

SWOT Analysis

This SWOT analysis supports the development of a system-wide strategy for VfH by identifying internal strengths and weaknesses, and external opportunities and threats. It reflects both the national direction set by the NHS 10-Year Plan and the realities of delivering volunteering in health across Northamptonshire.

Category	National Context	VfH Northants Context
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong alignment with NHS prevention and community care plans - National recognition of volunteering's role in 10-year plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established partnerships with VCSE and NHS bodies need strengthening - Volunteers know their communities - New Models of Care pilot considers future VCSE participation
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inconsistent funding and commissioning across regions - Limited national data on impact - Reduction of staff across the system - Commissioning and procurement changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reliance on short-term funding - Volunteer recruitment and retention challenges in rural areas - Partnerships with reduced funding - Reduced Local Area Partnerships - Ongoing staff shortages in Adult Social Care risks increase demand of low-funded VCSE organisation. - Volunteer recruitment challenges in rural areas
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NHS 10-Year Plan emphasis on prevention and community-based care - Digital tools to scale up sharing of volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration with Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) - Potential to influence ICB strategy through co-production
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk of being deprioritised in national funding decisions - Competition with other health initiatives and statutory agencies ICB - Digital Transformation being prioritised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New ICB structure may centralise decision-making, in detriment to specialised local VCSE organisations with diluted voice - Risk of losing local focus in a larger system - Risk of further increase in digital poverty