

Third Sector Leaders Kirklees – Members Meeting 11/10/12

Attendees

- Tom Taylor (Northorpe Hall) **CHAIR**
- Alasdair Brown (Kirklees Active Leisure)
- Amanda Taylor (Action For Children)
- Chris Stephen (NHS Kirklees)
- Geoff Durrans (Alliance For Healthy Living)
- Helen Minett (Fusion Housing)
- Hilary Thompson (Age UK Calderdale & Kirklees)
- Hilary Turner (Kirkwood Hospice)
- Jayne Heley (Locala)
- Jim Barwick (Locala)
- Jo Jones (Fit4Funding)
- Louise Warner (WomenCentre)
- Mike McCusker (Fresh Horizons)
- Paul Bridges (Huddersfield Methodist Mission)
- Paul Lewis (Communities United Project)
- Rebecca Hirst (Pennine Domestic Violence Group)
- Saied Laher (Indian Muslim Welfare Society)
- Simon Cale (National Children's Centre)
- Stan Foster (Gasped)
- Tom Bailey (Voluntary Action Kirklees)
- Val Johnson (Voluntary Action Kirklees)

Apologies

- Bridget Hughes (Lifeline)
- Debbie Crellin (Crellin Consulting)
- Denzil Nurse (Eagle Eye Enterprises)
- Jo Cameron Symes (Kirklees Independent M.E. Support Group)
- Natalie Pinnock Hamilton (Education 2000 / Kirklees LINK)
- Richard Palmer (Kirklees Older Peoples Network)
- Shaukat Hafez (Zess UK)

Guests

- Mark Crowe (Research consultant)
- Rebecca Williams (Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board)

The meeting started at 14:00pm

Noted Tom Bailey & Val Johnson are on their way, Hilary Thompson will take minutes until they arrive.

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Minutes approved, no corrections.

Item 3: TSL Meeting Times / Membership Updates

Discussion on whether or not to change venue / dates of future TSL meetings. **Agreed** to stick with current arrangements at Northorpe Hall on second Thursday every two months.

Suggested that there should be a subgroup meeting to discuss the development of TSL – including issues such as importance of VCS consortium, importance of securing tendering & contracts. Noted the ‘Your Consortium’ in Knaresborough & Wakefield model. Fit4Funding could offer training in Kirklees around consortia (would be chargeable). **Agreed** that Alasdair Brown is happy to chair, Tom T & Tom B will assist with invites – need to hear from those outside of TSL.

Item 4: Kirklees Council – Report back from dialogue event & future plans

Wasn't sure of the event purpose – no money, and a lack of urgency in the notes. Despite starting well and HAVING senior officers being in attendance, there was no timetable / structure.

(Noted Tom Bailey & Val Johnson arrived and took over minute taking)

Option for TSL to feedback on this – particularly the need for Kirklees to change their procurement procedures. Noted that the Local Authority are still keen on social value but it is difficult to implement due to them being the main provider in the area.

Noted that Kirklees Council have been restructuring for the last 18+ months, which has delayed progress due to a lack of clear direction and leadership – also illustrated by the lack of involving TSL in the dialogue event.

Suggested that TSL should view this as an opportunity to identify key areas for the local authority to focus on, and to encourage local organisations to speak up and better communicate what they need. TSL also needs to be involved at a commissioning level to ensure tenders are awarded to the right providers.

Noted that TSL could exercise the right to challenge but this would be a lengthy process – would be a better approach for organisations to take the lead and offer solutions / show what needs to be done. Suffolk's 'The Easy Council' approach is mentioned as an example – currently offering no services; everything is outsourced. Noted that the Government are encouraging smaller local authority structures for the future.

Agreed a need for TSL to further push in this direction but there are questions on how best to do this. There will be further discussion at Alasdair's Developing TSL subgroup.

Item 5: Timebanking

Val Johnson provided an update on Volunteering Kirklees' progress launching the Kirklees Timebanking Support Network. It will offer support to both existing and new timebanking projects in Kirklees – including the already established project in Newsome.

Noted there are essentially three different timebank models: person-to-person, person to agency, and agency to agency. Potential for TSL to participate in an agency-to-agency capacity.

Val has brought timebanking info for group's to take away; more info is also available at www.volunteeringkirklees.org.uk. Tom B will circulate info about a November event for groups wanting to start a timebank.

Noted – will add the topic of a potential TSL Timebanking to a future agenda.

Item 6: Social Value & Volunteering

Jim Barwick talked through a few examples of how volunteers could help improve Locala's services and social value. He talked about their pyramid of care – which decreases from a minority of clients who are highly vulnerable and require lots of attention, to the self-caring masses.

Locala would like to work alongside the VCS to support and enhance their community care teams – for example helping providing basic care / befriending to their less vulnerable clients, allowing their trained staff to then focus more of their time of the more highly vulnerable; improving the quality of their care / social value for both their less and highly vulnerable clients alike.

Noted potential for Locala to get involved with timebanking, although did raise the following concerns: insurance / CRB issues, time vs. skills argument, needs to be a clear distinction between timebanking & volunteering (suggested that timebanking tends to attract more deprived individuals as they get some direct benefit from their actions, where as volunteering attracts more affluent individuals).

Locala would welcome help from organisations such as the NCC, VAK and Age UK in getting volunteers involved. **Agreed** that Jayne Heley will lead a separate TSL meeting looking at volunteering / timebanking / unpaid work, with support from Val Johnson and Tom Bailey.

