

Dorset Anchor Programme Information Sessions

17th and 18th March 2026

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Neighbourhood Health Guidelines from the NHS 10 Year Plan

Three aims for all neighbourhoods for the next 5 to 10 years:

- For the NHS and Social Care to work together to prevent unnecessary time spent in hospital or care homes;
- To strengthen primary and community-based care and support;
- To connect people accessing health and care to wider public services and to third sector and community support (*known as Voluntary and Community Sector / VCS*).

Treatment to Prevention

Hospital to Community

Analogue to Digital

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Approaches to neighbourhood health

Neighbourhoods mean different things to different people, but essentially it is about community, shared purpose and working together to promote and support self-care and prevent ill health.



Health and care approach

The way health and care services are delivered to patients



Community-led approach

The way communities play central roles in the design and delivery of services



Wider sector and voluntary sector approach

The way wider services come together at local levels to improve health and wellbeing

What does this mean for Dorset's VCS?

VCS is central to delivering **non-medical support** (1 in 5 GP appointments are for issues like loneliness or housing).

Local organisations expected to **co-design neighbourhood care** with NHS and councils.

An opportunity to be a part of **neighbourhood multidisciplinary teams**.

An opportunity to support **early intervention, prevention & social prescribing**.

The VCS can contribute lived experience, reach into underserved communities, and reduce inequalities.

The VCS is a **bridge between NHS, local government and communities**, shaping the new model.

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What is the Dorset Anchor Programme?

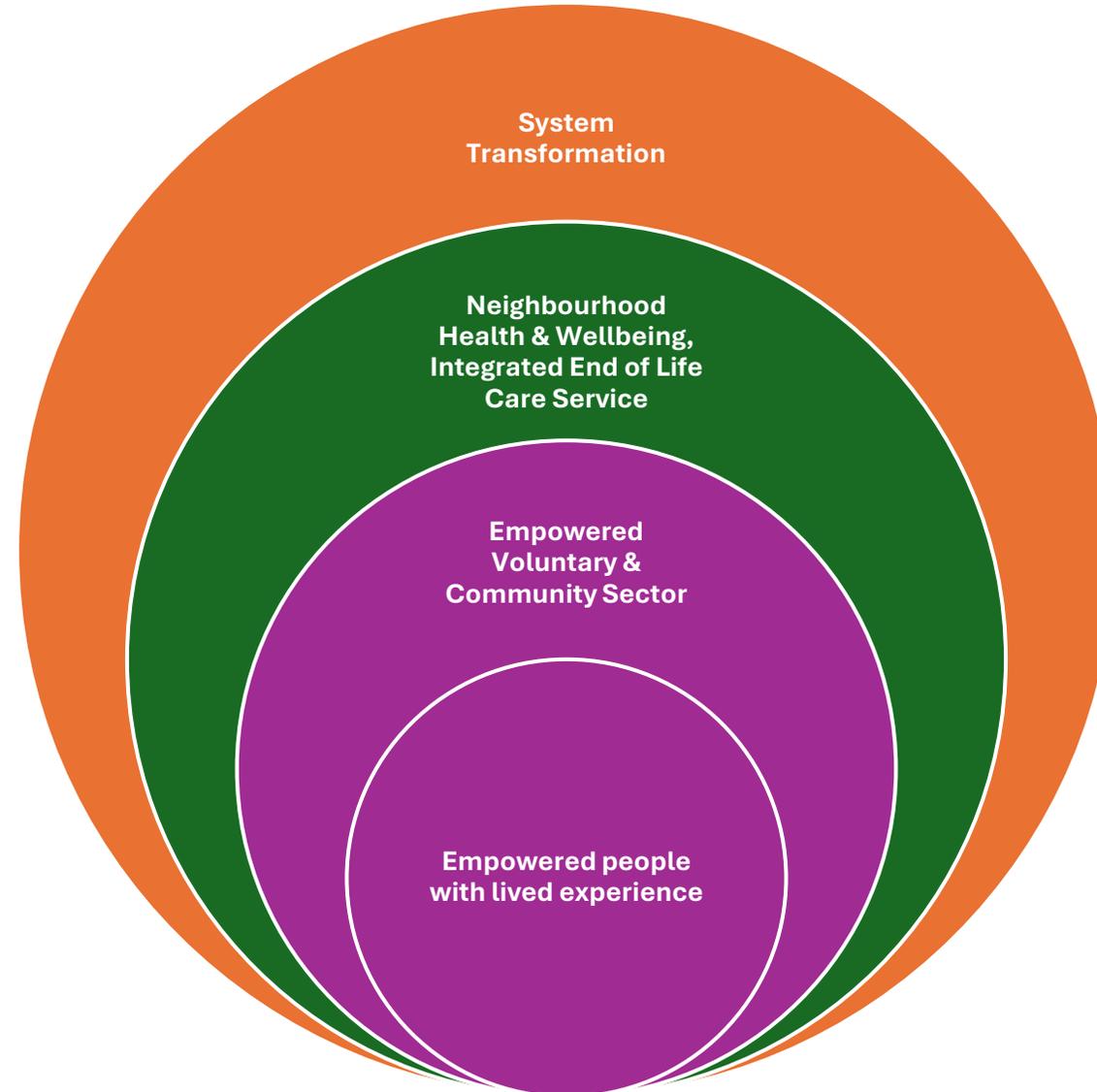
- Pan Dorset three-year programme funded by Macmillan Cancer Support.
- £500k investment over 3 years to strengthen Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) capability, capacity, and influence.
- Focus on tackling health inequities.
- Coproduction with VCS and people with lived experience at the heart from the start.
- Support better partnership working across the Dorset System.
- Support the delivery of the Dorset Neighbourhood Health & Wellbeing Programme.

