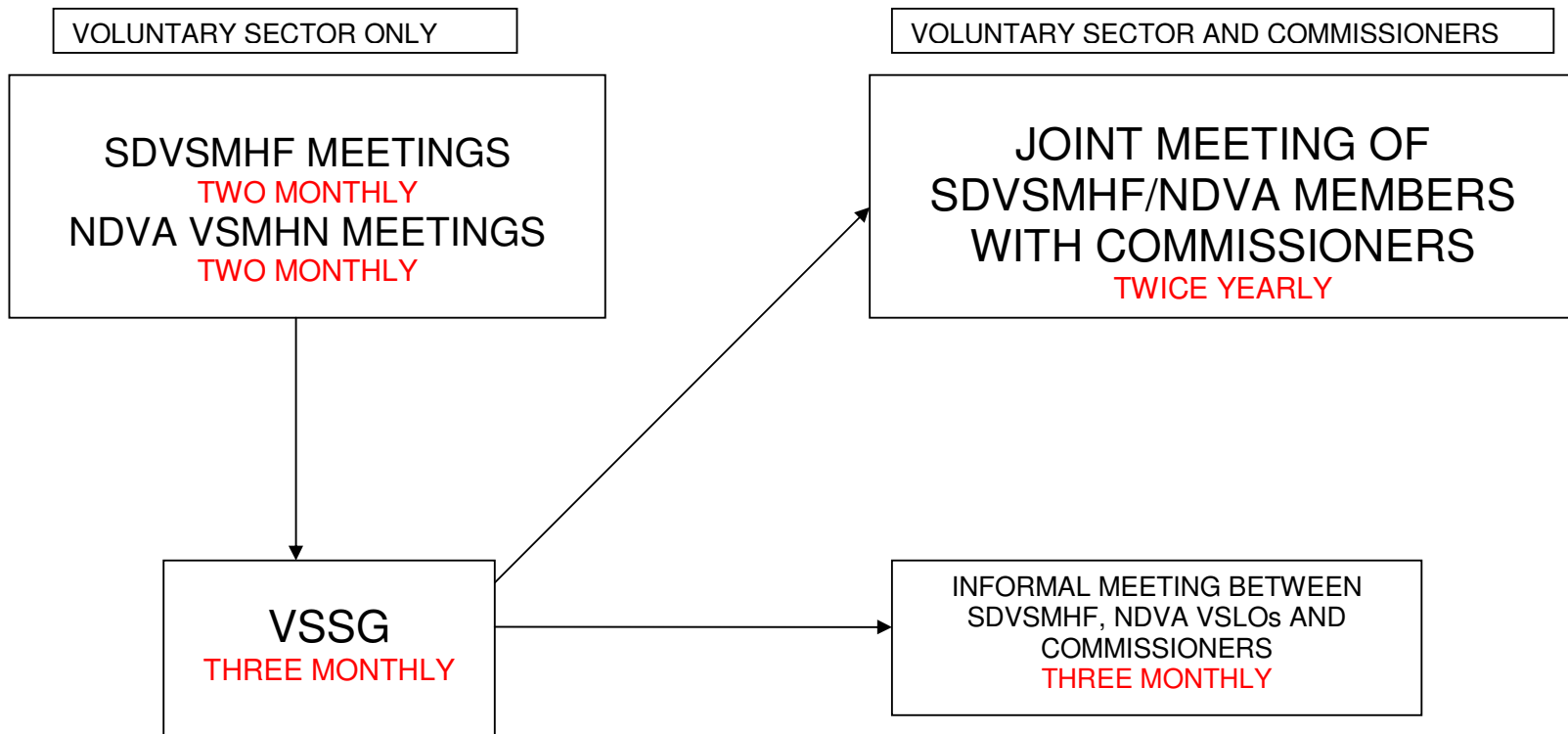


VOLUNTARY SECTOR STRATEGY GROUP REVIEW

PROPOSAL FOR REVISED STRUCTURE FOR ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND MENTAL HEALTH VOLUNTARY SECTOR



This proposal was prepared by Commissioners, Voluntary Sector Liaison officers and VSSG members during October and November 2009

NOTES ON PROPOSED STRUCTURE

COVERAGE

At the current time this new structure relates to the voluntary sector relationship with Derbyshire County PCT only. Separate mechanisms for dialogue between the voluntary sector and NHS Derby City are being developed. VSSG members have expressed a strong wish for this to be extended into a joint structure for engagement with Derbyshire County and Derby City commissioners, from both PCTs and councils.

