

Notes of VCS Assembly Executive Committee

Wednesday 26th August 2015 12.00 noon – 2p.m.

Present: Mike Gowland, Andy Haddon, Joe Jackson, Sharon Spurling, Ann Lyall, Sue Ashmore, George Scott, Annie Evans, Ralph Firth, Ann Atkinson

Apologies: Cath George, Julie Dodson, Carol Ashworth

1. Welcome

AL welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Assembly Executive Committee and asked members to introduce themselves.

2. Notes of last meeting

Notes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Matters arising not covered on the agenda

In relation to the circulation list of the e-bulletin, AA stated that parish councils and councillors were on the circulation list. Parish councils can be affiliated members of the Assembly and would be encouraged to join. There was a need to ensure that parish clerks forward e-bulletins on to members as SS indicated that she did not receive the bulletin as a parish councillor. AL stated that Executive Directors of NCC had been asked if they wanted to be on the circulation list but none had responded.

Action: - AA to contact parish council clerks to inform about affiliation to the Assembly and ask that e-bulletins are distributed to members of the parish council

4. Election of Chair

SS proposed Joe Jackson as the chair, which was seconded. There were no other nominations so Joe Jackson was elected as the chair of the Assembly Executive Committee and took over the chairing of the meeting from AL.

5. Selection of members to stand for 2 and 3 years on the Executive Committee

AL suggested that members of the Executive Committee who had been members of the Steering Group stand for two years and new members of the Executive Committee stand for three years on the Executive Committee. This was agreed by all attendees. This means that Joe Jackson, Mike Gowland, Julie Dodson, Sharon Spurling, Cath George and Sue Ashmore are elected for two years and Carol Ashworth, Andy Haddon, Ralph Firth, George Scott and Annie Evans are elected for three years. Anne Lyall whilst holder of the

commission will remain on the committee. AL indicated that members could stand for re-election at the end of their term of office.

6. NCC/VCS Liaison Group representation (8 members) and next meeting

After discussion of various options, it was decided that any of the 12 members could attend the NCC/VCS Liaison Group meetings and attendance could be on the basis of the topics under discussion but ensuring that 8 members always attended. It was suggested for some kind of continuity that the four representatives from the geographical areas attend as regular attendees and thematic representatives attend as the agenda dictates. JJ as chair and AL as holder of the commission would always be in attendance.

AA indicated that future meetings will be held at voluntary organisations which was suggested at the meeting held with the Chair of the Liaison Group and Kirsten Francis. This would provide an opportunity to increase council members awareness of voluntary organisations and what they do. The next meeting of the NCC/VCS Liaison Group had been rearranged as a result of the Tour of Britain cycle race and would now take place on **Thursday 8th October at the Round House, Age UK, Ashington at 10.00am**. The December meeting of the Liaison Group on Thursday 10th December will take place at ADAPT in Hexham.

AA indicated that Kirsten Francis and the Chair had been asked to respond to the issues raised by Steering Group members and that there was a need to develop a work programme. Standing items would include for example European Funding bid and VCS issues arising from meetings e.g. networks but having a theme for each meeting would be helpful e.g. investment in the VCS, impact of welfare reforms.

Action: - AA to draw a proposal together for a future work programme and share with committee members for comment/ input and then with KF.

7. VCS Assembly members on CCG Planning Group and Health and Well-Being Communications and Engagement Group

AL stated that she was representing the Assembly on too many working groups and that she was not necessarily the most appropriate person to attend. In relation to the CCG Planning Group on social prescribing nothing seemed to be happening at the moment and Liz Prudhoe in her capacity as Strategic Lead of Healthwatch would write to CCG for clarity on how the CCG is involving the VCSE. They are duty bound to respond to Healthwatch.

It was not known who the CCG's were referring to the VCS and how this was being funded. SS stated that new ways of working in terms of integrating health and social care and Northumberland being a Vanguard which includes the new hospital and move to seven days working for GP's meant new developments and maybe there was a need to hold fire until the new structures had been sorted out. SS suggested that it would be useful to ask Siobhan Brown (NHS Northumberland CCG) Transformation Director to talk to the voluntary sector about the changes taking place in health and social care and how they will relate to the sector in future.

