

# Voluntary Sector Strategy Group – Meeting Minutes

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Date: 7 July 2025

Time: 2 PM

Location: Online (Microsoft Teams)

Chair: Andrew Lawrence (in absence of Cllr Needs)

Minutes Prepared by Microsoft Copilot and reviewed by the meeting Chairs, Andrew Lawrence and Debbie Gates

## 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Andrew Lawrence welcomed attendees and chaired the meeting in Cllr Needs' absence.

Round of introductions from all attendees.

Apologies: Pamela Burke, Nnenna Anyanwu, Nancie Alleyne, Michelle Malwah, Lesley King-Lewis, Alison Carter-Albert, Ellie Crawford.

Noted: Congratulations to Pamela Burke, CEO Enfield Carers Centre, on receiving the British Empire Medal.

## 2. Review of Previous Minutes and Actions

Outstanding Actions:

Action	Owner	Status
Item 2.1b: Age-Friendly Communities Update	Andrew Lawrence	Pending – Andrew to follow up with Jon Newton
Item 6.2: Health & Wellbeing Action Plan	Andrew Lawrence	Pending – Awaiting future update
Item 9.2: Integrated Care Board Membership	Andrew Lawrence	Pending – Monitor developments until March

Matters Arising: No issues raised regarding accuracy of minutes.

### **3. Presentations and Updates**

#### **a. Enfield Voluntary Action – Jo Ikhelef**

Topics Covered:

- Energy Champions Project: Accredited training for voluntary sector staff and long-term volunteers.
- Enfield Voluntary Action has been awarded a total of £118,000 to distribute in Enfield - Our Stories heritage grant programme for projects starting February 2026.
- Volunteer Enfield Platform: Encouragement to post opportunities. 1,048 residents registered interest in volunteering April 2024-March 2025.
- Upcoming Events: Workshops, Enfield Community Empowerment Networking event, AGM in October.

Action Items:

- 3a.1 Organisations encouraged to post volunteer opportunities and attend workshops - completed.
- 3a.2 Debbie to share presentation with VSSG members – completed.

#### **b. Prevention & Early Intervention Contracts – Matt Casey, Fiona Jones, Hilary Meeks, Stephanie Collins**

Overview of 5 New Contracts:

- Supporting Unpaid Carers – Enfield Carers Centre (Lead)
- Advocacy & Inclusion (LEAP) – Mind in Enfield & Barnet (Lead)
- Information & Advice, Digital Inclusion & Assistive Technology (DANE) – Citizens Advice Enfield (Lead)
- Early Intervention (UCAN) – Age UK Enfield (Lead)
- Home from Hospital – Alpha Care (Lead)

Action Item:

- 3b.1 Matt Casey to share referral pathways and contract overview slides with Debbie/VSSG members - completed.

#### **c. Partner Presentations**

- DANE – Hilary Meeks presented referral system (ReferNet).
- Home from Hospital – Stephanie Collins overviewed discharge support and aftercare.

- Unpaid Carers Support – Fiona Jones highlighted co-production, outreach, and new initiatives.

Action Items:

3c.1 Partners to continue collaboration and provide updates at the January 2026 VSSG meeting – ongoing - updates at 19/01/2026 meeting.

3c.2 Debbie to share presentations with VSSG members – completed.

**d. Fairer Enfield Policy Consultation – Lucy Nasby**

Six refreshed equality objectives presented.

Feedback requested from group members.

Action Item:

3d.1 Members to send feedback to Lucy via email [lucy.nasby@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.nasby@enfield.gov.uk) – completed.

**4. LawWorks Presentation**

Katie Smith unable to attend.

Presentation to be shared post-meeting.

Action Item:

4.1 Debbie to circulate LawWorks presentation - completed.

**5. Co-Chair Nomination**

Hamida Ali nominated and accepted as the VCS Co-Chair of the VSSG.

Action Item:

5.1 Debbie and Andrew to include Hamida in agenda planning meetings - completed.

**6. Updates from Members**

- Hamida Ali presented on upcoming changes to Children’s Social Care and Family Hubs.

- Fiona Jones raised issue of parent carer assessment confusion.

- Hamida and Fiona to collaborate on young carers and referrals.

Action Items:

6.1 Andrew to arrange meeting with Fiona, and Joseph Fitzgerald, Head of Family Help and Prevention, to clarify parent carer assessment pathways - ongoing.

6.2 Hamida to continue outreach and share feedback with strategic social care team. Andrew and Hamida to arrange a future meeting - ongoing.

6.3 Debbie to share presentation with VSSG members – completed.

## **7. Any Other Business**

No additional items raised.

## **8. Next Meeting**

Date: Monday, 13 October 2025

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams (Online)