MEETINGS

SDVSMHF and NDVA VSMHN members will continue to meet two-monthly as currently in the south and north of the county respectively. Twice a year they will come together in a single county-wide meeting with commissioners. All members of both SDVSMHF and NDVA VSMHN will be able to attend these meetings.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR STRATEGY GROUP

The Voluntary Sector Strategy group will continue to meet, but at three-monthly intervals and without commissioners. It will consist of eight voluntary sector representatives plus the two Voluntary Sector Liaison Officers (north and south county.)

REPRESENTATION

SDVSMHF and NDVA VSMHN will elect four voluntary sector representatives from their area to attend the revised Voluntary Sector Strategy Group. This will be for an agreed period of time, possibly two years. Members so elected will need to commit to attend both VSSG and their local Forum (SDVSMHF or NDVA VSMHN) during the time they are representatives.

The purpose of the VSSG will be to jointly consider issues that have been raised at SDVSMHF or NDVA VSMHN meetings and decide upon future actions.

Issues considered at VSSG can either be raised by the two Voluntary Sector Liaison Officers informally at their regular meeting with commissioners or formally at the twice yearly Joint Meeting with all members and commissioners. Which meeting allocated will depend upon urgency, process, confidentiality etc Likewise issues will be brought to either meeting by commissioners as appropriate.

COUNTY WIDE JOINT MEETING

The purpose of the joint meetings will be to consider the following items:

1. strategic direction of services
2. changes in commissioning policy
3. commissioning intentions and tendering schedules
4. general contract management issues
5. financing of the sector including changes to funding mechanisms, funding uplifts, new proposals for funding
6. voluntary sector key concerns
7. commissioning issues not covered above.

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The meetings will have a pre-agreed agenda and questions will be submitted by either side prior to the meeting so that considered answers can be given at the meeting.

NOTES ON THE PROCESS FOR CONSULTATION, AGREEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

This paper has been discussed and agreed at VSSG on 11 November 2009. It is now being circulated to NDVA VSMHN and SDVSMHF members and will be discussed at their respective meetings in December 2009 and January 2010. There will be no VSSG in January. The results of the consultation will be discussed between the two Voluntary Sector Liaison Officers and commissioners and a firm proposal will be submitted by commissioners to Mental Health Strategic Partnership Group (MHSPG) on 28 January 2010.

If agreed, the proposed meeting cycle for 2010/2011 will begin on 2 March 2010 with a County wide Joint Meeting. A future timetable might therefore look something like this:

DATE	2010 - MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
MEETING	JOINT COUNTY WIDE	VSSG	SDVSMHF; NDVA VSMHN	INFORMAL VSLOs/COMMISSIONERS	SDVSMHF; NDVA VSMHN	VSSG
DATE	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	2011 - JANUARY	FEBRUARY
MEETING	JOINT COUNTY WIDE	VSSG	SDVSMHF; NDVA VSMHN	INFORMAL VSLOs/COMMISSIONERS	SDVSMHF; NDVA VSMHN	VSSG

FIT INTO STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WORKING

It is the role of Mental health strategic Partnership Group (MHSPG) to approve the mechanism for how the new structure will work, but the new structure will NOT be directly accountable to MHSPG. MHSPG will ensure that any strategic issues that impact onto the voluntary sector will be passed onto the new structure for consideration. This includes any issues raised in the commissioning groups. Any voluntary sector issues that once discussed need a wider strategic response may be submitted to MHSPG through the VSLOs and Commissioners.

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