York VCSE Assembly – Health and Care

24 September 2024, 10am – 12pm, Denham Room

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS / FEEDBACK

Reflecting on the definition of representation 'the action of speaking or acting on behalf of someone or the state of being so represented' what comes to mind for you?	• A unified voice both for the sector and for our communities too • It needs good understanding of those you are representing • Making sure people are represented from different groups of people 'diversity within diversity' and listening to those groups • The power of examples from different people's work • Pure representation impossible = need for common messages and to communicate consensus • Voice of all in sector – linking back to those who are represented • Potential conflict with org's own priorities • Generous leadership – can leaders afford that generosity in this climate • Fairness, advocate, champion, invested, voice, equity, partnership working, collective, passionate, understanding • Impartial/no self-interest • Responsibility, capacity, equal voice, impartial/transparency, coproduction
Why do you want to be represented on the groups, what do you hope it will achieve?	• Having no representation means the people we work for are never heard • Joining up – hearing from people receiving services what they need • Bring lived experience • The reality of services that are available and who can access these • Specific discussions will need time/forward planning to gather thoughts from all parties to make sure representation is as pure as it can be • To be equal partners • Develop relationships

	- Improving the imbalance of power between VCSEs and health - Valued, trust, transparent - Being involved at design stage - Challenging and sign off -don't set up things that we know won't work -greater breadth of experience knowledge eg. Diversity - Someone who can challenge, stand-ground, assert - Challenge status quo – emphasise the professional standing of sector - Achieve a redress of the imbalance - Reality of charities not having enough funding - Funding challenges - Understanding of -value and impact of VCSE -different groups and diversity of sector - Build a greater repository of challenges/accomplishments - Strength in numbers – growing common themes
What would gold standard representation look like to you?	- There are different ways to reach gold standard - Impartial/stronger together - Bring the majority view – representatives must have the mandate - Speak for people not organisations - Everyone is represented - Total understanding - Trust+transparency – knowing won't have all answers – seek out wider views - Share responsibility - Openness – transparency - Open and honest - Bring passion – difficult – same motivation, understanding, drive as for your own orgs - Truly collaborative – not tokenistic, inclusion - The representation needs to be meaningful - Clarity around intersectionality (of CYP+Families, Mental Health, Diverse Communities, Older People)

	• Peeling back bigger issues to understand how the VCSE contribute in their own ways to these issues • Wide range of *strengths, **causes/demand, delivery • Readdressing the balance of power -Greater appreciation of our impact -Our ability to be more bespoke • Address the 'amateur' image • Respecting as specialists • More joined up system for accessing services and funding (and know what's available) • Information needs to move in both directions • Opportunities – bring back to VCSE assembly – not pitted against each other
What ways of working, support or principles might need to be in place to ensure that standard could be upheld?	• Jargon-busting • An understanding of what the statutory sector expect from us • Funding to allow time/capacity for people from small organisations to represent • Trust and empower VCSE – trust in the figures • Recognised and valued as a rep (same as volunteers) • Big commitment – rotate? Maybe attend quarterly • Sharing load – 3 reps for each area • Feed in – how to gather the data/qualitative info • Be able to ask for input and feedback from those outside meetings • Mechanism for communication between groups eg. Whatsapp • Clear feedback route • Open communication and feedback • Code of conduct and Terms of reference • Represent individuals not organisations • Openness • Inclusion • Accountability