

Minutes

29th April 2026
10am-12pm
Crosby Lakehouse

In Attendance: Chair – Rachel Jones (Assistant Chief Exec, Sefton CVS) [RC]

Debra Blakemore-Collins (Living Well Sefton) [DBC], Jo Bruce (Mencap Liverpool) [JB], Karen Christie (Swan Women’s Centre) [KC], Jen Corcoran (Sefton CVS) [JC], Sam D’Avin (Waiting Well) [SD’A], Conal Devitt (Formby Befriending Service) [CD], Kate Doyle (Sefton CVS) [KD], Dave Fenney (Light for Life) [DF], Carol Flanagan (Venus) [CF], Graeme Gardiner (Marine in the Community) [GG], Andy Glover (LCRCA Digital Inclusion) [AG], Katie Gregg (South Sefton PCN) [KG], Vicky Hall (Formby Befriending Scheme) [VH], Gina Harvey (Expect) [GC], Louise Helby-Shaw (United Utilities) [LH-S], Nikki Hennessey (ABL Health) [NH], Darren Holloran (Brighter Living Partnership) [DH], Adele Hollywood (Unity Lives Ltd) [AH], Shams Ilyas (Right at Home Sefton) [SI], Lauren Jones (Sefton CVS) [LJ], Fay Jump (2Wish) [FJ], Jan Leonard (NHS Cheshire and Merseyside) [JanL], Melissa Lewis (Sefton CVS) [ML], Gareth Lloyd Johnson (Sefton CVS) [GLJ], Joanne Loughlin (Brunswick Youth and Community Centre) [JoL], Holly Mannion (Age Concern) [HM], Clare Marsh (Freedom to Flourish) [CM], John Mousley (Citizens Advice) [JM], Andrew Murphy (Unity Lives Ltd) [AM], Alisa Nile (Sefton Adult Social Care) [AN], Abie Omokaro (Swan Women’s Centre) [AO], Michelle Rossiter (Home from Home) [MR], Rachel Stead (South Sefton PCN) [RS], Stephen Taylor (Brunswick Youth and Community Centre) [ST], Clare Touhey (Southport and Formby PCN) [CT], Helen Vernon (Sefton Carer’s Centre) [HV], Bob Wilkinson (Samaritans) [BW], Jane Williams (Primary Care Network) [JW], Gill Yates (Alzheimer’s Society) [GY]

Apologies: Jacinta Ashdown (Age Concern), Gemma Brown (Ivy Gate Lodge), Elaine Cafferkey (Crosby Job Centre), Max da Silva Willis (Sefton Carer’s Centre), Mel Duffy (Life’s For Living Sefton), Dianne Eastaway (Light for Life), Neil Gibson (Sefton CVS), Tracy Jeffes (C&MICB Sefton Place), Valerie Johnson (Brunswick YCC), Cath Lee (Imagine Independence), Mike Martinez (Crisis Café), Lataetia McEvelly-Duncan (Swan), Sara Patel (Venus) Adit Ravishankar (Uni of L), Justine Shenton (MacMillan), Helen Stott (Rainbow Trust)

	Summary	Action Points
Welcome and Apologies	RJ welcomed attendees to the meeting and updated the forum with the sad news that our chair Andrew Booth has sadly had to resign from his role at Sefton Advocacy due to ill health, our thoughts are with his family and friends.	
Minutes of the last Meeting	Minutes agreed	
Presentation – Neighbourhood Health	JL and AN gave a presentation updating the forum on the Neighbourhood Health Programme offering an overview of the National Direction, Government guidance, geographical structure of Sefton, an update and plans for the near future (acknowledging	JC to send out presentation with minutes in newsletter