Ralph Firth agreed to attend the Health & Wellbeing Communications and Engagement group

It was suggested that Julie Dodson who sat on the Youth Strategic Group could act on behalf of the Assembly.

AL indicated that now that we had a democratically elected committee that we should be represented on the Health and Well Being Board

Actions: – AL to inform Cynthia Atkins that Ralph Firth will be attending the Communications and Engagement Group.

AA to contact JD and ask if she could represent the Assembly on the Youth Strategic Group.

JJ to make a formal request to the Health and Well-being Board that the Assembly should be represented.

AA to contact Siobhan Brown, Transformation Director to arrange for her to come and speak to the sector about PACS (integrated primary and acute care system)

8. Assembly Event on Volunteering

AA provided an outline of the volunteering event planned for Tuesday 20th October at Kirkley Hall and asked members for comment and any suggestions of volunteer coordinators who could provide examples of good practice.

Action: - Members to consider volunteer coordinators who might be willing to contribute to the event.

9. Work Plan and Progress Report

AA provided the work plan that she had developed from the last commission and asked that members review this and consider plans for the next 18 months. There is a need to identify what is important and what our efforts should be focused on. A working group could then put a finalised plan together.

AA also provided an update of activities since the last meeting which included meeting with BiC Business Connector organising Marketing and Publicity training, network meetings and induction programme for new Committee members. Also meetings with chair of Liaison Group and contributing to Town and Parish Councils conference.

Action: - Members to spend time reviewing the work plan and to put forward views on where activities should be focused .

10. Trustee Network meeting feedback

AL reported that the event had been well attended and that there was a lot of enthusiasm from trustees. JJ thanked RF for his contribution to the event. Issues raised by trustees included finding trustees, raising the profile of trustees, taster sessions for potential trustees and marketing and promotion during trustee week in November. Most attendees were willing to pay a membership fee. AL stated that there was a need to explain what the sector does and Skillsbridge would be asked to help with marketing the sector and what trustees do. AL stated that progress in developing the network had been slow and a small grant from the Hadrian Trust had enabled the event and some progress to be made. Jackie Auld will be pulling together the feedback and comments from the event and next steps to developing a viable trustee network. SS said this may be something the Lottery would be interested in funding and this will be raised at next arranged meeting with Big at end of September

11. Reporting back on meetings/forums/networks

AA produced a form for reporting back on meetings/forums/networks and asked if members could also let her know of multi-agency partnerships they sat on. SA suggested that the name of the person providing the feedback should also be included on the form.

Action:- AA to amend the feedback form to include respondent.

Members of the Committee to provide AA with details of multi- agency partnerships in which they participate.

12. Importance of the VCSE in Northumberland

AL and AA had produced a draft note on the importance of the VCSE in Northumberland which could be used by members and more widely to promote the sector. Members were asked to give thought to what we should include in a leaflet and what needed to be added to this. Potentially a lot more could go into it but for a leaflet it would need to be kept succinct, positive and specific about the value of the sector. It was suggested that more needed to be said about social impact and about the social enterprise sector and providing examples would be helpful. There was also a need to have good information/data specific to Northumberland.

Action: - Members to provide AA with examples of social impact/ additional information that should be included to demonstrate the importance of the VCSE in Northumberland

13.AOB

AA indicated that there were two place available on the Introduction to Campaigning workshop and asked that members to let her know asap if anyone was wanting to attend.

AL asked members about where they would like future meetings of the Committee to be held. After discussion it was recognised that members were spread across the county and that it might be appropriate to consider in the summer in particular holding meetings at village halls for example in different parts of the county. It was suggested that a meet and greet session could be held at the venue for local organisations prior to the meeting.

RF asked how we communicate with the health and social care network across Northumberland as need to be closely linked to the people we represent. AA stated that she had sent details of members of the Assembly to all committee members. Events /meetings/ focus groups would provide an opportunity to get groups together and bulletins to inform members about events/issues/consultations..

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 25th November 2015 at 12.00 noon at Northumberland CVA