities Team in the North West.

Jan's current period in the VCFSE sector extends for eight years with a previous spell in the sector in the early 2000s. During the gap between time working in this sector, Jan had an extensive career working in the field of Mental Health.



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## Equality & Social Justice Breakout PM

### Things that keep us awake at night

**Alison Page** and **Warren Escadale** will lead an open conversation about the issues affecting our communities and the VCSE sector in the North West. This will be an open discussion about the sector's strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats, and about those concerns that keep us awake at night.

Full speaker biographies below.

#### Warren Escadale, Chief Executive - VSNW



Warren has been the Chief Executive of VSNW since 2014 and employed to advocate on behalf of the voluntary and community sector nationally and regionally for 20 years.

In addition, he is the Chair of the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group; Cheshire & Merseyside Health and Care Partnership ICS Board Member; Co-Chair NW Social Prescribing Network and National SP Network Steering Group Member; Member of the NW Leaders' Board; and Institute for Social Responsibility Advisory Board Member.

He has championed the role of the sector in driving social and economic growth throughout his career. Warren sees devolution, whatever it may be, as the starting point for a new understanding of what our sector is and could be.

#### Alison Page, Chief Executive - Salford CVS



Alison has worked in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector for 30 years and has been the Chief Executive of Salford CVS since 2013. Alison is chair of Salford's Social Value Alliance and sits on a number of key board across Salford and Greater Manchester, including Salford's Health and Wellbeing Board.

Alison's background includes founding a successful and large social enterprise in Lancaster, Furniture Matters, which now operates across Lancashire; Alison was founder and Chief Executive for 14 years. Prior to this, Alison worked in Manchester co-operatives for over 10 years.

Previous roles in a voluntary capacity have included acting as Chair of the Pankhurst Centre in Manchester; Vice Chair of George House Trust; and Vice Chair of ICOM (national umbrella body for worker co-operatives). Alison was also a governor of Lancaster and Morecambe FE College for over 10 years.

Alison is a dynamic leader, a driving partner in the development of the Greater Manchester VCSE Devolution Reference Group which is committed to 'eradicating inequality in a generation's time'.



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## PANEL DISCUSSION

# Building a Brighter Future: The Role of the VCSE Sector

The world has changed dramatically since March 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, arriving after over a decade of austerity measures, impacting disproportionately on those who are most in need and most vulnerable.

As the VCSE sector, we have witnessed first-hand the widening of health and economic inequalities, the rise in food poverty and insecurity, the increased demand for mental health support, and (of course) how the pandemic has altered communities and lives forever. We are also in the midst of a climate emergency and increased national and worldwide awareness of social and racial structural inequalities.

Despite these challenges that have been navigated so far and those that still lie before us, the VCSE sector has continued and will continue to provide a fundamental role in supporting and empowering our communities across the North West.

Throughout the day, you will have discussed how the VCSE sector can influence and contribute to economy, health and equalities agendas. Our final panel discussion will delve further into these areas to explore the VCSE sectors crucial role in building a brighter future in the North West and how the sector can be supported make the positive changes needed throughout recovery and beyond.

Our three panellist are:

- **Dr Fran Darlington-Pollock**, Chair – The Equality Trust
- **Maddy Desforges**, CEO – NAVCA
- **David Burch**, Senior Researcher – CLES

**Full speaker biographies overleaf.**



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**Dr Fran Darlington-Pollock,**  
**Chair - The Equality Trust**  
**Panel Discussion**



Dr Fran Darlington-Pollock joined The Equality Trust as a Trustee in May 2019, and has been Chair since December 2020. She currently works for an NGO as a Research and Evidence Advisor.

Before that, Fran held positions as a Lecturer in Population Geography (University of Liverpool), and as a Lecturer in Health Geography (Queen Mary, University of London).

Fran's ongoing research interests focus on understanding the interactions between people, place and politics and how these relate to inequalities in social, economic and health outcomes.



**Maddy Desforges,**  
**CEO - NAVCA**  
**Panel Discussion**

Maddy joined NAVCA as CEO in March 2021. Her previous roles include CEO of Voluntary Action Sheffield, one of NAVCA's members, and a range of strategy and policy posts in the Civil Service.

Maddy thrives on building on relationships and partnerships, forging connections to be an influential and persuasive voice at national level. She is passionate about the importance of local, resilient communities and sees them as at as the best path to recovery.

**David Burch,**  
**Senior Researcher - CLES**  
**Panel Discussion**



David Burch is a senior researcher at CLES who has been working on CLES' Community Wealth Building agenda since 2017. He has worked with a wide range of authorities, from areas as diverse as inner-city London (Islington), coastal towns (Torbay) and rural Scotland (North Ayrshire), the development of which directly led to the adopting Scotland's first Community Wealth Building Strategy.

He has also developed an expertise in progressive procurement across a wide range of anchor institutions over the past 4 years, as well as sitting on the URBACT Making Spend Matter Preston Procurement Group, which brings together a wide range of anchors in Preston to advance progressive procurement practice.

Thank you for coming and travel safe on your journey home.