

Third Sector Leaders Kirklees – Members Meeting 09/02/12

Attendees

- Tom Taylor (Northorpe Hall) **CHAIR**
- Alasdair Brown (Kirklees Active Leisure)
- Brian Cross (VAK / CUK)
- Bridget Hughes (Lifeline)
- Chris Stephen (NHS Kirklees)
- Debbie Crellin (Crellin Consulting)
- Denzil Nurse (Eagle Eye Enterprises)
- Faye Heley (Locala)
- Geoff Durrans (Alliance For Healthy Living)
- Helen Minett (Fusion Housing)
- Hilary Schreiner (Society For The Blind of Dewsbury, Batley & District)
- Hilary Thompson (Batley Resource Centre)
- Jim Barwick (Locala)
- Joann Wareham (Huddersfield Deanery Project)
- Louise Warner (WomenCentre)
- Natalie Pinnock Hamilton (Education 2000 / Kirklees LINK)
- Tom Bailey (Voluntary Action Kirklees)
- Val Johnson (Voluntary Action Kirklees)

Apologies

- Jo Jones (Fit4Funding)
- Alan Williams / Stephen Cotton (United Response)
- Jo Cameron Symes (Kirklees Independent M.E. Support Group)
- Noreen Edery (Denby Dale Centre)

Guests

- Paul Burr (Can Do Project)
- Trudi Wright (Kirklees Council)
- Warren Ellis (Kirklees Council)

The meeting started at 14:10pm

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Item 2: Can Do Project (Paul Burr)

The Can Do Project are a social enterprise wanting to encourage more businesses to get involved with local communities. They have developed a number of roadside advertising hoardings (currently static, but potential for rolling holdings) / lamppost banners. 75% will be paid for use by small businesses (typically costing £250 per week including banner costs & artwork), the remaining 25% will be made available free to VCS groups. In addition, the Can Do Project will give small business a discount on their paid advertising (to just £90 per week) if they are willing to get involved with something of benefit to their local community. Also potential for big national advertisers to use & bring money into Kirklees. Noted that Paul has already worked with Incredible Edible, PDVG and Uniform Exchange.

Paul would like to work with TSL to set up a steering group who can decide which VCS groups would most benefit from 25% of free advertising. Tom Bailey will send out information to TSL members, anyone wishing to get involved can then arrange to meet. Noted that TSL have not committed to any arrangement with Paul / The Can Do Project – but have highlighted it is an opportunity for involvement to their members

Item 3: Emarketplace (Warren Ellis)

Part of a series of three online web based tools:

1/ KINFO – which is currently being updated & revamped

2/ Community Conversations – a new website created for the VCS to use & share information on. Is in the middle of a soft launch whilst website content is being populated. Will have a more vigorous launch in March.

3/ Connect To Support – new, regional web site based marketplace for health and social care, listing both paid and informal (unpaid) services. Will eventually complement the work of the My Community My Choice project. Will provide space for groups to advertise services (however will be a 2.5% transaction charge for groups offering paid services). Will be made public in Summer – currently needing organisations & services to populate it.

Noted concerns regarding Connect To Support – will groups such as luncheon groups be charged (they charge for their service, but is only a minimal fee to cover food costs, not done for profit)? Need for clearer distinctions on charges to avoid grey areas. Issue of whether it should be branded for whole of Yorkshire rather than individual districts? Also concern that there may be some duplication across the three platforms, and potential difficulty encouraging groups to populate the websites.

Item 4: Compact & Voluntary Sector Strategy Consultation

Members were asked to divide into three groups to discuss the different sectors of the current Compact & Voluntary Sector Strategy document. The following was fed back after groups were given 15 minutes to discuss their sections:

Section 1 – Introduction

- Why have the two documents been merged into a single document? Compact and Voluntary Sector Strategy should be two separate documents.
- How realistic is the introduction? The Compact needs to be a fresh start, taking into consideration context of where Kirklees is now.
- Some of the text doesn't make sense / too confusing to be useful. Some of the language used could be made more accessible.
- Some national examples have been given in the context section– what do they mean for Kirklees?

Section 2 –The Kirklees Compact

2.1 -2.3

- When will the document become live / deadline?
- An improvement on previous version but still too lengthy – need to be even tighter and concise.
- Must ensure the document is something all of the VCS would be happy to agree to – not just a few organisations.
- Monitoring measures still seem to be excessive – ok for capturing quantitative (statistics) info but not qualitative (users experiences / comments etc)
- Language used still feels unequal / unbalanced – slightly patronising towards the sector.

