

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Strategic Lead Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Strategic Lead– Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
Pay:	£260 per day (equivalent to a salary of £67,600 per annum (pro rata)) Total funding available £20,790 (£17,160 to cover salary payment +£3630 for employing VCSE overhead cost)
Function:	Therapies Directorate
Responsible to:	Associate Director of Involvement and Community Engagement
Accountable to:	Chief Therapies Officer
Hours:	0.2 FTE (1day per week) + 14 days a year for training & development Fixed Term for 1 year

Overall purpose of the role:

To support South East London NHS Trusts to embed a **consistent and holistic VCSE-lens** across Trust activities, ensuring that local VCSE and community insights, expertise and partnerships shape service development, design and delivery.

South East London Integrated Care Board (SEL ICB), the SEL VCSE Strategic Alliance, and Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust are seeking a local VCSE leader to join Oxleas as their **VCSE Strategic Lead**.

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced and connected VCSE leader to help the Trust strengthen its partnerships with the voluntary and community sector, and to champion community-led approaches across its work.

The postholder will support Oxleas to develop and implement a strategic approach to collaboration with the VCSE sector - embedding community insight, lived experience and local expertise into how the Trust plans, designs and delivers care. They will help ensure a consistent VCSE lens is applied across service development and transformation, enabling more inclusive, responsive and locally rooted models of mental health support.

A key part of the role will be to align this work with the Trust's priorities on tackling inequalities, including the **Patient Carer Race Equality Framework (PCREF)** and the **Building a Fairer Oxleas (BAFOS)** programme, ensuring both are embedded within a broader strategic approach to equity and inclusion.

The postholder will also play a pivotal role in supporting the **development of the Integrator function** and the design of **Integrated Neighbourhood Teams**, helping to ensure that VCSE



leadership is at the heart of local partnership working and that community voices shape the evolution of neighbourhood mental health services.

You should have experience relating to mental health to be considered for this role.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Champion VCSE Leadership and Insight:** Provide consistent VCSE insight and leadership - including through *Building a Fairer Oxleas Services (BAFOS)* - to shape Trust-wide strategy, planning and decision-making.
- **Strengthen VCSE-Trust Relationships and collaboration:** Support the Trust to adopt consistent, values-driven approaches to VCSE partnership working, contributing to the cultural shift needed for genuine collaboration. Including helping the Trust to better understand the local VCSE landscape, address barriers to collaboration, and build trusted relationships with the sector - especially with smaller, underrepresented 'By and For' organisations.
- **Collaborate Across the Trust:** Work with clinical, operational, and strategic teams - including the Integrator function and Integrated Neighbourhood Teams — to embed holistic, VCSE-led approaches across all levels of transformation.
- **Drive Health Equity:** Support the Trust's commitment to reducing health inequalities by embedding VCSE and community insights into service planning, transformation, and evaluation - especially those from racialised and marginalised communities. Contribute to building fairer Oxleas services by integrating equity-focused VCSE-led approaches.
- **Translate Insight into Action:** Work closely with the Strategy and Involve team to translate community and VCSE insights into tangible strategic actions, transformation priorities, and inclusive service models.
- **Evidence Impact and Learning:** Help design and deliver creative evaluation methods that demonstrate the impact of VCSE collaboration.
- **Collaborate Across the Trust:** Work with clinical, operational, and strategic teams - including the Integrator function and Integrated Neighbourhood Teams - to embed VCSE perspectives across all levels of transformation.
- **Adapt and Evolve:** As this is a pioneering role for both Oxleas and south east London, responsibilities will evolve in response to emerging needs, learning, and opportunities for deeper community collaboration.

Who We are Looking For:

We are seeking a leader from the **local VCSE sector** with a strong experience in **cross-sector collaboration, strategic influencing, and community leadership**, especially with under-represented groups. They should have a strong understanding of the **local VCSE landscape** and a passion for amplifying community voices in healthcare.

The successful candidate will need to be **solutions focused** and enjoy the **challenge of putting strategies into practice**. We are looking for a someone to work collaboratively with us to make

improvements that will benefit the partnerships between the Trust and the local VCSE sector and ultimately our service users and carers.

Person Specification – VCSE Strategic Lead

		Essential/ desirable
Experience & knowledge	Currently working within a VCSE organisation based in Greenwich, Bexley or Bromley which is embedded in local communities	E
	Deep working understanding of the role and value of the VCSE sector in shaping mental health and care services	E
	Strong connections within local VCSEs and relevant local VCSE networks and forums	E
	Lived experience of working with or within underserved communities, bringing an inclusive and empathetic approach to engagement	E
	Understanding of health inequalities within south east London and the role of community-led approaches in addressing them	E
	In-depth understanding of the mental health needs of local populations in Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich, including the social determinants of mental health and the barriers faced by marginalised communities in accessing support	E
	Demonstrated experience of cross-sector collaboration and successfully influencing change outside of organisational boundaries, ideally with the healthcare system	E
	Experience of generating shifts in organisational culture, from strategic design through to implementation of resulting plans	E
	Experience in co-designing policies, strategies, or services with communities, ideally within a healthcare setting	D
	Experience in designing impact measurement frameworks for community engagement programmes	D
Skills & abilities	Ability to navigate complex systems, influence decision-making, and advocate for community-led approaches within NHS structures	E
	Ability to bring authentic community and VCSE sector insights into system-level discussions	E
	Skilled in developing and sustaining partnerships, particularly with smaller, grassroots 'By and For' VCSEs that may face barriers to engagement with larger systems and able to provide guidance on how organisations can reflect this	E
	Strong communication and facilitation skills, with the ability to bridge the gap between VCSE organisations and NHS partners	E
	Strong data and analytical skills to interpret community insights and translate them into strategic recommendations / actions	E
	Ability to support organisational or system-level change to embed VCSE insights into service design and delivery	E
	Ability to form positive professional relationships with colleagues from diverse sectors	E

This role requires a passionate advocate for community-driven change who can bring a **consistent, holistic VCSE lens** to mental health service development, helping the Trust deliver more inclusive and responsive care.