



**Northern Ireland
Health Collective**
powered by **co³**

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

JANUARY 2025

01

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Northern Ireland Health Collective has been formed from a joint research study which took place over a 10 month period from September 2023 to June 2024 between Chief Officers of Third Sector (CO3) Health Special Interest Group (Health SIG) and the Long Term Conditions Alliance and was funded by the National Lottery Dormant Accounts Fund (NI) Development Grant.

The work was inclusive and of sufficient scale to gather the views, needs and desired outcomes of a range of voluntary organisations throughout Northern Ireland operating across all areas of health services provision.

The report clearly identified the need for and support from the VCSE sector for an independent representative voice for health and social care providers in the sector. A key purpose of the voice will be to enhance communication with the Department of Health, provide a forum for a collective VCSE voice on policy issues and advocate for the sector regionally & nationally.

The report also showed overwhelming support for the establishment of a new entity which allows the existing groups across NI, representing all areas of Health, Social Care and Community Wellbeing, to come together.

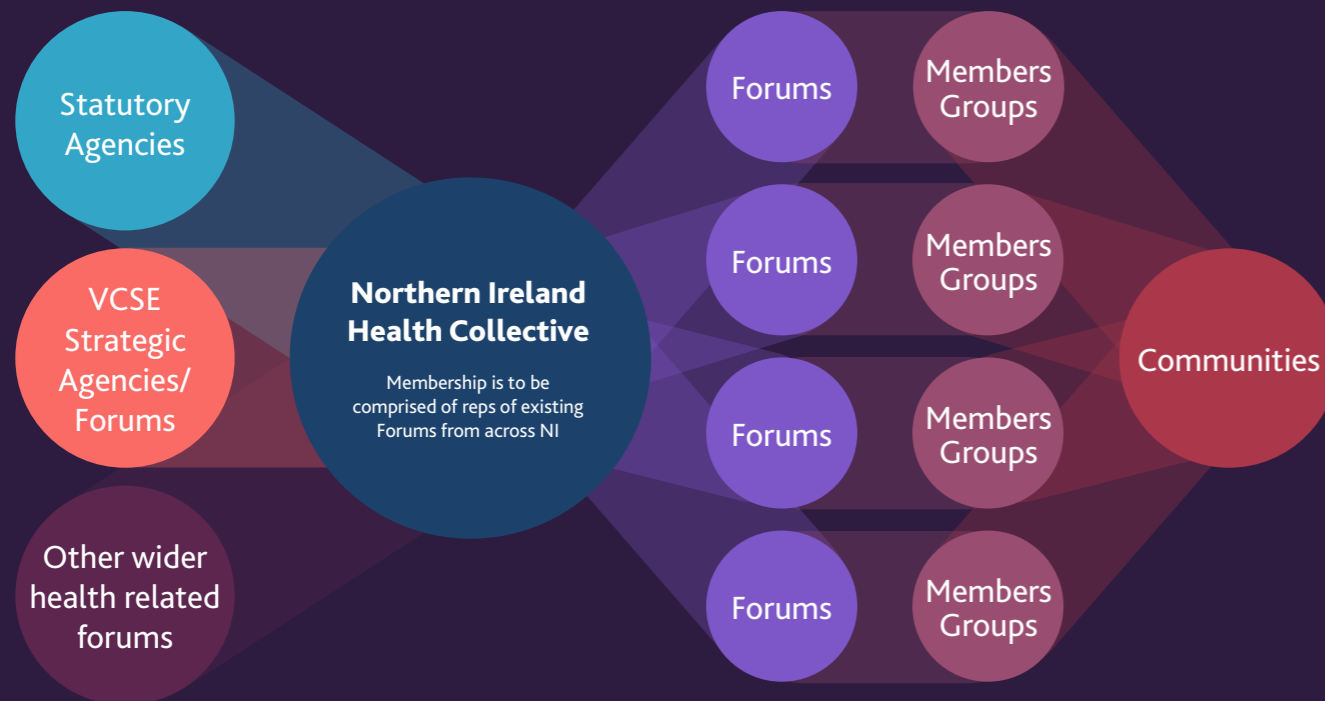
The Northern Ireland Health Collective is an innovative response to this identified need. It will act as a 'network of networks' and will enable representatives from existing groups across NI, representing all areas of Health, Social Care and

Community Wellbeing, to come together in a 'Forum of Forums'. It will provide a collective voice in policymaking for improving health outcomes in Northern Ireland and be an important catalyst for change.

