



Sector Forward

Nottingham's VCSE conference 2025

Workshop guide

Monday 13 October 2025
Motorpoint Arena Nottingham
#SectorForward2025



Our workshop programme offers a rich mix of insight, ideas, and inspiration - all rooted in the real experiences of Nottingham's VCSE sector. Whether you're looking to improve your digital presence, strengthen partnerships, or build more inclusive practice, there's something here for you. Each session is led by experienced practitioners who know the sector and want to share what works.

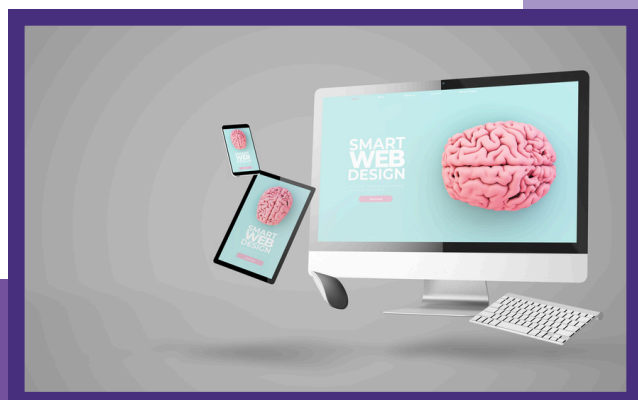
You can **choose two workshops to attend**, but don't worry, we'll share summaries and contact details from all sessions so you won't miss out.

Few and Far[®]

Making Websites Work For You

Expert advice, tips and insights we've gained from doing over 250 free website audits in the third sector. All distilled into the five most important steps you should take to connect on a more emotional level with those who visit your website, helping you to more deeply resonate with your online audience. **Our goal is that you walk away thinking: 'it's not so impossible after all. I can do this'.**

Few and Far is a digital agency that removes the digital stress that stops charities focusing on what they do best. We create brands, websites and provide digital consultancy to help charities make our world a better place.



1



MORE IN COMMON
NETWORK

NOTTINGHAM TOGETHER PARTNERSHIP

INSPIRED BY JO COX

Exploring the I in EEDI*: Learn about Nottingham's 'More in Common' Network

Join this workshop to explore how Nottingham's More in Common Network is using inclusive, community-led approaches to tackle prejudice, reduce stigma, and foster social cohesion. Through open dialogue and meaningful connection, the network brings together people from all backgrounds to bridge divides and work across lines of difference.

You'll also have the chance to reflect on what support your organisation may need to meet its *Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI) commitments - and how the More in Common approach can help.

The More in Common Network is a UK-wide movement inspired by Jo Cox's powerful message: 'We have more in common than that which divides us'. It brings together local groups and partnerships that are committed to building unity and trust within their communities. Nottingham's network was established in 2022 by The Renewal Trust and Communities Inc, with support from the Jo Cox Foundation and Nottingham City Council. Since then, it has hosted three community dialogue events. NCVS joined the partnership in 2024 to help amplify this message and support more voluntary organisations to get involved.

You'll leave with practical ideas for strengthening inclusion in your work, and a deeper understanding of how to build bridges across difference using the More in Common approach.

Workshop led by:

The Renewal Trust, Communities Inc,
the Jo Cox Foundation and NCVS



2



Beyond the Numbers: Embedding Impact in Volunteer Programmes

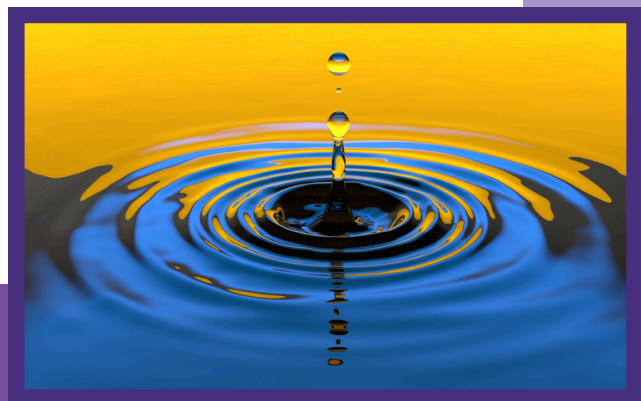
In this workshop, we'll explore both the benefits and challenges of assessing the impact of volunteer programmes.

With increasing pressure on the VCSE sector to demonstrate value from funders, public sector partners, trustees, and senior leaders, it's more important than ever to evidence the difference volunteers make. But impact is about more than counting volunteers or tracking hours.

We'll discuss how to move towards a more meaningful, outcomes-focused approach and explore practical ways to embed impact assessment into the day-to-day running of your volunteer programme. The session will also consider the types of support organisations may need to take an 'Impact First' approach.

You'll come away with a clearer sense of how to demonstrate the true value of volunteering, and practical ways to embed impact into your everyday practice.

Workshop led by:
NCVS and partners (TBC)



3



Building a Voluntary Sector Provider Collaborative (working in partnership)

In this workshop we will discuss the pros and cons of working in partnership as well as explore the different models that foster collaboration.

The public sector is more and more reliant on VCSE organisations to support the delivery of public services. Recent changes in public services, especially in the NHS, will make it more difficult to directly commission small providers. As contract sizes get bigger, it will limit the number of organisations that will have the capacity to respond.

Developing the conditions for collaboration, whether using a lead provider or a lead contractor, will enable smaller organisations to be part of effective delivery models. All partners can play to their strengths, and risk is apportioned appropriately.

We will also explore what types of support may be required in order for groups to be 'commissioning ready' and what measure of due diligence may be expected by public sector commissioners.

You'll gain insight into collaborative models that work, and learn what's needed to get your organisation ready to be part of future commissioning opportunities.

Workshop led by:
Nottingham CVS and partners (TBC)



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Supporting, Championing and Strengthening Nottingham's Voluntary Sector

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