

Collaborative Convenor

Apply online:

www.gloucestershireinfrastructurecollaborative.org.uk

Closing Date:

12noon, Friday 4th Sept 2026

What is the Gloucestershire Infrastructure Collaborative?

Demand for health and wellbeing services is increasing, while inequalities continue to grow in Gloucestershire. VCSE organisations play a vital role in improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities – not only by delivering services but also by shaping their design and advocating for, representing and amplifying the voices of people with lived experience. VCSE organisations are essential to a vibrant local health economy because they:

- Build trusted relationships with their communities
- Reach people who may not engage with other services
- Help people feel connected, confident and supported
- Provide early to prevent issues from escalating

The Gloucestershire Infrastructure Collaborative is a new VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) partnership established bringing 9 organisations together to work more closely for the benefit of local communities.

Spearheaded by NHS Gloucestershire's Integrated Care Board, the Collaborative is led by VCSE organisations, working collaboratively rather than individually. This ensures the VCSE sector has a stronger collective voice in shaping how services are developed, delivered and improved for the benefit of communities across the county. The VCSE sector has always provided a range of support to the NHS including helping community voices to be heard, delivering services and contributing to the development of local strategies.

The collaborative builds on this existing work plus feedback gathered from VCSE organisations across Gloucestershire, which highlighted strong relationships and a real desire and willingness to work together. It also identified a need for improved coordination and more accessible support across the sector particularly for smaller and grassroots groups. This partnership aims to build the valuable role of VCSE organisations by strengthening and connecting services, enabling more joined-up working across Gloucestershire.

Our Vision

Gloucestershire Infrastructure Collaborative's long-term vision is to:

- Support people to live healthier, more connected lives
- Enable communities to shape local priorities and services
- Strengthen VCSE organisations as equal partners in the wider health system
- Provide earlier support through trust, relationships and local knowledge
- Support a reduction in inequalities across the county

The group held its first meeting in March 2026 and has continued to meet monthly since. Over the coming months and years members they will agree shared priorities and actions laying the foundation for a stronger, more connected VCSE sector across Gloucestershire.

Convenor

The key role of the Convenor is to provide a framework for the Collaborative and ensure there is organising capacity for their actions.

The role of the Convenor is:

Functional convening

- To convene the Collaborative including their regular monthly meetings and discussions.
- To ensure clarity of purpose, prioritisation, action and accountability in accordance with agreed values.
- To enable collaborative working and shared ownership of the Collaborative's work.
- To liaise with the fiscal hosts to ensure the stewardship & activity budgets are administered effectively
- To bring systems expertise and/or source additional expertise where this might be required.
- To provide support to action and learning as agreed with the Collaborative; this may include research into regional/national good practice; designing and coordinating events; maintaining good learning capture and dissemination in conjunction with the Learning Partner.
- To support the Collaborative in planning for longevity beyond the initial 2-year term.

Structural support: holding the group safely

- To be informed, supportive and neutral
- To create an inclusive and participative environment in which all members are encouraged and supported to contribute their perspective, expertise, reflections, learning, networks and capacity.
- Build trust and strong relationships between members
- Help the group navigate complexity, ambiguity, challenge and adaptation.
- To create a culture of psychological safety and constructive dialogue which welcomes and respects different ideas, including 1-2-1 conversation as required.
- Support development of collective identity and shared ownership of purpose and confidence to act as systems leaders.
- To liaise with the ICB with respect to the management of and learning from the seed funding they've invested, including financial and impacts forecasting and sharing.
- To liaise with the ICB in relation to support/involvement offered to the Collaborative
- Advocate for the Collaborative with other stakeholders, as directed by partners.

The Collaborative will provide collective skills, networks and capacity for delivery. Administrative support for the group will be provided by The Grace Network

Skills, experience, attributes

- Support for and experience of navigating change in complexity
- A grounding in and knowledge of the 'place' (Gloucestershire), and the health, care and wider wellbeing system including VCSE
- Comfortable in complexity
- Experience of convening in large and small settings
- A willingness to learn, shape, adapt; moving where appropriate, changing pace as required, holding space when needed
- Belief in strengths-based collaborative practice
- Creativity, flair and resourcefulness
- A reflective and independent thinker
- A track record of supporting people, organisations and partnerships to reflect on and review their practice & grow trust and collaboration
- Programme/project management skills and awareness of when not to use them
- Financial and contract management skills and experience

Fee

The role is offered on a freelance basis until March 2028, with a fee of £25,000 inclusive of VAT available. We anticipate the work taking 2-3 days p.c.m. worked flexibly. A travel and expenses budget of up to £3,000 per annum has been allocated.

How to apply

Answer the application questions by either:

- a. Completing the application form OR
 - b. Sending an audio file with your answers to the application form questions (no longer than 5 minutes) OR
 - c. Sending a video file with your answers to the applications form questions (no longer than 5 minutes)
- Provide a CV, up to 2 A4 pages
 - Provide 2 referees willing to comment on your experience, skills and attributes.
 - Send to jessica@thegracenetwork.org.uk by 12noon on Friday 4th September 26

Interviews will take place in person on 18th September 2026 and will include a practical convening task.

If you have any questions about the role, please contact jessica@thegracenetwork.org.uk in the first instance.

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