

University of Chester and CWVA Annual Conference 2020: Partnerships and Collaborations

About the conference

CWVA is the only organisation in west Cheshire to host an affordable conference specifically aimed at the voluntary and community sector. The CWVA conference attracts a borough wide audience of over 125 delegates including our colleagues from both the public and private sector.

This year we are focusing on Partnerships and Collaborations and we are delighted to have our event hosted by our partners University of Chester at their prestigious Queens Park Campus.

The University of Chester is committed to enriching and learning from local communities. For the University, this conference is an opportunity to explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration with local institutions in the interests of students and the voluntary sector, and for the public good. Several academics in the Faculty of Social Science have chosen to collaborate with CWVA to reflect our commitment to Social Science's endeavor to contribute to understanding and responding to key social issues of our time, and collaborating with communities to achieve progressive change.

Harnessing the strengths and abilities of other organisations is one of the most strategic ways for groups and charities to measure their development and overcome challenges. When group and organisations with a common aim work together, the benefits are numerous; they can cut costs, improve outcomes and reduce duplication. Collaboration is particularly important to smaller charities looking for ways to create a sustainable long-term future. It can help organisations deliver upon their vision and mission, improve awareness of your cause, increase funding potential through joint funding bids and gain greater exposure and kudos; furthermore reaching more people is especially relevant to small charities when over a third of people cannot name a local charity in their area.

CWVA Chair message

I would like to take the opportunity to invite you to attend the 2nd CWVA Annual Conference: Partnerships and Collaborations, which will take place at the University of Chester on 20th Feb 2020.

During the last 12 months, many of our members will have faced challenges. We believe this year's conference is the ideal opportunity to network, share experiences and ideas, and to celebrate the impact our members have on the communities across west Cheshire.

Our inaugural conference in 2019 hosted 125 delegates and received excellent feedback. Last year's theme of creating conversation attracted speakers from the voluntary and community sector, public and private sectors all of which highlighted the desire to work alongside each other more effectively. This year we are taking this one step further by highlighting the need to engage effectively with each other.

We know that the knowledge and expertise exists within our sector and we are proud to announce that the majority of our workshops this year will be delivered by our membership.

I look forward to seeing you on 20th Feb.

Simon Sandford

Agenda

8:30-9:30	Registration, University Marketplace and Refreshments
9.30 – 9.45	Opening Welcome Professor David Balsamo, Executive Dean of Social Science at University of Chester
9.45 – 10.00	Introduction to the Conference Simon Sandford, Chair of CWVA
10.00 – 10.15	Councillor Louise Gittins, Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council
10.15 – 11.30	Workshops
1	<p>Trustee Diversity - Having a range of different voices on your board of trustees</p> <p>Alison Breadon (Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service)</p> <p>A workshop to share challenges, ideas and successes with one another. All welcome, whether you are struggling with recruitment, if you find yourself excluded, or have no idea what the issue is anyway.</p> <p>This session will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's the point? • What does a diverse board look like? • How do we get there?
2	<p>Charity Law Update</p> <p>Graeme Hughes, Senior Associate, Brabners LLP</p> <p>Specialising in charity law at Brabners LLP, Graeme will discuss the following during this session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An informative round-up of legal developments in the voluntary sector over the past 12 months • Discussion around reputational issues for charities relating to controversial donations, sponsors and/or patrons • The new corporate criminal offence of “failure to prevent the criminal facilitation of tax evasion” and its impact upon incorporated charities • The Charity Commission’s regulatory activity and concerns as to its current approach and a round-up of other interesting developments • Charity campaigning activity during the General Election

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ongoing debate around charity chief executive pay
3	<p>Charity Accounting – The Basics</p> <p>Sue Harris, Champion Accountants</p> <p>This session will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charity accounting - your questions answered. The basics - record keeping, bookkeeping and annual reporting Q&A Session <p>To make the most out of this session, please bring along a copy of your organisation's accounts.</p>
4	<p>Bridging Research into Practice: Practical Applications and Supporting Innovation</p> <p>Associate Professor Andrew Reeves, University of Chester</p> <p>This session will consider how research, often associated as a 'university activity', can be used to support real-world innovation, practice and development. The session will provide a broad overview of the Department of Social and Political Science at the University and then, using a number of current case studies, will demonstrate how the Department is actively supporting development and practice across a number of relevant areas. The session will additionally provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on their own working context and begin to identify ways in which they too might be supported by staff within the Department. Part information-sharing, part-interaction, the aim is that by the end of the session all participants will see the value of research and how it can support their best-practice in supervision, support and consultancy.</p>
5	<p>Live Well Website</p> <p>Public Health</p> <p>An interactive tour of the new 'Local Offer' website, how to make the most of the directory and why you should use it.</p>
6	<p>What Can Social Prescribing Do For Your Organisation?</p> <p>Christine McMahon, Brightlife</p> <p>This workshop will explore the relationship between a Social Prescribing Coordinator/Link Worker, the groups and activities you provide and the people who benefit.</p>
7	<p>Networking – Inspiring People to Want to Help You</p>

