

Notes of VCS Assembly Steering Group

Wednesday 15th April 2015 12.00noon – 2p.m.

Present: Sue Ashmore, Cath George, Mike Gowland, Joe Jackson (chair), Rodney James, Ann Lyall, Ann Atkinson, (Caroline Saul).

Apologies: Sharon Spurling, Julie Dodson, Chris Orrick, Liz Prudhoe

1. Notes of last meeting and matters arising

Notes of the last meeting were agreed.

AL stated that in relation to the VCS Liaison Group, Tony Chapman from Durham University was unavailable to present on the Third Sector Trends Survey but it was hoped he could make the next meeting.

AA indicated that she was still waiting to hear whether Cllr. Val Tyler will be available to speak at Assembly event.

AA stated that she had circulated the paper on the Welfare Strategic Group and link to the European Structure Fund to Steering Group members.

The wider Assembly membership had been asked if anyone was interested in sitting on the Social Prescribing Planning Group. Interest was expressed by a few members and Carol Ashworth from Escape Trading was selected with Sharon Spurling from Carers Northumberland being a reserve.

2. VCS Liaison Group

Attendees at the VCS Liaison Group felt that there had been limited discussion on agenda items and that there appeared to be a lack of understanding amongst some council members about the role of the VCS Assembly and its relationship with the Council. As a consequence AA had revised the Statement of Intent to avoid the use of acronyms and produced a process chart to share with the Steering Group which she would then share with Kirsten Francis and the VCS Liaison Group..

Actions - AA to amend Statement of Intent to include NCC sharing information with colleagues and wider public services and VCS educating and raising awareness of the voluntary and community sector. Also revisions to the process chart to be made.

AL and JJ to meet with Kirsten Francis to discuss concerns and support to members, to improve knowledge

about the sector and ensure that future Liaison Group meetings are more productive.

3. VCS Assembly Event

Discussion about the agenda, event support, workshop and evaluation form took place. SA suggested that the key note speech should be at the end of the event following the workshop. JJ to open and close the event. CG raised the need to make sure that attendees are aware that we are working with other public bodies as well as NCC where we want to build up relationships and have an influence. Amendments to the evaluation form were suggested including adding social media and any other comments rather than 'if not satisfied give reasons'.

Action - AA to amend the agenda and evaluation form

4. VCS Assembly Work plan and progress report

AA reported on progress since the last meeting that was detailed in progress report.

5. Steering Group exit strategy and election process

AL suggested that a sub group of the Steering Group should work on the exit strategy and election process. SA volunteered to be part of the Group. JJ indicated that this would need to be finalised by the Event date so we could inform Assembly members at the event of the process..

Action - AA to arrange a meeting of the sub group and ask if any other Steering Group members would like to be involved.

6. Representation on the Strategic Support Group

AL stated that there had been no expression of interest to sit on the Youth Work Strategic Support Group and that this could be related to there being limited county wide youth organisations. AL would sit on the group in the interim.

7. Major issues affecting the sector.

It was decided to leave this agenda item to the next meeting as there was limited meeting time left to discuss it.

8. AOB

AL reported that it was a positive step forward that the Assembly was now involved in working collaboratively with Public Health, CCG's and sub groups of the Health and Well-Being Boards.

Date of next meeting **Wednesday 20th May 2015 at 12.00 noon.**