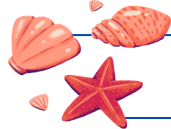




Members Quarterly Update



Issue No. 4 | June 2026

A note from our CEO: Louise McDade

This quarter we've worked closely with Bolton Council and the NHS through the CYP Partnership and Prevention Board and the Safeguarding Partnership to advocate for the role the VCSE and our members can play in the Families First reforms and the role we play in supporting children and families. We've provided constructive challenge and explored future funding opportunities. We've shared examples of the difference you make, fed back on the challenges experienced and learnt, and understood the challenges our statutory partners face - including significant reforms and tight timescales set by government for detailed actions plans on children's social care and SEND reforms. These changes also bring opportunities to work differently. I am privileged to sit in rooms where I represent you and continue to highlight your impact.

This year marks 5 years since the establishment of the IThrive Referral Hub. 5,372 young people have been supported over this time. We are very proud of this central point of access for early support and intervention and our child and family led approach.

Enjoy the updates and remember to get in touch to discuss how we can collaborate further.

Email: louise.mcdade@boltontogogether.org.uk

All the very best, Louise



Bolton in Focus - Summer



Taken by a young person at Be The Change completing a Nature Photography Portfolio for DojE.

If you know a young person who would like to share their snapshots for 'Bolton in Focus', please email: Rimsha.Rasul@BoltonTogether.Org.Uk by 3rd September 2026.

We're now accepting new members!

We are now open to accepting new membership applications. If you know of an organisation that is interested in joining Bolton Together, please share our 'Becoming a Member' webpage with them:

[Journey to becoming a Member of Bolton Together](#) 

Thank you to all members who have completed our 2026 Bolton Together Membership Agreement. If you are yet to sign the agreement, please take a look in your inbox, have a read of your new agreement, then sign and return.




Members Spotlight!

Fortalice - Youth Ambassador Event

Our CEO joined the Fortalice Youth Ambassador Event on 10th June, to hear about their Street Harassment Project and view the films young people had made.

“The work the young people have produced is impressive, and hearing from the Youth Ambassadors was inspiring illustrating the fantastic young people we have in Bolton. This is a project everyone involved in should be very proud of.” Louise McDade.



As part of the project a series of items have been produced, including a wristband, water bottle and personal alarm with a powerful slogan created by the young people, ‘Clock It, Call It, Change It’. To find out more about Fortalice, visit: <https://fortalice.org.uk/> 

Flowhession Foundation - Room Hire

Flowhession Foundation would like to offer an **exclusive 10% discount** for Bolton Together members who wish to book the All Souls space in Halliwell. If you are interested in booking the space, please email: site.manager@allsoulsbolton.org.uk.



Interested in sharing your expertise as part of our funding panels?

A big thank you to Jason from Raise the Youth Foundation, Elinor from Breastfeeding Together and Becky from Bolton Toy Library for joining our funding panels recently.
Your input and insight has been extremely valuable.

If any of our members would like to know more about being part of one of our panels in the future, please contact: Anne.Gray@boltontgether.org.uk to find out more. All conflicts of interests are managed carefully. Your input not only ensures we are making robust decisions and utilising our members expertise, it enables you to gain insight into our decision making processes and discover what makes a strong application.



Key Updates

Best Start in Life Family Hub funding

We are delighted to have secured a further 1.5 million pounds from Bolton Council to continue delivering our successful Early Years Family Hub Programme over the next three years. This funding enables nine of our members to continue to provide exceptional support to families across Bolton, with the programme now confirmed to continue from September 2026 to March 2029.

Bolton Together Evaluation

We're excited to share that Bolton Together has commissioned an evaluation by the Centre for Local Economies (CLES). They will develop a qualitative and quantitative report capturing the impact of our work and what it means for us, our members, and families across Bolton. As part of this evaluation, CLES will be inviting some of our members to share their experiences. Please look out for your invitation, your voice is important to us.

