

# System P

## Halton Complex Lives Community of Practice

The Halton COP has been supported by Halton & St Helens VCA, through our Halton Place team. It has connected to work that has already been underway on system change with One Halton Place partners and via our Core 20 Plus 5 approach. The Halton VCFSE Place Forum was utilised as the starting point for conversations on Complex Lives as the groups attending are those often focused on the work supporting the most complex families in Halton. We undertook the following tasks from the initial proposal submitted across Cheshire & Merseyside.

1. Initial exploration and clarification of those organisations supporting individuals or families within the Complex Lives cohort within the place. Understanding the nature of their service offer, their key relationships and interfaces both within the sector and with broader health and care partners – ***The Halton Place team undertook an exercise in mapping those groups who were not currently attending the VCFSE Forum and MH Forum but could contribute to the Complex Lives agenda and engaged them in the work. We have a sub-list of members who are key to the delivery of work from our sector point of view***
2. Spending time raising awareness and generating local interest in developing a Community of Practice (CoP) model for Complex Lives. Facilitating sector and systems to meet up with the delivery of a place event as a starting point – ***this was undertaken at the VCFSE Place Forum by the VCA CEO***
3. Creation of an ongoing Community of Practice model at place for Complex Lives with a flexible and responsive agenda, as deemed most appropriate by its membership – ***this will be picked up by the VCFSE Place Forum and the VCFSE MH Alliance as specific agenda items to avoid establishing a further network.***
4. Connect the CoP into the Place governance arrangements for health and care and ensure an ongoing dialogue and mutually responsive and supportive approach – ***this work has been linked into the Wider Determinants group as part of the One Halton Place Board. VCA CEO is the joint SRO for this group.***

We used the investment to support the sector's engagement in the developing Wider Determinants group as part of the One Halton Partnership, the Core 20 Plus 5 work and our VCFSE Forum. More than 70 groups have participated in this work in Halton through those key mechanisms. In addition to this a focus on Domestic Abuse and women emerged. We are working with local groups to support the creation of a Womankind network that will support people experiencing domestic abuse as this was identified as a key gap in the service offer in Halton.

## **Key Learning Points**

- 1)** It has been important to link this work to key networks and forums. Halton is a small Borough and the local sector were keen not to establish another COP for this work. There is a view that including this in thematic networks makes most sense for now.
- 2)** There are a number of strands of work underway in Halton. System Change Programme with Lloyds Bank Foundation, Core 20 Plus 5 peer support implementation that are all connected to addressing complex lives and this piece of work has naturally connected to them
- 3)** Groups need ongoing support to influence and shape the local approach
- 4)** There is more to do on creating space for the VCFSE sector to respond as part of the local solution
- 5)** Having dedicated capacity has and will enable the sector to get more closely connected to the Complex Lives agenda.

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