

 **Neighbourhood Health**

VCFSE MAPPING WORKSHOP

A summary and analysis



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WARRINGTON VOLUNTARY ACTION
www.warringtonva.org.uk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Quick summary	2
Assets.....	2
East	2
Asset summary	2
Communities.....	2
Outcomes	3
Physical assets	3
West	3
Asset summary	3
Communities.....	3
Outcomes	3
Physical assets	4
South	4
Asset summary	4
Communities.....	4
Outcomes	4
Physical assets	4
North	5
Asset summary	5
Communities.....	5
Outcomes	5
Physical assets	5
Population challenges.....	5
Seeking support.....	5
Risks / gaps	5
Underserved groups:.....	6
Appendix 1	7
Assets (what’s strong)	7
Population behaviour (how people engage).....	7
Risks / Gaps (where people fall through)	8

Introduction

This is a summary of the information shared by the attendees of the VCFSE mapping workshop held in January 2026.

The information was transcribed, analysed for trends, and arranged into the summary below. The transcriptions and analysis were then processed by an AI tool resulting in Appendix 1.

Quick summary

Hubs or support - community hubs, cafés, social/leisure spaces, faith venues and groups are the most trusted entry points. There are strong anchor organisations, but they are not present or replicated everywhere.

Information matters - where signposting is strong uptake appears higher.

Accessing services or support - signposting is inconsistent and weak as are referral processes.

Inclusion gaps persist - Deaf access/BSL, men experiencing domestic abuse, and working-aged men need clearer, safer pathways. This does not acknowledge any cultural or heritage gaps unreferenced in the Jan26 session.

Mental health - long waits for talking therapy, gaps for younger men and women of all ages and thin bereavement/family-therapy pathways across areas.

Transport and affordability - travel costs and limited options reduce reach, household budgeting/benefits advice and crisis support remain essential.

Assets

East

Asset summary

Communities

Carers' – peer support

CYP - education

Disabled people services – equipment and accessibility

Disabled people services – practical support

Disabled people services – social opportunities

Families - fitness / family activities

Families - PTA-led activities.

Older people – dementia-friendly/focused

Outcomes

Culture and Identity - Faith-based community spaces – Christian ideology
Financial sustainability - Community Food (pantry/foodbank)
Social Connections – art/craft groups
Social Connections – community cafés
Wellbeing - Social prescriber services

Physical assets

Charity Retail
Community Centres – Independent
Community Centres - WBC
Green spaces and parks

West

Asset summary

Communities

Cancer support services (patient, survivor, and connected people) – wellbeing and Carers’ – peer support
CYP - education
CYP – social and leisure opportunities
Deaf People services – social and practical
Disabled people services – equipment and accessibility
Disabled people services – practical support
Disabled people services – social opportunities
Domestic Abuse Services – support and refuge services
Family services – counselling and family cohesion
Family services – CYP health and development support
Family services – practical support
Mental wellbeing - low level intervention
Mental wellbeing – peer support,
Older People services – practical and information
Older People services – social and befriending
People with substance use needs – information and support.
Tenants – residents’ associations / neighbourhood watch
Visually Impaired People services – social and practical

Outcomes

Culture and Identity - Faith-based community spaces – Christian ideology
Environmental sustainability – community garden
Financial Stability - Community Food Support – affordable food / foodbank / pantry
Social Connections – community cafés

Physical assets

Charity Retail
Community Centres – Independent
Community Centres – WBC
Community Radio
Green spaces and parks

South

Asset summary

Communities

Carers' – peer support
CYP – social opportunities
Older People services – practical and information
Older People services – social and befriending
Families – carer/child groups

Outcomes

Culture and Identity – cultural expression (music and theatre)
Culture and Identity - Faith-based community spaces – Christian ideology
Culture and Identity – local history and heritage
Independent living – people with learning disability support
Social Connections – community cafés
Wellbeing – bereavement support
Wellbeing – counselling / therapy
Wellbeing – peer support
Wellbeing – physical activity

Physical assets

Charity Retail
Community Centres – Independent
Community Centres – WBC
Community Radio
Environmental sustainability - allotments
Environmental sustainability – community gardens
Green spaces and parks

North

Asset summary

Communities

Military veterans – mental wellbeing
Military veterans – social support
Migrants – forced and economic
Migrants – asylum seekers and refugees
Older people – dementia-friendly/focused

Outcomes

Culture and Identity - Faith-based community spaces – Christian ideology
Social Connections – community cafés
Social Connections – leisure opportunities
Wellbeing – physical activity
Culture and Identity – cultural expression (music and theatre)

Physical assets

Charity Retail
Community Centres – Independent
Community Centres - WBC
Environmental sustainability – community forest
Green spaces and parks
Transport – Community Bus

Population challenges

Seeking support

There was a universality across the neighbourhoods to where people sought support.

As a summary:

- Existing VCFSE groups / services
- Faith spaces
- Health services
- Leisure spaces – pubs and recreation
- Word of mouth - Neighbours / close communities / friends / family

People will go to specific organisations, but the overarching theme is that people seek informal sources or add it to another transaction (GP appointment).

Risks / gaps

This an investigation and summary of the points made through the population behaviour and analysis sections.

Multi-morbidity - People tend to join groups and access services for multiple reasons simultaneously and their choices do not necessarily reflect their true situation.

Self-worth - Some feel they don't deserve or qualify for support. They can also feel they are taking up a space meant for others

Reaching crisis point - Anxiety reduces engagement and people often wait until a point of crisis or when the problems have become insurmountable before seeking support.