The NI Health Collective will be housed within the CO3 Group, which will allow it to benefit from CO3's robust governance and financial management systems. In addition, given that CO3 is contracted to deliver support to the Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) VCSE representatives, this will promote the opportunity to build strong links between the NI Health Collective and the Integrated Care System. An Advisory Panel will guide the Collective's work, in order to avoid duplicating efforts and ensure wide representation.

This Development Plan is based on the information gained through the research project and subsequent report. It is intended to support the establishment and initial development of the Northern Ireland Health Collective with the intention that the Collective will develop a further Strategic Plan after the first few years.

VISION, MISSION & VALUES



VISION

A society collaboratively working for the positive transformation of health outcomes in Northern Ireland.

MISSION

We will achieve our vision by being a thought leader and a conduit for transformation of health outcomes in Northern Ireland through improved collaboration both between VCSE Health and Social Care organisations and with Government agencies.

VALUES

The following 8 values were identified through the Scoping Project for the NI Health Collective and will underpin the work of the NI Health Collective:

- INDEPENDENT FROM GOVERNMENT**
- COLLABORATION**
- INNOVATION**
- SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**
- IMPACT AND IMPROVED OUTCOMES**
- PERSON CENTRED**
- ADVOCACY**
- VALUE FOR MONEY**

03

STRATEGIC THEMES

The strategic themes of the NI Health Collective as identified through the research project are:

STRATEGIC THEME 01
**ADVOCATE
STRATEGICALLY**

Advocate strategically for the VCSE organisations and their beneficiaries in the area of health and well-being by being a proactive voice into government.

STRATEGIC THEME 02
EDUCATE

Educate public and statutory agencies about the value and contribution of the work of VCSE health and social care organisations and promote collaboration both between VCSE organisations and with Government agencies.

STRATEGIC THEME 03
**SUPPORT
THE SECTOR**

Support the sector through the provision of resources for policy, research, training, and collaboration.

04

LONG TERM AIMS

STRATEGIC THEME 01
**ADVOCATE
STRATEGICALLY**

AIM 1:
Build the platform and membership of the NI Health Collective to act as a voice for the VCSE health and social care sector in NI.

AIM 2:
Strategically advocate for NI Health Collective members and the wider VCSE health and social care sector with government departments.

AIM 3:
Pro-actively connect with government departments to support engagement with the Collective and its members to improve health outcomes.

STRATEGIC THEME 02
EDUCATE

AIM 4:
Create learning opportunities for government agencies to enhance understanding of the role VCSE can play in improving health and wellbeing.

AIM 5:
Promote opportunities for collaboration both between VCSE health and social care organisations and between VCSE health and social care organisations and Government agencies and departments.

STRATEGIC THEME 03
**SUPPORT
THE SECTOR**

AIM 6:
Facilitate opportunities for the development of collaborative working for the sector including developing strong links with the AIPB VCSE representatives of the ICS.

AIM 7:
Provide training and support the Collective members and the VCSE Health and social care sector.

AIM 8:
Provide resources to support policy influencing and development.

AIM 9:
Commission relevant research to support the NI Health Collective to further its' key purposes.

AIM 10:
Develop a strong and effective organisation

PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2027

STRATEGIC THEME 01

ADVOCATE STRATEGICALLY

AIM 1:

Build a platform to act as a voice for the VCSE health and social care sector in NI.

Priorities for 2025-2027

- Establish the Advisory Panel to support the work of the Collective.
- Recruit staff to support and drive the development of the Collective.
- Develop and grow the membership of the NI Health Collective.
- Build member skills in advocacy and lobbying.

AIM 2:

Strategically advocate for NI Health Collective members and the wider VCSE health and social care sector with government departments.

Priorities for 2025-2027

- Develop relationships with key government departments on behalf of the NI Health Collective.
- Understand the priorities of the NI Health Collective membership and wider VCSE health and social care regarding strategic advocacy,
- Identify and respond to strategic advocacy opportunities with Government agencies regarding policy/legislation/consultations/engagements.

AIM 3:

Pro-actively connect with government departments to support engagement with the Collective and the members it represents to improve health outcomes.