The Eco Toolkit

We've been a member of a codesign group over the past few months, working with Turn Up the Value to develop a VCSE Eco Toolkit. Our contributions included shaping funding opportunities in the *Pitch for the Planet* initiative, and co-creating the toolkit which features; a home working audit, a self-assessment, and free, cost-effective resources to help VCSE organisations adopt greener, more environmentally conscious practices. Following completion of our self assessment we're now implementing ways to become a more eco friendly organisation.

To complete a self assessment for your organisation, visit: [Eco Toolkit Self Assessment](#)

We're especially proud that one of our members secured funding through the *Pitch for the Planet* grants. **Congratulations** to the young leaders Chrispin and Freya at Be The Change for coming 1st place at *Pitch for the Planet*, and securing £750 to bring their idea to life.





Key Updates



IThrive: Open Water Safety Presentation

Our IThrive team has created a water safety presentation about swimming in open water. This includes printable resources to share with Children and Young People. Check out the presentation here: [Bolton Together Open Water Safety](#).

Summer Wellbeing Booklet

Our annual summer wellbeing booklet will be available in July with a focus on getting active outdoors! The booklet will contain wellbeing resources, local groups and support, and a guide to outdoor events around Bolton. Keep an eye on our socials and website for this!



IThrive Navigators Neurodiversity Support - Update

Our IThrive Navigators have accepted **64** referrals since the service began delivery in January 2026. 14 have completed their journey with us, while the remainder are on an active caseload, ensuring there is no waiting list.

In the next quarter, the Navigators will offer monthly Outreach sessions. This will be an opportunity for families to discuss concerns and next steps, including, signposting to appropriate resources or services, being allocated to an IThrive provider, or being added to the Navigator caseload for continued support, click to book: [Navigator Outreach Sessions](#)

For more information go to: [IThrive for Neurodiversity](#).

Hello from our new Mental Health Project Officer: Sam Farrow

I'm Sam, the Mental Health Project Officer. I started the role in April and have enjoyed getting to know the Bolton Together Team and settling into the role.



My background is providing peer support to families in Bolton, so I have a good knowledge of the local support on offer. I am very passionate about the benefits of being active outdoors, and the positive impact this can have on mental health and wellbeing.

Learn more about Sam and meet the Bolton Together team here: [Who Are We](#)



Showcasing Members Delivery

Mini Roadshow

In May, Sandra Bruce, Director of Children's Services, Bolton Council, joined us for a mini roadshow. Sandra had the opportunity to meet with some of our providers. This was a chance to showcase the difference we all make across Bolton and an opportunity to discuss how we work together. Thank you to Sandra and to all our members who took part.



Mini Road Show, The Flowhession Foundation Venue, All Souls, Bolton

SEND Reforms: A Brief Summary

The government has announced significant changes to how children with Special Educational Needs are supported in schools. This will impact the support that is available and how this is accessed. Although many of the changes directly affect schools, the wider community support that the VCSE and our members provide for children alongside statutory partners is vital for families. We have a good track record in Bolton of working collaboratively and will continue to do so to support children with additional needs. Further information and opportunities to discuss to follow. Read more here: [The key changes being made to special educational needs at a glance - BBC News](#)

"In Bolton, we want all children and young people's voices to be listened to and acted upon."

There is a new Children and Young People Engagement Strategy in Bolton. Children and young people will have opportunities to use their voices to ensure services are developed in a way that enables the best possible outcomes to be achieved for themselves and their peers. This is in terms of leading safe, happy, healthy, and successful lives. Check out the 2026-2029 CYP Engagement Strategy here: [Children and Young People Engagement Strategy](#)

The aim is that all organisations working with children and young people will familiarise themselves with the document, endorse it, and take accountability for delivering the strategy within their services, ensuring that the voices of young people are embedded throughout.

Bolton Together is now a member of the Alternative Provider Collaborative!