Dorset Investment

Anchor Programme Grant

£500k over 3 years

- Strengthen capability and capacity within the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) to facilitate equal voice within the system
- Provide small grants to organisations to address health inequities and outcomes
- Facilitate peer learning and support from VCS and private sector
- Support the statutory sector to work differently with the VCS



Repayable

Social Investment

£3.5m for NHWB

Implementation

£2.5m for Proof of Concept Investment

£4m for EOLC transformation

- Programme Team to enable INTs to develop and deliver at pace
- Project and intervention funding to meet identified unmet needs of local populations
- Co-design & co-production with communities
- Enable local level solutions to identified barriers
- Understand cancer patients' needs and how they can be supported at neighbourhood level

How will the Anchor Programme support the VCS and Neighbourhood Health in Dorset?

Voluntary and Community Sector organisations often face short-term funding and unequal partnerships.

The programme aims to shift this by:

- Strengthening the VCS voice in System decisions.
- Enabling long-term community-led solutions.
- Supporting equitable partnerships with statutory services.
- Providing funding for the VCS to build capacity and capability.

What will the Anchor Programme deliver?

- Small grants for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations to build skills, strengthen their work and address health inequities.
- Peer learning and support.
- Coproduced approaches that aim to respond to neighbourhood level needs, supporting Dorset's Neighbourhood Health and Wellbeing Programme.
- Supporting the development of a stronger, more connected VCS voice and role in health and care that continues beyond the timespan of the Macmillan funding.