Priorities for 2025-2027

- Identify opportunities to input strategically into HSC systems, policies, and models of working to achieve better health and well-being outcomes.
- Identify opportunities to advocate collectively for support to improve sustainability through long-term planning and appropriate resourcing of VCSE services within health and social care.
- Acting as a central hub, raise issues and share information across the VCSE health and social care sector.

STRATEGIC THEME 02

EDUCATE

AIM 4:

Create learning opportunities for government agencies to enhance understanding of the role VCSE can play in improving health and wellbeing.

Priorities for 2025-2027

- Identify Government departments and agencies that would benefit from education regarding the role and benefits of the work of the VCSE health and social care sector.
- Develop and deliver educational opportunities for Government agencies to enhance understanding of the role VCSE can play in improving health and wellbeing.
- Optimise opportunities to share knowledge with government agencies.
- Review and assess the impact of the educational opportunities for Government agencies in enhancing understanding of the role VCSE can play in improving health and wellbeing.

AIM 5:

Promote opportunities for collaboration both between VCSE organisations and with VCSE organisations and Government agencies and departments.

Priorities for 2025-2027

- Act as a forum and conduit for engagement and consultation with DoH, PHA and others.
- Identify and promote collaboration opportunities between VCSE health and social care organisations, utilising the expertise and knowledge of the NI Health Collective members e.g. Area Integrated Partnership Boards of the Integrated Care System.
- Identify and promote collaboration opportunities between the VCSE health and social care sector and Government agencies utilising the expertise and knowledge of NI Health Collective members.

STRATEGIC THEME 03

SUPPORT THE SECTOR

AIM 6:

Facilitate collaborative working for the sector

Priorities for 2025-2027

- Act as a point of connection to facilitate collaboration and partnership working.
- Provide training and support on how to establish effective collaborations.

PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2027

STRATEGIC THEME 03

SUPPORT THE SECTOR

AIM 7:

Provide training, education and support to NI Health Collective members and the wider VCSE health and social care sector.

Priorities for 2025-2027

- Support the sharing of resources and intelligence between and with the VCSE health and social sector including AIPB VCSE representatives, to increase influence over decision making.
- Provide access to knowledge sharing and peer learning to develop skills and knowledge in the sector.
- Provide access to relevant education and training to develop the capacity, skills, sustainability and resilience of the VCSE health sector.

AIM 8:

Provide resources for policy influencing and development. Commission relevant research to support the NI Health Collective to further its key purposes.

Priorities for 2025-2027

- Provide resources and support for the VCSE health and social care sector to develop and advocate strategically regarding policy development.
- Through engagement with members, identify strategic research which will benefit the work of the VCSE health and social care sector and support the NI Health Collective to further its key purposes.
- Provide an information hub to generate, store and share relevant data to support the work of the NI Health Collective.

AIM 9:

Commission relevant research to support the NI Health Collective to further its key purposes.

Priorities for 2025-2027

- In collaboration with NI Health Collective members identify key priority areas of strategic research to be undertaken.
- Commission research and disseminate findings with the NI Health Collective, VCSE sector and government agencies.
- Utilise research to influence policy development and advocate for the VCSE health and social care sector and their beneficiaries.

AIM 10:

Develop a strong and effective organisation

Priorities for 2025-2027

- Ensure the NI Health Collective has the staff and other personnel required to achieve its aims and objectives and they are effectively supported and managed.
- Ensure NI Health Collective has the financial resources, premises and other physical resources required to achieve its aims and objectives.
- Work to build a financially sustainable future for the NI Health Collective in the medium to long term.
- Establish an expert advisory panel to guide the work of the NI Health Collective.
- Ensure NI Health Collective models best practice in its governance.

ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS



JOE McVEY OBE
Non-Executive Director of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust & CO3 Board Member



MARTINA MOORE
Director, Department of Health



RICHARD SPRATT
Chief Executive of Cancer Focus NI & Chair of the Northern Ireland Cancer Charities Coalition



SARA GRAHAM
Head of NI at Versus Arthritis & Chair of the Long Term Conditions Alliance NI



KERRY ANTHONY MBE
Chief Executive, Inspire



BERNIE KELLY
Chair CO3 Health Special Interest Group



VALERIE McCONVILLE
Chief Executive, CO3



www.nihealthcollective.org.uk



Delivered by
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND**

