

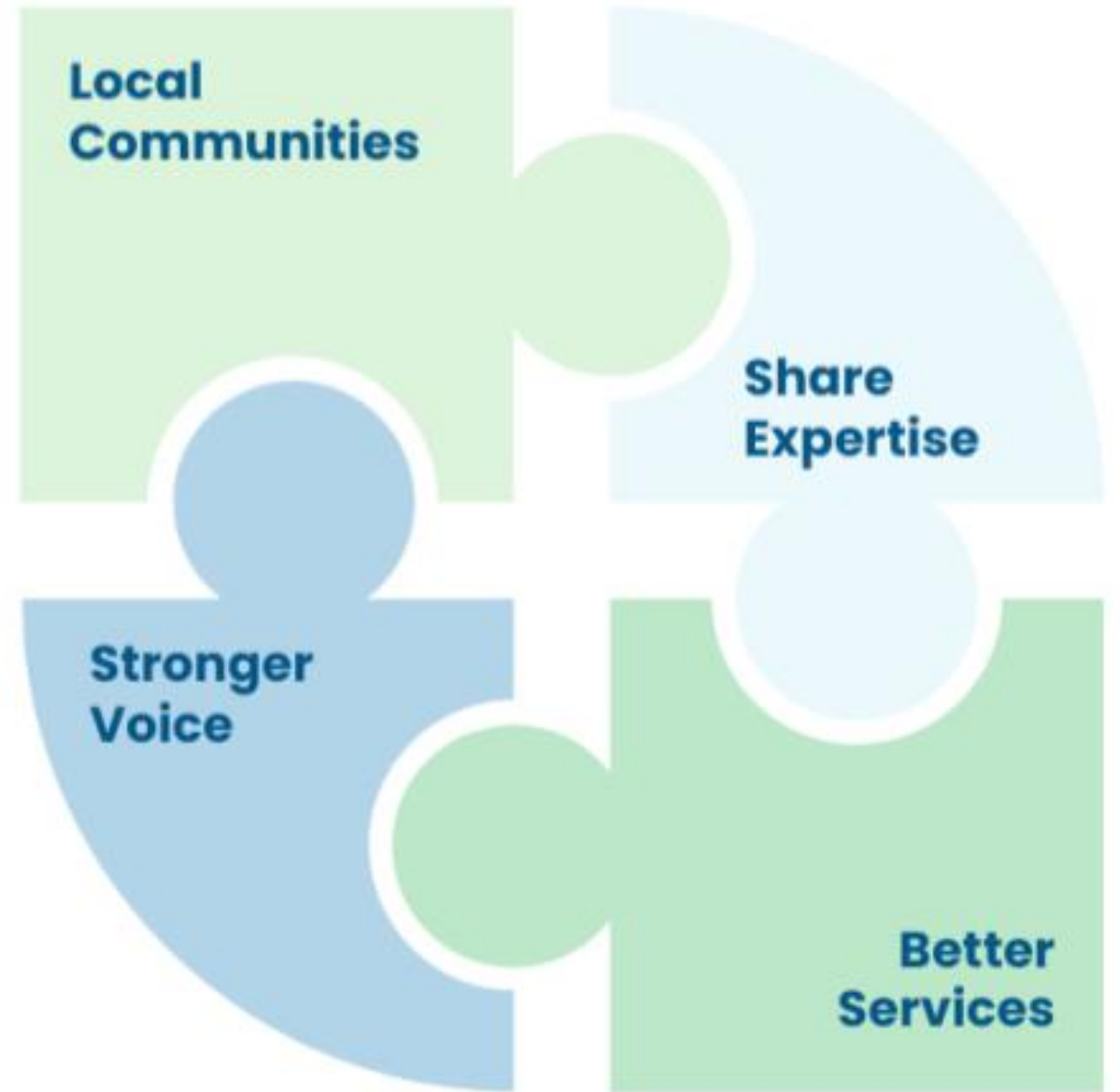
Update

Sept 2024



Bedfordshire
Mental Health Alliance

The voluntary sector
working together for
better mental health
across **Bedford** and
Central Bedfordshire



Steering group

Beds
RCC

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity



Carers
in bedfordshire



Purpose

- Recognise the VCSE sector as vital partners with statutory providers in designing and delivering mental health support in Bedfordshire
- Have a stronger, collective voice to express the views and needs of communities, especially those who experience the greatest health inequalities

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- Build relationships with statutory health and care service providers to improve ways of delivering accessible services
 - Channel the expertise of the VCSE sector into local decision making of statutory health and care providers
 - Collaborate with each other, sharing updates and resources



First meeting Monday 18th Sept at Rufus Centre

84 bookings
75 attendance
61 VCSE organisations

- Grassroots to national
- Bedford, Central Beds and BLMK



“I left feeling empowered,
being part of a larger
collection of frontline
workers and senior
personnel.

I feel that together we can
have a stronger voice for
the clients we serve”

VALUES & PRINCIPLES

Co-production

- Accountability
- Fair decision making
- Share governance data
- Openess, transparency
- Terms of reference

Collaborative

- Coordinate intelligence
- Share knowledge
- Learn from each other
- Recognise strengths and weaknesses

Inclusive

- Relevant to all
- Equal access
- Everyone and anyone
- Respect difference

It's not easy

- Partnership working is difficult
- How not to compete
- We are all busy

Empowerment

- Lived experience
- Social model
- Choice
- Social justice

Excellence

- Promote innovation, quality and specialisms
- Challenge commissioning
- Try new ideas

Trust and respect

- Dignity
- Work respectfully
- Fairness
- Acceptance

What's out there

- Clear pathways
- Reduce barriers
- Reduce gaps and duplication

Activities



- Networking events –Jan and May
- Lunchtime learning
- Vol sector challenges survey
- Lived experience –Hive of Bee-ing
- Bulletin
- Directories – MiDOS, Hub or Hope
- Reflections 10 year event
- VOCypf network event
- Social media presence LinkedIn
- Liaise with other MHAs in BLMK area

Outcomes

VOICE of VCSE

- Represented at system meetings
- Raising the profile of the MHA and what it's members can do to support communities

Opportunities to increase knowledge

Opportunities to create new working relations



invites the VCSE to take a

FAITH TOUR

Visit a mosque, church and gurudwara
with your staff, volunteers, trustees



18th Sept 2024, 945 - 1pm
Queens Park, Bedford

Open to voluntary sector organisations and community groups
- staff, volunteers, trustees
Step inside 3 religious venues and meet people
who worship there
Break down barriers and promote community cohesion
Demonstrate your commitment to Equality,
Diversity and Inclusion



FREE

Enquiries to
info@bedsmentalhealth.org.uk



Forthcoming

- Faith tour
- Lunchtime learning – disordered eating

Membership

- 146 VCSE contacts from 86 organisations
- 59 non VCSE contacts from 32 organisations

VCSE challenges

There is a dependence on the voluntary sector provision and many statutory providers refer into our service but there is limited commissioning. Commissioning has been for short term eg 6 months which is unsustainable. Large government grants such as mental health in schools are subsumed by the authorities / CAMHS and there is little consideration for how the voluntary sector providers could deliver utilising some of these funds.

VCSE challenges

A challenge we face is increase in demand for our services with clients being signposted from health services for our support or clients told we can meet their need better. This is a challenge for us in increasing core costs.

Contact us

- info@bedsmentalhealth.org.uk
- bedsmentalhealth.org.uk
- LinkedIn



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