	<p>Ewan Sturman, BNI</p> <p>Most people who go networking find it intimidating and unpleasant and get poor results from their activities.</p> <p>Learning how to target the right people and what to say to them to inspire them to want to help you will get you faster and better results from your networking activity.</p> <p>When you learn how to change your networking activities you get better results and it becomes more fun because you don't feel like you are wasting your time.</p> <p>This session will show you how to do less networking and double or even treble your results!</p>
11.30 – 11.45	Refreshments and Networking
11.45 – 1pm	Workshops
1	<p>Managing Stress and Building Resilience</p> <p>Lizzie Wainwright, Healthbox CIC</p> <p>This session will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is stress? • How does stress affect us? • How to prevent burnout, reduce anxiety and worries
2	<p>Women in Leadership</p> <p>Kate Blakemore, Motherwell</p> <p>Kate Blakemore is the founder/ CEO of the charity Motherwell Cheshire.</p> <p>The charity is founded on the concept of women supporting women.</p> <p>During this session, Kate will be talking about the challenges of setting up the charity, lessons learnt, and how she sees the future for women and girls in such a difficult climate in society.</p> <p>Kate will also talk about how she has managed her own work/ life balance and how resilience has been key to success in the third sector.</p>
3	<p>Choosing the Right Path for Your Organisation</p> <p>Gary Cliffe, Changing Lives Together</p> <p>Are you a bit confused about the difference between different types of 'third sector' organisations?</p>

	<p>Some organisations set up as Social Enterprises (with a few different types), some as a charity, and then some charities have trading arms. When might you want to be one or the other and when, for example might it be useful for a charity to have a trading arm?</p> <p>Gary Cliffe has 20 years' experience in these issues, and this session is not about detailed legal or tax advice, but will provide a practical overview and things to think about when considering what sort of organisation you should be.</p>
4	<p>Social Accounting</p> <p>Matthew Lanham, Neuro Muscular Centre</p> <p>This session aims to enthuse and inform about Social Accounting and Social Audit.</p> <p>It aims to help make measuring social impact fun and exciting, and above all, feel achievable in all organisations.</p> <p>The session will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Social Accounting • History and the ethos surrounding Social Accounting • Why measure impact? • Why did NMC start using Social Accounting? • Social Accounting or SROI? • Methodology
5	<p>Fostering Collaboration between Students, Graduates and Local organisations</p> <p>University of Chester Careers and Employability team, Work-Based Learning team, and Volunteering and Mentoring team members</p> <p>The University has teams of specialists in bringing students and graduates together with local and national companies and organisations. This session will highlight a range of opportunities we offer to meet your organisation's requirements or the community around us, whilst enhancing our students' and graduates' academic experience through networking or careers events, subject specific training by industry experts, voluntary work, or work shadowing opportunities, a work placement or internship. The session will provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on their own working context and begin to identify ways in which their organisation may wish to collaborate with University teams and talented students and graduates.</p>
6	<p>Deaf Awareness</p> <p>Gill Reeder, Deafness Support Network</p>

