

**Minutes – 19/08/2025**

1. **Welcome, Apologies, & Actions from Previous Meeting**

The Chair welcomed attendees and noted that there were no apologies or outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

**Joy App – Ryan Singh (ryan@thejoyapp.com)**

Link - [services.thejoyapp.com](https://services.thejoyapp.com)

Ryan Singh introduced the Joy App as a digital tool aimed at improving access to social prescribing activities across the region. He explained the current roll-out plans and walked through how the platform enables GPs and link workers to refer people directly into community-based support. Assembly members welcomed the tool but stressed the importance of ensuring all VCSE organisations are able to upload and update their provision easily. Several attendees asked whether future phases of the platform could incorporate impact measurement functionality to support funding bids. Ryan confirmed that feedback gathered from this meeting would be used to inform the next iteration of the App.

Q - If you add your activity to Devon Connect and you automatically added to the Joy Marketplace?

A- Yes that is correct, there is a button on the content page to tick to be added to Joy (this doesn’t work the other way around through)

Q - Is the Devon Joy App still being funded by One Devon NHS?

A- Yes it has been funded for 2 more years

Q- How are community organisations vetted before being added to the app? What policies and structures do they need to have in place?

A - We have a safer framework process - once vetted those services get a verified blue tick on their listing. You can learn more by visiting support.thejoyapp.com.

Q- I can not see any reference on Joy App to neurodivergence, e.g. autism, ADHD.

A - This has been updated on our new marketplace which is in BETA and will be publicly launched in September. The new marketplace has had a look overhaul and been refreshed.

Q - Do we know the percentage of GP's and Social Prescribers across Devon who have actively adopted Joy?

A - We are currently in all PCNs for Devon.

**Suicide Prevention – Nicola Glassbrook, Devon County Council Public Health**

Nicola Glassbrook provided an update on current suicide prevention priorities. She highlighted the increase in demand on mental health services and the need for more community-led early interventions. Attendees were briefed on the current draft of the regional Suicide Prevention Strategy and the opportunities for VCSE organisations to co-deliver targeted outreach in high-risk communities. Discussion focused on ensuring VCSE representation in strategic planning forums, improving the referral pathways between statutory services and local charities, and developing consistent data-sharing arrangements to improve system-wide learning.

*Additional notes from meeting chat:*

* North Devon have the 2-day Mental Health First Aider course running in October face to face version. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1580972243539?aff=oddtdtcreator>
* Zero Suicide Alliance has an Autism and Suicide Awareness Training course https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/autism-suicide-training
* Waymakers in North Devon - The PINN (Practitioners Meeting Neurodivergent Needs) Forum <https://waymakers.co.uk/pinn-forum/> - a coaction space for professionals reaching diverse community members across Northern Devon, which likely include neurodivergent teens and/or adults.

**Reflections on Steve Moore Discussion from Last Meeting**

The Assembly reflected on the strategic themes raised by Steve Moore in the previous session, notably the importance of positioning the VCSE sector as an equal partner within the evolving Integrated Care System. Attendees reiterated the need for a clear and collective voice when engaging with statutory organisations, and agreed that future Assembly sessions should focus on identifying shared priorities that can be promoted at system level. The need to strengthen communication channels across the wider VCSE network was also recognised, with a proposal for a regular update mechanism to be developed and agreed at the next meeting.

*Additional notes from meeting chat:*

* Nicola Frost: VCSE Research Community of Practice - funded through the Research Engagement Network (REN). For VCSE folks with a background, role or interest in research, or those who collaborate with academic or clinical researchers - all levels of experience welcome. Email me for more info: nfrost@devoncf.com