

Notes of VCS Assembly Executive Committee

Wednesday 23rd August 2017 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm

Northumberland CVA

Present: Joe Jackson, Ralph Firth, Jim Wyness, Anne Lyall, Julie Dodson, Sharon Spurling, Sue Ashmore, Ann Atkinson

Apologies Andy Haddon, Avril Gibson, Lewis Atkinson, John McGough

SS chaired the meeting until 1.30 p.m. and JJ took over from 1.30 p.m.

Jim Wyness, the new representative on the Executive Committee for SE Northumberland was welcomed to the meeting and other members introduced themselves.

1. Notes of last meeting and matter arising

Notes of last meeting agreed.

AA informed that she had been in contact with Louise Stobbart who informed her that the review of Community Safety Hubs had taken place but as there was now a new administration there would be further discussion on how they are delivered. AA will be included on the distribution list for agenda and minutes of future meetings.

JD had not had any response with regard to VCS representation on the Adult Safeguarding Board. If she has no response by the end of September she would inform AA so that the Assembly could follow this up.

JD reported that the draft Suicide Prevention Strategy was in the public domain and a Group will be monitoring the action plan. She asked whether we should comment and be represented on the monitoring group. It was suggested by SS that we should read the report and then decide if wanted to comment and have representation on the group from the VCS.

AA reported that she had raised the issue at the VCS Advisory Group about engaging with the Assembly rather than individuals regarding reports/consultations. Kirsten Francis said she would pick this up and inform appropriate officers.

Actions: JD to continue to follow up VCS representation on Adult Safeguarding Board, share work plan of Joint Communications Group once available and explore whether strategy in place in relation to mental health.

Members to read Suicide Prevention Strategy and inform AA if have comments and consider appropriate for VCS representation on the Group monitoring the action plan

2. Partnership working and feedback from members

Information had already been circulated to members about Health and Well Being Board from RF and Empowering People and Communities Leaders Group from SS.

AL reported that she had met with Tony Kirsop and Kirsten Francis who were very positive about what we had achieved. They would be going out to the voluntary sector with a survey to get the sector's views on the services provided by NCVA and then going out to tender which was a requirement after four years. There was some confusion expressed in relation to grants and tenders as it appeared that in relation to NCC, grants were turning into tenders and that there was a need for clarification on this. It was suggested that this should be raised at Liaison Group.

GS reported Berwick Voluntary Forum had changed its name to North Northumberland Voluntary Forum and was now a charitable company. They hold the lease on the Forum building, manage and lease it out, the main occupant being CAB, but unsure if will continue to use in future. The British Legion are also using it currently.

In terms of the uncertainty about the future plans of CAB it was suggested that we contact them to see if can send out a positive message through e-bulletin about outcome of the review.

JD reported that NCC now have in place 'First Contact' one place and one contact number for those working with children and families who will triaged and an assessment made. . This is being driven through safeguarding and about prevention. NCC has more cases than other local authorities that do not convert to child protection. NCC will be dealing with more high end so may have implications for the VCS in dealing with other cases. A multi agency safeguarding hub (MASH) is being launched in September for better coordination and transformation which will be wider than safeguarding providing early help, remaining at home and focused on prevention. This may mean that more will stay with VCS organisations as do not hit the threshold for support and this has implications for organisations having more complex work and an issue for funders also. These issues need to be shared with Big Lottery about the impact on voluntary organisations as already happening in adult social care.

SS reminded members to fill in the feedback form in relation to issues to raise at the meeting

Actions: AA to contact CAB to offer the opportunity to put information in the e-bulletin about the outcome of the review so clarity about plans

To raise with Liaison Group Procurement so better understand for all services when tendering takes place and when a grant is provided

3. Assembly Strategy and Action Plan

Discussion took place in relation to the strategy and action plan. Points made included:-

- Ensuring that feedback to the Assembly on activities
- Looking at how the VCS can best be involved in developing a strategy and how we can do things collectively and develop actions around asset based approaches
- H & WB Board more officer led and major difficulty when trained to be responsible, to let go and let others be involved.
- Identify small areas where we can make a difference and make sure we flag up information we feel is relevant to Liaison Group. Need to take more to the group and be pro-active.
- Need to identify allies outwith the formal processes and be more savvy.
- Need to have a link to the five area committees and try and gain influence. Raise profile of what we do and what we have achieved. Give presentation and documentation to the community through area committees. Monitor and gather intelligence for area committees
- Promote what the Assembly are doing and what has been achieved at networks, get out positive messages.

Action: AA to take on board comments made and incorporate in relation to Action Plan

4. Progress Report

AA reported a good turnout at network meetings in North, West, Central and South East Northumberland. Support provided to postgraduate project on social value of NCVA. Supported volunteer fair and asset based training day. Have used Social Value engine and identified Assembly as having a net social value of £5.48 for every £1 spent. Attending Asylum Seeker and Refugee Strategic Group quarterly and attended Building Health Partnerships re agreeing and implementing joint action on how we engage with STP and what can be supported on programme funded by NHS England and Big Lottery Fund.

5. VCS Liaison Group feedback and next meeting

It was stated that the Liaison Group provided an opportunity to share our plans and to consider how we can work together. AA stated that on the agenda for the next meeting would be the Social Value Engine, the new processes in relation to the new administration and asset based community centred approaches to health and well being. It was suggested that it should be raised at the meeting who would get the licences for the Social Value Engine. Also, whether it would be appropriate to put in the e-bulletin to gauge interest in the Social Value Engine.

Action: To ask at Liaison Group who would be getting the licences for the Social Value Engine and the costs involved

6. Assembly Event

AA stated that it was important to continue with the theme of asset based approaches to health and well being to move this forward and was unsure whether to focus on good practice examples or to focus on different approaches to delivery. RF suggested

focusing on local good practice and what has been happening locally. In terms of venues JJ suggested Ashington Academy.

Actions: AA to develop outline agenda for an event
JJ to explore whether Ashington Academy would be an appropriate venue

7. AOB

JD raised that there is a call out for ESF opportunities at present and any organisation can put forward proposals but matched funding is required. She suggested whether there was a role for NCC if organisations have an interest. JD asked if as the Assembly we wanted to ask the sector if interested and to find out who is considering applying to see if a more strategic approach to the opportunities could be worked on.

Action: To ask in the e-bulletin if organisations thinking of applying for ESF opportunities to let the Assembly know.

Dates of future meetings: Wednesday 22nd November 2017

Wednesday 14th February 2017