

VHS Annual Conference 2021

FEEDBACK FROM DELEGATES



On 6th October 2021 VHS held our Annual Conference: Health at the Heart of Communities. We had 130 delegates registered to attend with 101 attending on the day. Our event featured keynote speakers, a panel session, a discussion session, virtual exhibitors and our annual poster competition with live vote for the winner.

Our Conference Themes

- Engaging with people's stories and lived experience to improve services
- Reaching and serving those who are missing, marginalised or overlooked in health
- Evidencing and understanding the third sector's impact on health inequalities
- Reshaping primary care and our sector's role
- Partnership working for recovery and renewal beyond the pandemic

This report highlights key findings and quotes from survey respondents who completed the electronic post event survey.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE CONFERENCE?

1. What did you think of the conference?

[More Details](#)



36

Responses



8.67 Average Rating

WHAT NEW LEARNING OR MESSAGES DID YOU TAKE FROM THE EVENT?

"I loved the idea of us being health creators - so apt. It was really powerful to shine a light on what a fantastic job the voluntary health sector has done during the pandemic. The importance of kindness and compassion was emphasised throughout the day - really important attributes to aspire to. I hope the Cabinet Secretary takes forward the suggestion of having a third sector advisory board to support him."

“How individuals & organisations are thinking about and trying to implement the idea of health being at the heart of communities. It was also interesting to hear how people have reflected upon the challenges that Covid brought and how that has influenced their plans for the future.”

“Positivity of messages to move forward and use learning during the pandemic to change systems.”

“So many: Love, Kindness, Connectedness & Compassion - key themes for community health creation and our sector's values. Community is at the heart of Health. Healthcare is only a small part of peoples lives, the rest happens at "home".

“I thought all of the presentations were excellent - I learned so much but also lots to reflect on as we navigate our way through recovery and renewal. I was encouraged to hear people saying that this is not a race back to 'normal'. I was also pleased to hear words like love, compassion, kindness and hope mentioned throughout the day. The value of lived experience also came through strongly within the presentations.”

“How collaborative and multifaceted approach across public and voluntary sectors with co-curation with communities can help tackle health inequality and improve socio-economic recovery.”

WHAT WILL YOU DO DIFFERENTLY OR WHAT NEW CONNECTIONS DID YOU MAKE?

“I will make sure that I use words like love and kindness more frequently and openly. People who use all of our services are people's loved ones and should be treated as precious cargo! Not CHI numbers or patients/service users - the whole person should always be considered including family/carers.”

“Reach out to other organisations delivering similar work and look for opportunities to work collaboratively with others.”

“Have linked with 2 separate organisations as a result of the conference.”

“I will make more effort to try and be flexible in my approach to ensure our service is as accessible as possible.”

“I will certainly be sharing the information with colleagues in my own organisation and also encouraging them to attend future events.”

WHAT TOPICS OR SPEAKERS WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR IN THE FUTURE?

“It was fantastic to have the cab sec - more policy makers and NHS leads.”

“Harry Burns spoke at a previous VHS conference and it would be fascinating to hear his thoughts on health creation post-COVID.”

“There were some really inspirational presentations as part of the poster competition and I would be really keen to hear more about some of this work, particularly from the Brain Tumour Organisation, Breast Cancer Now and Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems.”

“As a researcher, I'm interested in topics around how academic researchers can work with third sector to examine the impacts of provision. We ideally need good quality research to demonstrate what works in the short, medium and longer-term. Sadly, funding for this kind of research is limited and organisations often lack capacity and/or skills to do it themselves. Funding of organisations is also a short-term and hand-to-mouth that it's difficult to plan and conduct longer-term research studies that are synced with the organisations own funding and planning cycles. Talks about this issue, how it can be addressed, and exemplars of academic-third sector collaborations and how they have informed practice and policy would be welcome.”

“Picking up from comments at the conference; engagement with mental health services and addiction services (in particular substance misuse services). How do we cross the divide?”

“Emphasis on how Third Sector organisations can most meaningfully impact upon clinical practice, self management and public policy.”

“Impact evaluation - moving forward from covid 19.”

ANY OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT THE EVENT?

“This was an excellent event - well done to the organisers. I thought the mix of presenters and mix of format worked really well. So many of us have zoom fatigue from the last 18 months and often I tune out at long online event, but this one worked really well and helped the audience to keep focused and engaged.”

“It was an inspiring event, I took a lot away and have just finished writing up these key learnings to share with my colleagues.”

“The short poster presentations were very effective, well chaired too.”

“It was a really good conference and the first I've been to that kept my attention. Very well done to the organisers and well done to all the presenters.”

“Thanks very much for a really inspirational day. The conference was organised and chaired so well and it was great to shine a light on the fantastic work that is being done day in, day out, to keep our communities healthier and safer. I hope that the gratitude shown towards the third sector is backed up by a shift towards community-led approaches and more sustainable funding for the sector.”

Report compiled November 2021

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