



Chief Executives Network

Bringing together VCFS leaders

c/o CVS Cheshire East

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Mark Palethorpe
Acting Executive Director of People
Cheshire East Council
Westfields,
Sandbach.

Dear Mark,

As you will be aware, the third sector across Cheshire East performs a hugely important role in providing a wide range of services to our communities. Without such services, a large number of vulnerable people would not receive the vital support that we currently offer. We are therefore seriously concerned at the reduction in the funding of services typically delivered by third sector organisations. We believe the implications of these decisions are that it will lead to a reduction in the size and variety of the local third sector market and the ability of vulnerable people to access vital services. This also seriously threatens the longer-term viability of many of our organisations.

Whilst we remain extremely concerned by this downward trend in the funding of services by the statutory sector, we realise that you too face significant reductions in your own funding due to pressures from central government.

We recognise that due to your funding pressures there is the possibility that services you will be commissioning the third sector to deliver will continue to reduce year on year as you focus more and more on your statutory functions. That is why we wish to make an offer to work with you to ensure there continues to be focused service delivery over the next few years. As well as working with you to deliver contracts under the Early Help framework, we would like to start an early dialogue with you about how our sector can work with you on securing alternative funding for a wider range of services. These could be services which you may no longer be able to fund but we all recognise that there is a demand for in the community. We wish to work with you on this as, along with providing savings for the statutory sector, it will also enable the third sector to be able to focus on their service delivery over the longer term with greater clarity. We believe that it is vital that there is a thriving third sector in Cheshire East able to deliver services to our community.

There are already several of our third sector partners who have a varied funding model or who undertake commercial activity to generate their own funds. We would therefore like to build on this expertise and explore with you how our sector may move away from central funding, by investigating more innovative methods of income generation or service delivery, allowing all parties to better focus on the things that we all do best without the annual round of budget and service cuts.

Our sector is uniquely placed to deliver high quality services to a wide range of citizens of Cheshire East, and by utilising a combination of paid staff and volunteers, can do so at a very reasonable cost. We would hope that you could support us in exploring new funding methods and perhaps enabling us to access particular funding streams, to help guarantee a longer-term future for the quality services we deliver. The aim of this work is not self-preservation, rather a strong desire to protect the services provided to some of the most vulnerable residents in our communities.

We look forward to discussing this with you at the up-coming round table event and hearing from you about how you could work with us to take this initiative forward.

Yours Sincerely

Laura Smith	Chief Executive	Disability Information Bureau
Mark Hills	Chief Executive	YMCA Crewe
Damon Taylor	Chief Executive	Age UK Cheshire East
Rebecca Lea	Centre Manager	Bridgend Centre
Mark Reading	Chief Operating Officer	Cheshire Community Action
Sarah Rawsthorn	Director	Edge Inclusion Partners
Stephanie Lawley	Service Delivery Manager	Central Cheshire Buddy Scheme
Julia Wood	Project Manager	South Cheshire CLASP
Liz Shaw	Chief Executive	Citizens Advice Cheshire East
Mark Geraghty	Chief Officer	Seashell Trust
Will McKellar	Chief Officer	Citizens Advice Cheshire North
Christine Baker	Manager	Home-start Cheshire
Matthew Lanham	Chief Executive	Neuromuscular Centre
Lynne Turnbull	Chief Executive Officer	Cheshire Centre for Independent living
Amanda Bennett	Area Manager	The Children's Society
Marie Corran	Assistant Director Children's Services	Barnardo's
Roger Millns	Chair	Audlem & District Community Action
Jo Hawkins	Operational Manager	Alzheimer's Society
Salli Jeynes	Chief Executive	The End of Life Partnership
Gillian Jones	Manager	Friends for Leisure
Brian Davey	Coordinator	Westwood House Child Contact Centre
Ann Wright	Chief Executive	Just Drop-in