	<p>challenges). The Adult Social Care journey is underway and following the neighbourhood footprint, aiming for integrated working and effective use of skills and resources.</p>	
Group Discussion	Attendees discussed the presentation at the five tables to absorb the information, get to know other people and their role in Neighbourhood Health and to decide on key themes/questions arising.	
Sharing Themes / Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Exclusion This must be at the heart, we cannot leave people behind and we must accommodate all people. • Voluntary and Community Sector is key The sector is good at prevention. <i>Q – where does the VCFSE sector sit within the NHS 10 year plan? How can estate planning include visibility?</i> A- JL – connection through SeftonCVS, RJ et al, RS/CT (PCN Leads) have events planned throughout May to talk, connect, open up and share spaces <i>Q – GG asked how Marine in the Community can refer in?</i> A- RJ confirmed Sefton CVS support community groups and time can be made to discuss opportunities. • Transport <i>Q – NH How do people get to places? Do they want to have to travel?</i> A- RJ – transport is a common theme – network issues/cost barriers/appointment schedules, Neighbourhood Health should help by bringing care closer JL – The “left shift” of moving into community, condensing appointments (a holistic approach). Currently looking at Frailty, can there be a clinic using Formby estate/diagnostics not just in Hospital Looking at hubs even for Alder Hey etc, eligibility for attending can be living/working/studying in borough • Referral Pathways One group reported that some attendees represent organisations set up to receive referrals from SMBC for supported living et al but may not be receiving them AN confirmed open to discussion to review referral pathway • Funding constraints and eligibility restrictions RS feeding back these are at odds with goals <i>Q – How do we overcome this and promote access?</i> A- RJ – Agree this is a challenge with scarce resource and a drive for sustainability so we keep on pushing for this. 	

<p>VSNW Toolkit – Memorandum of Understanding</p>	<p>JC ran through toolkit presentation introducing the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Cheshire and Merseyside ICBs and the relevant VCFSE alliance. They are seeking views on the proposed principles that echo the Civil Society Covenant (the non-statutory agreement aimed at resetting the relationship between government and civil society). Attendees were then given three minutes on each of the five principles to feed back via flipchart and post it notes. Details of the insights and link to the survey will be shared.</p>	<p>JC to send out presentation and insights</p>
<p>Appointment of Representative</p>	<p>The forum needs a representative on the New Realities Steering Group. Two nominations received for GH and GY. RJ proposed both are appointed on a job share basis to ensure coverage if one is unable to attend a meeting. Agreed.</p>	
<p>Representative Reports</p>	<p>RJ advised forum has representatives on multiple groups and acknowledged this needs review to assess how to fill the roles and what is the best method for feeding back to the forum – potentially reports to be submitted ahead of forums and sent with agenda. KC is Healthwatch Rep but was unable to attend last meeting A Booth has been the Health and Wellbeing Board Rep RJ is rep on Neighbourhood Health People and Communities and will possibly feedback in report. JC updated re: Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens which is being revived and met on 10.03.2026 – there is an appetite for reviving this to enable residents aged 50+ to be consulted and feed back. It is likely there will be a follow up event in June.</p>	
<p>Community Insights and Information Exchange</p>	<p>KC – CEO of Swan Women’s Centre Swan are running a befriending service to tackle isolation that is currently taking referrals. Criteria is the individual has other friends or family and this is not for personal care/shopping. If eligible, will be matched for 12 months – for more information contact ceo@swanwomenscentre.org</p> <p>AG – Outreach and Engagement Officer, Digital Inclusion Team Liverpool City Region Combined Authority The Digital Inclusion Network is free to join. There is a printed booklet “Helping You Online” that can be requested at no cost (multiple copies available). The LCRCA Website has projects and community engagement opportunities and AG is happy to attend places and do presentations andy.glover@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk</p> <p>JB – Mencap They have a conference taking place on 7th May that JB will feed back on. They also have funding to raise awareness of the</p>	<p>JC to share this in newsletter</p>

	<p>Learning Disability Register. All are welcome to visit Mencap and they have a great café on Mariner's Road.</p> <p>GLJ – Social Action Lead GLJ introduced himself as he has recently started working for Sefton CVS as the Social Action Lead for Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance – his main role is to promote screening and prevention. He is happy to be contacted and would like to engage with all communities. gareth.loyd-johnson@seftoncv.org.uk</p> <p>GY – Alzheimer's Society – Local Services Manager GY introduced self, local to role – there are events including for those under 65 with young onset dementia and there is a National Dementia Action Week from 18th May including an event at The Atkinson.</p> <p>LH-S – United Utilities – Vulnerable Customer Lead UU are seeking to support people in need and as such are ensuring they are aware of services to signpost to</p> <p>NH – ABL Health There is a smoking cessation incentive – if someone quits for 4 weeks they will get £50, and a further £50 if they can stay non smoking for 12 weeks</p> <p>FJ – 2Wish 2Wish started in S Wales and are expanding to Merseyside. They offer bereavement support when there is a sudden unexpected death of a person under 25 years of age. Immediate support with bereavement and admin navigation for 6 months then complimentary therapy sessions, coffee mornings etc post six months. Also professional support available.</p>	
AOB		
Close of Meeting		

Date and time of next meeting
June 2026
Venue TBC