Access and navigation - Communication barriers (especially for Deaf residents), weak signposting, and outdated directories make it hard for people to find the right help. Fragmented 'what's on' information, unclear eligibility for services and weak referral processes in places.

Transport – Affordable community transport is limited, people's ability to attend can depend heavily on it.

Mental wellbeing - Long waits for clinical talking therapies. Men (especially under-30s) and women's mental health continues to need focused support. Social anxiety is common. Local, accessible bereavement support is still insufficient despite café provision.

Equity vs. demand - Geographic inequity in services and rising demand strain existing capacity.

Referral loops and weak/unstable pathways - People bounce between gatekeepers there are unclear routes and few single front doors. Too frequently a high degree of navigation is required and being able to do it without professional support can be challenging.

Volunteer sustainability - Volunteer burnout and fragile groups threaten continuity and quality. Wider volunteer support is needed.

Money and sustainable living - need for budgeting education and regular benefits/debt/energy advice. Daily living and crisis support that reaches housebound residents.

Digital access - Some residents whilst having the equipment need reliable phone/Wi-Fi and digital drop-ins to reach services.

Underserved groups:

- Working-aged men/families
- Single parents
- LGBTQ+ safe social spaces
- Men and boys experiencing Domestic Abuse
- Social options for older men

- Family therapy and whole-family wrap-around support
- SEND-aware support.
- Deaf CYP peer support

Appendix 1

Below is an AI summary of the findings and analysis. Please note the potential inaccuracy of an AI summary.

Assets (what's strong)

- Trusted front doors: community/warm hubs, cafés, churches/faith venues, Family Hubs, DA hubs, community centres, WDP/CIL and Youth Zone.
- Advice and signposting network: GPs/social prescribing, housing teams, local radio/Neighbourhood News, WDP Birchwood Store, Citizens Advice/The Gateway, Living Well Hub.
- Voluntary and specialist anchors: Warrington Speak Up, MacIntyre, St Rocco's Hospice, Warrington Wolves Foundation, Warrington Housing Association, Salvation Army, Home-Start.
- Everyday social offers: dementia cafés, craft/knit groups, walking/gardening/allotments, choirs, lunch clubs, Men's Sheds, conversation cafés.
- Food and essentials network: Foodbank points, community pantry/Little Shop, The Bread-and-Butter Thing, community shops.

South: Lymm Sanctuary Hub; Oughtrington Community Centre; dementia cafés and walking groups; St Rocco's bereavement café.

East: Warm hubs/community cafés; WDP Birchwood Store (signposting); Encounter Centre; Radio Warrington; pantry/Little Shop.

North: Family Hubs; Youth Zone; WDP/CIL; faith/community centres; direct payments/equipment loans; warm spaces.

West: Living Well Hub; Citizens Advice/The Gateway; Warrington Women's Aid; Warrington and District Society for Deaf People; WDP; The Bread-and-Butter Thing; Foodbank; Salvation Army; St Joseph's Family Centre; Youth Zone.

Population behaviour (how people engage)

- People trust local gatekeepers (GPs, schools/PTAs, churches, housing teams, known volunteers/connectors and recognised hubs).
- People prefer nearby, informal, low-cost options; word-of-mouth is the main way people hear about help.

- Late help-seeking is common; some feel they don't 'deserve' or 'qualify' for support.
- Transport drives attendance (cost/availability, including Dial-a-Ride constraints).
- Volunteer energy is strong but fragile due to time and funding pressures.

South: Reliance on community loops and trusted intermediaries; discovery via cafés/churches and neighbours.

East: GPs/social prescribing, WDP Birchwood Store and local radio boost uptake; daytime groups are popular.

North: Seasonal spikes (winter) for warm spaces and money help; stigma/anxiety affects men and working-age adults.

West: Common routes: GPs, schools, CAB/The Gateway, Living Well Hub; everyday places (parks, libraries, faith groups, walking groups) support connection.

Risks / Gaps (where people fall through)

- Domestic abuse (men): low visibility and unclear/refuge pathways; follow-on practical help inconsistent.
- Deaf access and inclusion: no obvious local Deaf meeting point in places; communication barriers (BSL/clear language); limited peer support for Deaf children/young people.
- Mental health and bereavement: long waits for talking therapies; thin bereavement and family-therapy/mediation pathways; women's mental-health provision limited in places.
- Transport and reach: affordable/accessible transport is a blocker; postcode inequities noted (e.g., Birchwood/North).
- Money and essentials: need for budgeting education and regular benefits/debt/energy advice; crisis support that reaches housebound residents; VCS funding uncertainty.
- Information and navigation: fragmented 'what's on', unclear eligibility and weak referral connections in places.
- Digital access: some residents need reliable phone/Wi Fi and digital drop ins to reach services.
- Housing quality: mould/damp and disrepair; shortage of accessible/affordable housing; advice capacity and coordination issues.

South: Fewer local youth groups; more family-focused help needed (family therapy, SEND-aware support); gaps for men's mental-health/social spaces and LGBTQ+ safe social options; transport and bereavement barriers.

East: Limited bereavement/counselling capacity; weak housebound access to crisis food; limited women's mental-health support; not enough day opportunities/respite (esp. dementia); pest-service capacity flagged.

North: Working single parents and working-aged men underserved; long waits for therapy/family mediation; transport barriers; eligibility confusion for community/food shops.

West: CDC waiting lists; more neurodiversity health support; support for dads/male carers and carers of adult children; bereavement and parenting guidance; inclusive/culturally appropriate spaces; communication barriers; community transport gaps; accessible/affordable housing shortages; damp/mould help; unclear rights/responsibilities; need to keep 'what's on' current.