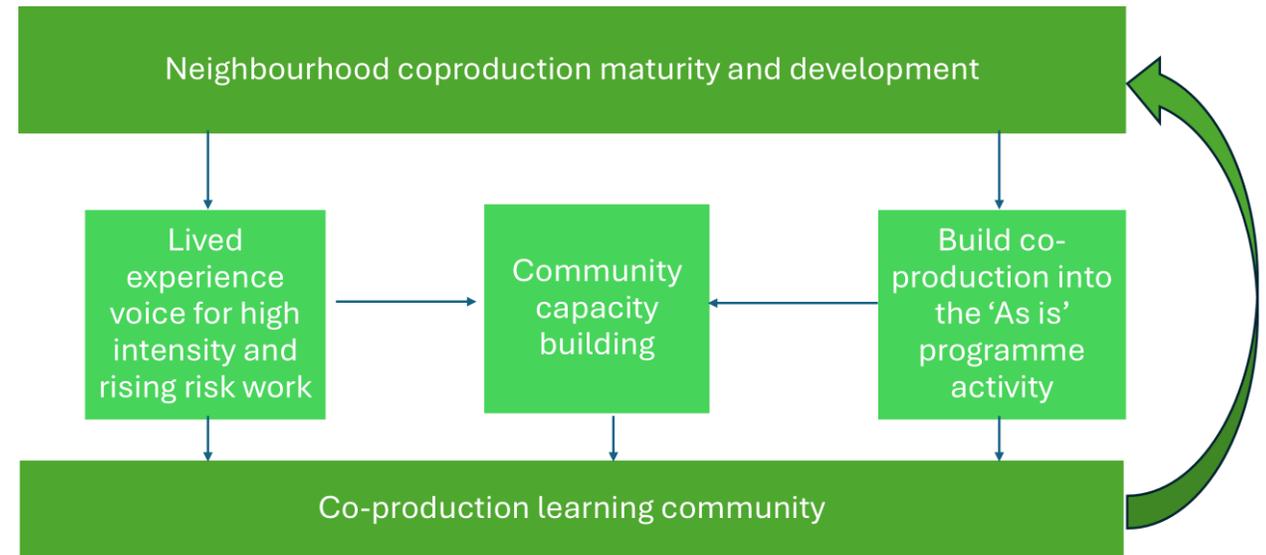
Why the VCS is Vital

Demonstrating	Demonstrating how community-led support improves health outcomes.
Expanding	Expanding preventative activities such as wellbeing groups, peer support and outreach.
Supporting	Supporting people to regain self-confidence and access employment or volunteering.
Reaching	Reaching underserved communities who face barriers to traditional services.

What do we mean by Coproduction in the Neighbourhood Health Programme



Overview of co-production structures



How can you get involved?

What is the opportunity?	What does the opportunity support?	What is the time commitment? (indicative only, can be flexible)
Join the Anchor Advisory Group	Be a critical friend to the programme, offering advice and support on processes, including supporting the Anchor Working Group and the Small Grants Approval Panel and supporting the Host Organisation to deliver the programme.	1 hour per month for the length of the programme.
Join the Anchor Working Group <i>(with Task Groups as required)</i>	<i>Task Group 1</i> - Shape what the Host Organisation will do, how they will work with the wider VCS, governance arrangements, and links to other programmes of work. Work as the recruitment panel, review tenders and recommend the Host Organisation.	4 meetings from March - early May. 1 hour / month for the length of the funding programme.
	<i>Task Group 2</i> - Shape the criteria for the small grants and the application process. Work as the Small Grants Approval Panel, reviewing applications and awarding grants.	4 meetings from March - early May. 1 hour / month for the length of the funding programme.
Be part of the whole process	Be part of Dorset's VCS learning community for updates and ongoing information about the programme.	Ad hoc via email communications and occasional meetings.

If you would like to be involved but have capacity concerns, please do get in touch and we can chat more.



The role of the Host Organisation

We are seeking a VCS organisation that is:

- Primary purpose is providing grants.
- A local VCS organisation.
- Connected across the whole of Dorset and / or willing to work with another grant giver.
- Able and willing to work closely with System partners and people with lived experience.
- Willing to hold the funding on behalf of the whole sector and be accountable, reporting to Macmillan, Dorset VCSA and the Neighbourhood Health and Wellbeing Programme.

This role will be coproduced with the sector.



Timeline

Step 1

- Identify people to join the Anchor Working Group, with 2 Task Groups.
- Co-design the role of the Host Organisation.
- Begin co-designing the small grants programme.

Step 2

- Finalise the role of Host Organisation.
- Finalise the small grants process ready to work with the Host Organisation.
- Appoint the Host Organisation.
- Create Comms Plan.
- Apply for Macmillan grant funding.

Step 3

- Set up the Host Organisation on Macmillan systems and draw down funding.
- Agree the small grants process with the Host Organisation.
- Mobilise the Anchor Programme and set up the Small Grants Approval Panel.
- Mobilise the Comms Plan.

What to do now?

Get in contact by **31 March 2026**. Send email to both:

adam.martel@dorsetvcsa.co.uk

systeminvestments@macmillan.org.uk

We will then get in touch by early April to talk to you about the next steps.

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Time for Questions

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