

No. 16

One of a series of
Partners in practice
from the Building
Health Partnerships
programme

Building Health Partnerships

Health and Employment

Nottingham

Despite numbers claiming Jobseekers Allowance falling in Nottingham, the total long-term unemployed claiming Employment Support Allowance remained high. Nottingham BHP focused on strengthening the link between health and employment support.

The Impact:

BHP in Nottingham has:

- Improved engagement with the Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector as a key partner in the support pathway
- Mapped current activity and increased understanding of different partner contributions
- Worked jointly to improve insight into current health and employment needs
- Featured in the [Work Foundation Report](#)
- Facilitated links between the Institute of Health Equity and The Work Foundation and links to Public

Health England to complement their work on worklessness and Health Inequalities including research, policy and practice perspectives.

The partnership has also provided foundations and potential for:

- A pathway to be created and shared with clinicians, citizens and cross-sector workers
- Identifying joint commissioning opportunities for local health and employment support services post March 2016.

IVAR Institute for
Voluntary Action Research



NHS
England

Background

Despite numbers claiming Jobseekers Allowance falling in Nottingham, the total long-term unemployed claiming Employment Support Allowance remained high. Whilst a small proportion of these people are assisted through initiatives such as the Work Programme, for many the lack of integrated health and employment support resulted in them continuing to struggle with a range of health conditions, particularly mental health problems.

The BHP group in Nottingham decided to focus on improving the experience and outcomes for Nottingham citizens and strengthening the link between health and employment support. Strong elements of the programme were the cross-sector partnership, as well as learning from and developing good practice models across the sectors with a common vision and proposals for action.

About Building Health Partnerships

The Building Health Partnerships Programme aims to improve health outcomes through supporting the development of effective partnerships between Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), local authorities and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations. Supported by NHS England this programme is delivered by Social Enterprise UK and the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR). It takes a facilitative approach working with a cross sector group.

“Sometimes an impetus is needed to bring people together BHP provides that. By focusing on just a couple of main priorities we have given ourselves the chance to see real, measurable results”

The core sessions include the following:

- A diagnostic session to create a shared understanding of the local and national health context
- A partnership development session to cement partnership working and develop an area based action plan to address the key challenges
- An expert seminar to tackle specific local needs and build local knowledge
- A partnership development session to embed learning and review action plans
- Additional bespoke support from a dedicated facilitator.

www.socialenterprise.org.uk

Our approach

Nottingham BHP brought together a cross sector group that aimed to create a greater awareness of the importance of (mental) health and well-being within employment support pathways with a view to reducing duplication of commissioned support services in this area. A key aspect of the programme was focused around improving the engagement of the VCSE sector in the health and employment agenda and to examine how cross-sector partnership working might be sustained for the future.

The programme took a partnership asset-based approach led by the Fit for Work Team, Nottingham City Council's Public Health team, Nottingham CVS and Nottingham City CCG who:

- Jointly facilitated four development sessions for cross-sector partners attended by a wide range of partners including VCSE organisations, Public Health, Employment and Skills, Social Housing, The Work Foundation, GP leads for Mental Health and the DWP.

- Mapped information on health and employment provision for inclusion in a directory being produced by Self Help UK, a forerunner to a wider online directory being commissioned by Nottingham City Council and NHS Nottingham City CCG as part of the response to the Care Act. It is likely to be completed early in 2017 and is planned to complement the Nottingham Help Yourself Directory.
- A wide range of speakers engaged with the group from:

[The Work Foundation](#)
[Working Well Manchester](#)
[Opportunity Nottingham](#)
[Institute of Health Equity](#)

The speakers provided great insights into both national research and practice that provided a valuable source of learning for participants as well as reinforcing the need for this valuable work in joining up priorities, resources and outcomes for a more coordinated approach.

The future

Activity continues with a planned action learning visit to Big Life's Working Well Manchester initiative and input from:

- Greater Manchester Mental Health and Employment Trailblazer
- The two different Fit for Work offers: One 'in work' and one 'out of work'
- A representative involved in increasing skills and employment opportunities within public services (directly or through procurement) for people with long term conditions (LTC) including mental health
- Liaison with the CCG and the Healthcare Trust regarding the routine monitoring of employment status within primary and identified elements of secondary healthcare provision.

The mapping information will be available on the [Nottingham Self Care](#) website developed by Self Help UK. A consensus has been reached on the need of a 'gateway' to direct individuals to appropriate support to meet their needs, the BHP group will work towards delivering this in Nottingham.

Find out more:

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[Social Enterprise UK](#)

We are the national body for social enterprise. We are a membership organisation. We offer business support, do research develop policy, campaign, build networks, share knowledge and understanding and raise awareness of social enterprise and what it can achieve.

[Institute of Voluntary Action Research](#)

We work to understand, support and strengthen voluntary and community sector organisation and management using action research. We work collaboratively; concentrate on problem solving; and want our work to be relevant and useful.