**NEL Mental Health Alliance**

The Alliance itself developed out of the original work done through Talking Listening and Working Together, which identified mental health as a priority through consultation across sectors and through wider engagement.

This led to a Mental Health Working Group.

Through investment made by Rethink Mental Illness, a post and development funding was made available to form the Mental Health Alliance, members of the working group unanimously agreed that the working group should become the Alliance, and this became so.

Initially Rethink proposed that the Alliance was made up of VCSE members, with invited guests from Public Sector/Statutory Bodies. As a result of an Insight Survey developed by NELC, and through conversations with health partners, it became apparent that, professionals, partners, and the wider public felt that a ‘whole system approach’ was needed to tackle issues, and the gaps, that existed in mental health service delivery across all sectors.

Therefore, it was agreed the Alliance would be open to any NEL organisation that had an interest or an impact upon good mental health. Funding was made available to smaller VCSE organisations, as they told us that capacity to attend meeting was an issue. Nearly 40 people attend meetings regularly.

The Alliance membership now stands at 44 members, with representation from the VCSE, NAViGO, Young Minds Matter, Compass Go, Public Health, HCP and Experts by Experience.

To date the Alliance has delivered or developed 4 collaborative and coproduced projects.

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