2.4 – 2.5

- Does the Compact steering group exist? Who are they?
- Has the system of challenging through the Local Authority Ombudsman ever been tested?
- Communication, Media & Involvement – who is going to facilitate the process of representation & involvement?
- VCS funding bound – when is this? TSL or another a group (if so what would be the link with TSL)
- Compact overview – needs to recognise future bodies / structures post PCT / NHS Kirklees

Section 3 – The Kirklees VCS Strategy

- Needs to recognise future bodies
- Outcomes – how are these measured, recorded & reported? What are the indicators?
- Timescales – unrealistic – some set for March 2012 when the document isn't even finished
- Actions need to be smartened up & progressive
- Need for VAK or similar organisation to help facilitate organisations?
- Must be a useful document that will be made use of

Agreed that the next step will be for Warren Ellis to continue working with TSL to further discuss these issues & develop the draft. Noted it was originally due for completion at the end of March 2012 – however the council would rather it be delayed and 'get it right', than rush it through. Noted Calderdale have already got a green light for theirs – may be worth contacting Cath Cook or Shelley Wardell.

Alasdair Brown offered to spend time re-writing the document. Tom Bailey will collate all the comments made and pass onto Tom Taylor / Mike McCusker / Alasdair Brown, who will then liaise with Warren.

Item 5: Social Enterprise – Meet The Buyer Event

An Electroville Project, due to take place on Monday 2nd April (10am -3pm) at Huddersfield University. Event will be for purchases of services, as well serving an opportunity for publicity. The event will feature a number of workshops, including one from the Key Fund. Kirklees Council have agreed to run the booking system for the event, Tom Bailey will help publicise via mailing lists.

Item 6: GP Commissioning Board 9th February

The Clinical Commissioning group in North Kirklees invited TSL to help set up their patient & public involvement services. They work with the public, patients & the VCS. South Kirklees are likely to run a similar group in future. Tom Taylor has been attending the North Kirklees meetings on behalf of TSL, and is happy to continue involvement at present – may later handover involvement to one of TSL members.

Noted potential £150,000 under-spend from North Kirklees Health Services budget to be made available to VCS to be spent in this financial year (by end of March 2012) – will be made available by TSL / VAK as grants to be spent on reducing cost of secondary care (encouraging people to use alternatives to rushing to hospital). Quality of care important, monitoring less of a priority. Closing date 22nd Feb?

Item 7: Project Updates

Compact: As discussed earlier.

Procurement: Transforming Local Infrastructure bid unsuccessful. Currently talking Kirklees Council about their procurement, Government says it's up to Local Authorities to define their SROI – need to focus on quality.

Social Care / My Community My Choice: Val & Hilary have been conducting interviews about the project – have discovered there is still a lack of understanding of MCMC other than it will be a brokerage service. A building on the Upper Headrow has been marked as a potential base. However The Campaign Company have walked away from the project (along with around £100,000 of the £200,000 budget). Kevin Huggins Cooper has offered to take on the remaining contract (with his own company KHC consultants). Noted this would be a potential conflict of interest – TSL generally agree that this would be unethical / bad practice. Tom Taylor will speak to Merran McRae about this concern – with TSL offering to help find a more suitable organisation to finish the work.

Noted that the timebanking element has been removed from this and potentially moved elsewhere.

Council Pre Budget Meeting 31/01/12: A press release has been sent to the Huddersfield Examiner, Dewsbury Reporter, Mirfield Reporter, Batley & Birstall News, and Spenborough Guardian regarding TSL reaction's to the budget proposals.

Representation Review: Skipped due to time constraints

Early Intervention Review: Tom T is having an informal meeting with Andrew Pennington straight after this meeting – any members wishing to participate are welcome to stay.

Adult Strategy: Learning partnership may be used for a pilot, TSL may want to be involved – Mike McCusker may also have some involvement

Diversity & Quality across Kirklees in VCS (& TSL): for future agenda (April?)

Item 9: Membership & Finance Report

Annual membership will be due for renewal at the end of March / beginning of April. Proposed that TSL change to a standing order payment system (allowing members to pay membership fees automatically either quarterly, in two payments or one year payment). Need to set membership targets for the New Year. No changes financially. Tom T has agreed that Tom B will work on a number of additional media / communication based tasks to help improve online & offline TSL presence.

Item 10: Any Other Business

Potential for A TSL One Year On celebration event in April with any money left over from this year's budget? Help needed distributing warmth packs for vulnerable residents in Kirklees. Youth contract mentioned as a potential talking point for future meeting. Minutes approved – no corrections.

Item 8: Social Return On Investment (Trudi Wright)

An update on Trudi's SROI research over the last 9 months – concerning how to evidence SROI, which looked at three organisations – The Nerve Centre, Denby Dale Community Centre & Meltham Sports & Community Centre.

Key feedback from the research process was concerned with mobilizing resources, harnessing volunteers, the assets of people who attend / participate in activities / access services, and the issue of co-production.

Conclusions made from Trudi's research were that we shouldn't really compare one organisation to another, however:

- The Nerve Centre generates around 199% added value for every pound they spend
- Denby Dale generate around 194% added value for every pound they spend
- Meltham generates over 200% added value for every pound they spend
- No reason why SROI can't be used by other organisations

Trudi is now looking to run 'masterclass' session about her results or an event to look at incorporating SROI into existing systems. She will send on a full summary of her results to Tom B to distribute to the mailing list

The meeting ended at 16:40pm