	<p>Around one in 6 people in the UK have some kind of hearing loss, but because deafness is an invisible disability, it is still widely misunderstood.</p> <p>This session will provide basic Deaf Awareness to help break down the barriers that hinder communication between deaf and hearing people.</p>
7	<p>Working with the NHS</p> <p>Indi Singh, Commercial Programme Manager, Innovation Agency</p> <p>Indi will give participants an insight into his role and how he can provide support to the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Indi says "I believe that the voluntary sector provide a huge contribution to support the health and wellbeing of the population, and it is imperative that the NHS continues to work with the sector as much as possible to enhance health care provision".</p> <p>The session will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Innovation Agency's new commercial support programme designed to connect voluntary sector organisations with NHS and social care providers and commissioners. • An overview of the Cheshire & Warrington Health MATTERS programme. • Accelerating the adoption of products and services that already exist to help the NHS to improve care and services
1.00 – 2pm	Lunch
2.00 – 2.10	Deputy Lord Mayor
2.10 – 2.30	<p>Keynote Speaker</p> <p>Jane Ide, Chief Executive, NAVCA</p>
2.30 – 3.45	Workshops
1	<p>Personal Health Budgets</p> <p>Alison Davenport, Cheshire Centre for Independent Living (CCIL)</p> <p>This session will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Personal Health Budgets • Who can receive a Personal Health Budgets? • How do they work? • Overview of the Arrangement of Care and Support Service • Support Planning - personalising care

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support provided by CCIL
2	<p>Effective Communication and Marketing</p> <p>Ryan Gould, Vivo Care Choices</p> <p>This session will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a communication and marketing strategy for your organisation. Explore the many different channels available, as well as ones which will work best for your organisation. Discover inventive ways to get your key messages across to your audience. Get involved with practical activities so you can use new skills to develop your organisation straight away.
3	<p>Asset Transfer</p> <p>Gareth Prytherch, Neston Youth Community Centre</p> <p>Gareth will give a personal insight into his experience of asset transfers.</p>
4	<p>Fostering Collaboration between Students, Graduates and Local organisations</p> <p>University of Chester Careers and Employability team, Work-Based Learning team, and Volunteering and Mentoring team members</p> <p>The University has teams of specialists in bringing students and graduates together with local and national companies and organisations. This session will highlight a range of opportunities we offer to meet your organisation's requirements or the community around us, whilst enhancing our students' and graduates' academic experience through networking or careers events, subject specific training by industry experts, voluntary work, or work shadowing opportunities, a work placement or internship. The session will provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on their own working context and begin to identify ways in which their organisation may wish to collaborate with University teams and talented students and graduates.</p>
5	<p>Partnerships and Collaboration in Action</p> <p>Steph Ellis, The Welcome Network</p> <p>Come along and listen to some of the partnerships within the Welcome Network, where collaboration is at the heart of everything we do.</p>

	<p>We believe that the best projects are where no-one tries to go it alone, and each organisation plays their own role, based on skills, strength and purpose, from very small grass roots groups to larger organisations.</p> <p>We will talk about our involvement in Meeting Places, Holiday Provision, and our national policy work with Feeding Britain. You can expect to pick up ideas, innovative ways of making connections, and top tips for building partnerships.</p> <p>When you talk, build relationships and find potential for working together, great things can happen to build stronger communities!</p>
6	<p>Fostering Healthy and Productive Staff Through Self-Care</p> <p>Sylvie More</p> <p>Many of us recognise the importance of taking regular breaks, getting some fresh air, eating lunch away from our desk etc. However we often find it hard to put such things into practice.</p> <p>In this session you will learn practical techniques and strategies to ensure you look after yourself and your colleagues at work.</p> <p>Sylvie is a qualified yoga teacher but she also has more than a decade's experience of managing a heavy workload and staff in different types of organisations in the third sector. She knows first hand how important it is to look after your mind and your body at work, yet how easy it is to overlook your own health and wellbeing when committed to your work.</p> <p>Sylvie will guide you through short exercises and techniques you can use each day at work.</p> <p>Come and experience mindfulness exercises as well as gentle movement and stretches especially for the back, neck and shoulders.</p> <p>Come as you are - no need for special clothes or a mat.</p>
7	<p>Co Production – What is it all about and how can you get involved?’</p> <p>Bev Lucas, We are Tempo</p> <p>Co-production gives all of us a stronger voice in our communities and beyond. It is a simple idea and involves professionals and citizens working together and pooling their resources to identify need, designing the solution and delivering it.</p> <p>Within the session, Bev will look at the Cheshire West and Chester Time Credit programme and the opportunities for organisations to get involved.</p>
3.45 – 4.00	<p>Melissa Crellin, Head of Civic University Initiative at University of Chester</p>

	Introduction to the Civic University initiative and launch of questionnaire on developing collaboration and partnerships
4.00 – 4.15	Close Simon Sandford