The APC are a partnership of social enterprises and charitable organisations dedicated to enabling engagement between social business providers, and the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System (ICS). **As members we are representing you at a Greater Manchester level!**



Neighbourhood Working

Piloting New Ways of Working in the East of Bolton

Bolton Together is part of a pilot in the East of Bolton (Brightmet, Tonge with the Haulgh, Little Lever) working with Bolton Council and the NHS as part of a multidisciplinary team to support families.



This collaborative approach will gather learning, and support expansion across neighbourhoods in Bolton, as part of the government Families First Reforms.

Colleagues across sectors are working together to support families at the right time and in the right way to improve their outcomes. We will share further information about this pilot and the reforms over the coming months. You can read a summary of the reforms here -

[Families First: The Bold Reform Reshaping UK Children's Social Care | LinkedIn](#)

Summer Holiday Activity and Food Programme Funding Awards

We are delighted to announce the following members have received funding to deliver HAF over the summer holidays: Be the Change, BLGC, Breaking Barriers, BWITC, The Flowhesion Foundation, Great Lever Voice, Krimmz, Little Bats Learning, and New Bury Boxing. This collective will provide a diverse offer for children and young people in Bolton, with a range of activities to choose from, and something for those with additional needs and teenagers too.



Find out more about their offer, and other provision in Bolton during the summer holidays for those in receipt of free school meals, here: [Holiday activities and food – Bolton Council](#) The site will be updated in the coming weeks with the new offer.

Funding Update

At our 2025 Annual Event we asked members how you thought we should distribute a £50,000 pot of funding. Please be assured we haven't forgotten about this.

We have delayed opening this to applications as we are working to secure match funding. We want to ensure this pot will go further for longer to support children and families. This is taking a little longer than hoped, and further details will follow in the next few months.

Our Bolton, Our Future

Genuine Futures have launched a community-wide listening campaign designed to gather the views of; young people, parents, carers, residents, employers, schools, community organisations, and professionals from across Bolton.

Have your say by completing the survey here: [survey](#)



Upcoming Events

Youth Against Violence: Learning Event - 13th July

Join us to discuss the Youth Against Violence Bolton priority. Discover what works well to support reduction and improve outcomes, and what more we need to do.

Bolton Together are co-hosting this event with partners BSCA, Flowhesion Foundation and Urban Outreach.

13th July 12:30 to 2pm at All Souls Church.
Lunch provided.

Please RSVP via [Eventbrite](#) by 1st July



You Said, We did

At our last peer learning session, you asked for a future session to discuss Marketing for VCSE's

This quarter, we are hosting a Peer Learning Workshop discussing Marketing for VCSE organisations.

Attend our upcoming peer learning workshop on 30th June 2026 at 10am-12pm, Tonge Family Hub. To reserve your place, please RSVP by emailing: Rimsha.Rasul@boltontgether.co.uk


Bolton Together - Annual Event

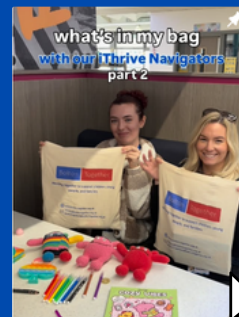
It's almost that time again! Our Annual Event is coming up in November 2026. Keep an eye on your inbox for further details!

FUND FACT

894 HAF places were funded over the May'26 half term! These funds were secured through the Crisis Resillience Fund from Bolton Council.

Learn more about the work our Navigators do!

Have you met our IThrive Navigators for Neurodiversity, Emma and Lauren, yet? We've had some fun on socials, bringing a twist to the 'What's in my bag' trend, to share more about the work our IThrive Navigators do. Watch the series by clicking the images 



Letter to the Editor

For queries regarding this edition, or if you have a young person who would like to share their snapshots for 'Bolton in Focus - Autumn', the September 2026 Issue, please email Rimsha Rasul at: Rimsha.Rasul@BoltonTogether.Org.Uk