

VS6 – Working together to build a stronger Liverpool City Region

VS6 is a partnership of support organisations working with the 8,600 voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) groups operating across our Liverpool City Region (LCR).

What do we do?

We work together to champion the vital role our sector does and could play in the future of the City Region, while seeking to shape local policy and implementation for the benefit of our communities.

How do we do this?

VCFSE support organisations have collectively engaged with public and private sector partners on a City Region level since 2004. In 2015, we formally launched the VS6 partnership in order to provide a voice, platform and action model for VCFSE participation. We're focused on driving positive change by connecting the VCFSE sector with our developing city region. Together, we have links to 8,600 organisations across the six boroughs, and aim to support these groups – many integral to our communities - to collectively influence decision making.

How we have supported the VCFSE sector through the Covid-19 Pandemic

The members of the VS6 Partnership have worked on the frontline within their sub-regions in the response to the current crisis. This has included:

- Delivering the emergency response within communities with regards to access to food, medication & PPE.
- Supporting charities and community organisations working within their area, providing advice on issues such as safe operating practices and access to funding.
- Partnership member Community Foundation Merseyside has led on the distribution of £1.6m to the front line raised through the Metro Mayor's LCR Cares fund.
- Co-ordinating volunteers on behalf of local authorities, the NHS and the national scheme, ensuring relevant DBS checks and risk assessments are carried out.
- Representing the VCFSE sector on several resilience & recovery groups including the Liverpool City Region Business & Economic Recovery Panel and Cheshire & Merseyside VCFSE Health & Care Leaders Group.
- Providing the Local Authorities and Regional Combined Authority with valuable "on the ground" information about the situation in local communities, indicating where the urgent and emerging issues lie, and enabling a swift response from the authorities.

The Partnership has also contributed to the debate as to how the region should seek to rebuild and recover from the pandemic. It has convened a series of themed online assembly events attended by representatives from over 160 different organisations. These events are being used to gather information and thoughts from the VCFSE sector which will then be brought together into a report. The partnership has also contributed to the Metro Mayor's "Build Back Better" campaign and the recently published Economic Recovery Plan, which highlights the vital role that the VCFSE sector can play in the regions' future.

