

Community Wellbeing Champions

– an overview

Public Health Scrutiny Commission
8 July 2025



Background

- The Community Wellbeing Champions (CWC) Project was implemented in late 2021 to support the Covid-19 pandemic response and wider work on health inequalities.
- CWC helps Public Health and partners:
 - a. Gain a better understanding of people's health needs and the barriers they face in having those needs met, especially those affected by inequalities, and
 - b. Be more effective in reaching people with key information, support, and services.
- The CWC Network helps achieve these aims by facilitating closer working with the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations, groups and services, and other champions communities trust and to whom they turn for support.



Network membership & management

**25 June 2025:
298 members**

representing around 160
organisations + 40 individuals



Down from 600
at the end of
March due to
new sign-up
system



New members
joining regularly
– e.g. 97 from
Jan to Mar 2025

New sign-up system

- Introduced February 2025
- Consistent data collection and better network profiling
- Includes Working Together Principles and concerns process - guiding standards and values for members and Public Health
- Facilitate safe, consistent, and effective working for all

Ongoing actions

- Reach out to former members
- Selected comms – e.g., conference invitations
- Feedback from leavers – inform improvements

CWC email: information and resources

CWC weekly email – sharing relevant information including:

- Services and support
- Events and activities
- Consultations and research
- Jobs and volunteering
- Funding opportunities
- Training, workshops, and webinars
- Health priorities and key messages

Typical content:

- 10 – 12 items of interest from PH, LCC, network members
- Help Leicester Stay Connected – cost of living and social inclusion resource

Used by Social prescribers, VCSE, NHS staff and council staff.



CWC Forum: learning and sharing

- Monthly online forum established October 2022.
- Based on members' request for a space to regularly connect, share, and learn.
- Sessions are 90 mins long and cover 3 or 4 topics.
- Delivered by speakers from range of organisations.
- Recordings and notes shared via CWC email.
- 27 forum meetings held to date with around 80 speakers.
- Raises awareness, facilitates connections, and promotes activities for collaboration.
- Also been used to conduct focus groups and consultations.



Conferences: connecting and collaborating

- Time and space for CWC Network and other partners to connect over the city's health and wellbeing priorities
- Five conferences held to date:
 - Tackling health inequalities
 - Prevention Showcase
 - Barriers to better health
 - Mental Health and Social Isolation
 - Children and Young People
- Includes presentations, discussions, networking, information marketplace, service showcase
- Facilitate connection, collaboration, 'best ideas'
- Next conference planned for November 2025



PH Community Engagement Grants

Supporting community organisations to undertake activities that improve health outcomes for local people, particularly those from underserved/ seldom heard communities (2024/2025)

32 organisations funded

Up to £2,000 per project

Health and
wellbeing
fairs

Physical
exercise
classes

Warm
Welcome
space

Mental
health
support

Menopaus
e
awareness

Community Interns Pilot Project

Developed based on feedback from CWC network members and VCSE sector for opportunities to enhance understanding of and contribute to public health work.

3 paid internships –
Project Support
Officer posts

Open to volunteers
and staff of CWC
member organisations

4 months duration –
15 hours per week

Interns learned about public health, contributed insight, and worked on projects:

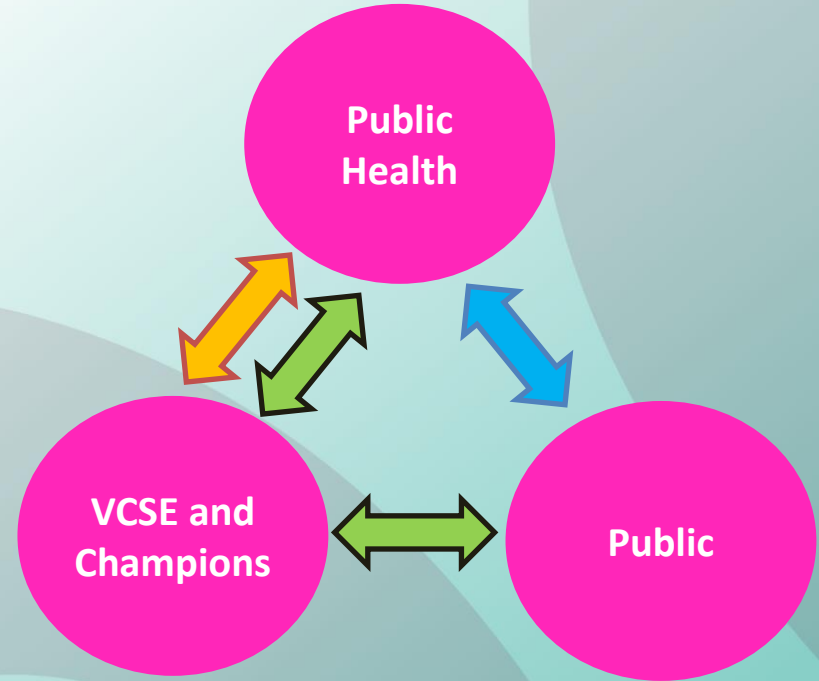
Community Garden
and men's social
inclusion

Analysing Health &
Wellbeing Survey
social isolation data

Planning & delivering
Let's Get Together
week programme

PH community engagement approach

- Public Health engages with residents directly (e.g. at health events) and indirectly (working with CWC and other partner organisations).
- Work is underway to better align and enhance community engagement activities across different PH teams and the network.
- Establishing a framework to embed a holistic and strategic approach to inclusion and participation. Helping to ensure that 'lived experiences' inform all activities in public health.



Three dimensions of engagement in public health

THANK YOU

For further information, contact
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Leicester
Community
Wellbeing
Champions