Item 7: Project Updates

Procurement

No progress – still trying to kick-start Kirklees Council but they're still redrafting their strategy.

Social Care / My Community My Choice

MCMC's two-year contract has almost expired, currently looking to develop a building on Upper Head Row and turn it into VCS Health & Social Care hub. Also looking at developing alternative outcomes / solutions. Noted that TSL involvement with MCMC has been greatly influential and highly appreciated.

Compact / VCS Strategy

Tom B collated and reported survey responses (roughly a dozen) back to Warren Ellis in September. Tom T will chase up and also enquire about progress with the VCS strategy redraft.

Health & Wellbeing Subgroup

The subgroup met on Monday (08/10/12) to work on their Terms of Reference and plans for the coming year. Have agreed to meet every two months.

Noted Jim & Helen will work together on developing a Terms of Reference that can be used for their respective subgroups, to then be approved at a future TSL meeting.

Children & Young People Subgroup

Will next meet on Thursday 25th October at Voluntary Action Kirklees (from 10am). Tom B will send out a reminder & previous minutes.

Noted Andrew Pennington will be hosting a meeting on 18th October at Brian Jackson House. Helen M will attend on behalf of TSL.

IYSS review – the first meeting was concerned with agreeing Terms of Reference. Some concern over short timescales (the commission are scheduled to make a decision in January 2013). They have offered TSL a place on the reference group that supports the commission. Potential to run a future workshop / event – will be discussed at the next IYSS meeting.

Noted that the Children's Trust survey is still open and has been circulated in this week's VAK bulletin.

Big Lottery Talent Match

Your Consortium has been chosen to lead the Kirklees region's bid. Helen, Val and Paul Bridges will run a local panel meeting on Wednesday 31st October at VAK / Methodist Mission. Tom B will circulate info once confirmed.

Big Lottery Complex Needs

DISC have been chosen to lead. Noted a need to set up a locality group (potential to be another TSL subgroup). The next West Yorkshire Partnership meeting is on Friday 26th October date / venue tbc. There will also be a meeting on Thursday 8th November – Paul Bridges will chair initially. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Helen.

VCS

Tom T and Mike McCusker have been invited to meet with Adrian to discuss issues. They have also received an invite to meet with the Labour group.

Item 8: Safeguarding Children – Rebecca Williams

Noted that the Voluntary Sector Workstream is soon to be renamed the Voluntary Sector & Faith Workstream.

The Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board is currently trying to create a directory of all groups in the Kirklees area involved with safeguarding – any groups are encouraged to email their details to Rebecca (Rebecca.Williams@kirklees.gov.uk). Some workshops have been planned for February 2013 – any help promoting them to the VCS would be welcomed. In addition to this Rebecca has secured a permanent room at the Deighton Centre and will be available to discuss safeguarding policies with groups.

A safeguarding checklist has been circulated amongst the sector but has had little response so far – the board are keen to stress that checklist is not to check up or judge / criticise groups; just to assess current provision and any gaps. Suggested that there is a need to stress to the local authority the importance of safeguarding and the need for more financial backing in the near future – rather than wait for an incident occur.

Item 9: TSL Sector Report – Mark Crowe

Mark has produced a full regional breakdown of the VCS in Kirklees and will pass the full presentation onto Tom B for circulation. Amongst the findings he mentioned the following as key headlines (note the data relates to pre 2010 spending review / coalition Government):

- 1,000 registered organisations in Kirklees. 1,200 unregistered
- 25,000 registered volunteers
- 740 charities
- 3% of the Kirklees Workforce is involved within the Third Sector
- Just over 1 in 4 people gave time as unpaid help / volunteering
- The sector contributes £200 million pounds per year.

Noted that Involve Yorkshire and Humber are planning to run a similar, updated exercise in 2013. In the meantime, Mark would welcome any info from TSL member organisations to update his statistics – Locala would be especially useful. Requested that Mark try to geo-map data to show impact across different areas. The following uses for Mark's report were suggested:

- Press & website releases (key headlines or summary, will check with Mark first though to ensure stats have been interpreted correctly)
- Comparisons with post – recession / cut reports that will be carried out over the next few years
- Comparisons with national statistics

Item 10: Any Other Business

Noted there will be soon vacancies on the Involve Yorkshire & Humber Trustee Board (Paul Bridges & Simon Cale both planning on stepping down) – would be good for TSL to maintain a presence if any other members are interested. The next Involve AGM will take place on Thursday 22nd November – Tom B will circulate.

A new commissioning guide is available – Chris Stephen will send to Tom B to circulate

Noted that Chris Stephen is starting a new role with Kirklees Council and will no longer be able to attend TSL meetings. Tom T thanked Chris for all her involvement with the group and will write to Kirklees Council acknowledging her efforts over the last two years.

Noted that some members have experienced difficulty claiming TSL travel costs from council award funding – may be an issue that needs to be discussed with local authority.

WomenCentre are running a 'Mothers Living Apart From Their Children' information event on Monday 22nd October at their Dewsbury offices.

Noted that as of Monday 15th October Clare House is closed. Angel Lodge in Wakefield will attempt to takeover their services – however this does mean there is currently no accommodation for asylum seekers in Huddersfield.

The meeting ended at 16:40pm