

Purpose and Structure

What is Worcestershire Voices?

“Worcestershire Voices is an independent network of experienced voluntary sector leaders working with the Voluntary and Community Sector, charities and social enterprises, and with all layers of government and statutory bodies, to guide policy conversations, formation, and implementation for the benefit of Worcestershire’s people.”

The Model

- Stakeholders
- Reference Group
- Chair and Action Group

Stakeholders

- Every organisation in the sector including those social enterprises who see themselves as akin to VCS, plus
- Members of the Worcestershire Partnership especially those who are contributing and also any related statutory bodies and agencies (e.g. Criminal Justice structures like Probation and CRC), and
- Civil society partners such as Chamber of Commerce with whom we might ally for common cause “for the benefit of Worcestershire’s people”, and (potentially)
- Private sector organisations who wish to avail themselves of our existence to better understand and/or work with the VCS

Reference Group

- Voluntary and Community Sector leaders who agree to personally engage with our work, communicating with each other, the sector and others to assist in the development of ideas and then sharing in the thinking process and the promotion of agreed concepts and approaches.
- Any others who are willing and (with the agreement of the VCS members of the Reference Group) can regularly offer relevant advice and insights.

Chair and Action Group

The Action Group’s function is to identify and manage the agenda of the thinking and communicating processes:

- Identifying issues that Voices could usefully engage with
- Developing mechanisms to influence policy and promote common strategic themes
- Managing background research to inform the whole process
- Maintaining budgetary responsibility and accountability for our mandate with Worcestershire Partnership / Funders

It is relatively high level managerial work but, as ownership of the policy initiatives rests with the Reference Group, the progressing of the agenda itself is a chairman’s function and the availability of others to work with the chair to extend capacity, visibility of Voices and scope of sector surveillance is a purely practical expedient.