

more about **us**

The national intermediary and network for voluntary health organisations in Scotland

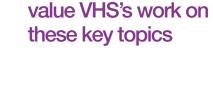






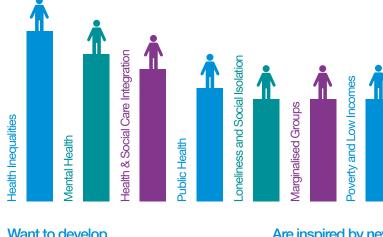
our **members** VHS has the support of a membership of 415 organisations

and individuals from across the voluntary health sector.



Members say they

Members say they are part of VHS for these reasons



Want to develop solutions to Scotland's health challenges Want to be part of a powerful

collaboration

network

Thrive on



members helps shape VHS's future priorities

Feedback from

tackling the difficult, long-term root causes

tinkering at the edges of it and instead start

Health inequalities and the need to stop

One clear integrated vision for health and clarity between stakeholders led by voices of lived

Getting NHS on board with messages and approaches around prevention rather than the crisis focus

Mental health is perhaps the greatest inequality in social understanding and statutory resourcing

Empowerment, community ownership

and public health implications

experience would make a world of difference

Access to and knowledge of health services by ethnic minorities



our **impact**

7 headline stories about our work since April 2017

Loneliness and Social Isolation

Working with our members, we demonstrated leadership in addressing the health implications of loneliness social isolation.

- Engaged voluntary health organisations through a round table, briefings, social media and blogs
- Advocated for the Scottish Public Health Network (ScotPHN) to look at the scope for public health action on loneliness
- Advised NHS Ayrshire and Arran in its development of a health and social care partnership approach to the issues
- Gave the opening speech at the Scottish Government's 2017 National Stakeholder Event on Developing a National Social Isolation and Loneliness Strategy
- Worked with Glasgow Caledonian University to develop a suite of social marketing strategies on loneliness and health
- Briefed MSPs ahead of the January 2018 Parliamentary Debate on building a connected Scotland together
- Responded formally to the Scottish Government consultation on A Connected Scotland
- Met with Minister for Social Security Jeane Freeman MSP (now Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport), at her invitation, to discuss the strategy Conducted primary research into the loneliness and social isolation experienced
- by under-represented demographic groups, including BME women
- Collaborated with the Open University and Support in Mind Scotland on mental health, with a successful 2018 conference Tomorrow's World Today: New Frontiers in Mental Health.

Cross Party Group on Health Inequalities

VHS continued in its role as the very active Secretariat of the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Health Inequalities.

- Grew the membership to 60 external organisations and 11 MSPs, each meeting attracting 40 to 50 attendees
- Focused meetings on the underlying causes of health inequalities and on those groups for whom health inequalities are greatest
- Explored wide ranging topics including prisoner health care, health and social care standards, fuel poverty
- Showcased the CPG's work at our first Parliamentary reception, hosted by Clare Haughey MSP (now Minister for Mental Health).

Clear Pathway

Our collaborative Clear Pathway project resulted in guidance for health boards on the management of volunteers in NHS settings who are not directly recruited, managed or trained by health boards.

- Encouraged more strategic engagement, collaboration and shared learning between NHS and third sector organisations
- Focused on supporting health boards to manage the risks and opportunities associated with third sector volunteering
- Organised a successful cross-sectoral conference: Volunteering, the Golden Thread in Health
- Co-produced and published formal guidance in 2018 and ensured every health board Chair and CEO received a copy direct from the Scottish Government.

Obesity, Diet and Food Insecurity

Our focus on obesity as a health inequalities issue grew in anticipation of the Scottish Government's A Healthier Future: Scotland's Diet and Healthy Weight Delivery Plan

- Chaired events for the Scottish Government, submitted a formal response to the draft action plan and published briefing papers
- Organised A Weighty Issue workshop in 2018, designed to support collaboration and learning across the third sector.

Health Policy Officers Network

In partnership with Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland, VHS provided the leadership and coordination for this dynamic network, supporting policy officers at the start of their careers or working for a small health charity.

- Welcomed 47 individual members from 40 voluntary health organisations to the network
- Developed members' skills, knowledge and confidence so as to maximise their organisations' policy effectiveness
- Received positive feedback from members: "The network provides a wonderful opportunity to get together in a supportive environment to discuss different health policy areas. The best bit is that there are no stupid questions".

Health and Social Care

Working with the Third Sector Health and Social Care Collaborative we called for more progress in health and social care integration.

- Organised two round tables to enable Audit Scotland to engage with the third sector as part of its review of integration
- Joined forces with The Alliance, CCPS and SCVO to deliver a Digital Health and Care Strategy event for the third sector.

Public Health

It has been our job to ensure that our sector is as fully embedded as possible in national plans for the future of public health.

 Engaged voluntary health organisations in the development of the national public health priorities during 2017/18 Debated prevention, public health and health and social care delivery at our 2017 Annual Conference

organisations helping to shape the new Healthcare Needs Assessment of Gender Identity Services for health boards.

- Get Real: Real People, Real Communities, Real Health • Played an active role on the Public Health Oversight Board, Protecting Scotland's Health Commission
- and Scottish Public Health Network Advisory Board Helped populate the various Public Health Commissions and Public Health Reform working groups
- with third sector voices during 2018 Facilitated Scottish Public Health Network engagement with the third sector via a round table, resulting in three of the

looking to the future

looking to the future 2018/19 marks the first year of VHS's vibrant new three year strategy. This sets

out the vision of a healthier, fairer Scotland served by a thriving voluntary health sector and a mission to improve people's health and wellbeing by providing an effective national network for voluntary health organisations. The strategy includes a revised set of values: excellence, collaboration and initiative, and it anchors VHS's work around the four priority health themes of health inequalities, public health, health and social care integration and mental health. our strategic priorities

To work for sustainable

improvement in public health, mental health, and health and social care services and for the prevention, mitigation and reduction of health inequalities.

health sector on health matters, and support the sector to understand and engage with health related priorities, policy and systems.

To amplify the voice and

influence of the voluntary

and evidence to a wide audience, and work to make effective collaboration and partnerships on health related matters between the public and voluntary health sectors more normal and valued.

To promote the voluntary health sector's role, expertise

get involved we welcome new members www.vhscotland.org.uk/get-involved

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