

# VCS Assembly Steering Group meeting

## Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 1pm – 3pm.

Present: Anne Lyall, Joe Jackson, Sue Ashmore, Liz Chadwick

Apologies: Rodney James

J.J.

- Point raised about absentees and whether anything can be achieved with so few numbers attending. Asked if everyone can be contacted again very soon regarding another meeting and be provided with any documentation needed.

AL

- Anne mentioned that we have a few issues with our webpage as to where information goes. Having sent a Tweet from VCS Twitter account it doesn't appear on the Twitter feed on our website. MJ is looking into the problem. JA has also followed up a few items.
- We now have a full data base of members on WCVS website which will be updated regularly.
- Interviews for the position of VCS Assembly Development Officer are taking place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November from 9:30am. There is a shortlist of 3 candidates from 6 applications.
- Anne stated that the aims of the VCS Assembly should be to deliver a sector agenda and not a County Council agenda.
- Try to engage more with existing forums – eg Berwick North Community Forum and provide support wherever possible.

JJ

- VCS Assembly needs to be more than a link to the County Council, it needs to have a product, e.g. Provide access to funds or business planning.
- Possibly compile a list of terms of reference – document that can be signed off.

AL

- Anne referred to a letter from Kirsten Francis which mentions the statement of intent between County council and the sector.
- Anne has looked at a survey from the VCS Commissioners and found a few items: size of organisation, what do you want to see from VCS Assembly, what's the biggest threat apart from funding to your group/organisation, what do people want from VCS – from small groups to larger organisations.
- Going to survey groups and members to see what is wanted.
- Going to re-launch VCS Assembly and try and build relationship with County Council to deliver funding to right places.

JJ

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- Get groups together to attack funding pot & build a mechanism to communicate more effectively.
- What will be the relationship between NCC and VCS. Need to find out what the market is and shape the work plan to fit.
- VCS Assembly needs a clear product & direction and needs to recognise we're working in different ways.

AL

- Anne requested suggestions as to what VCS is selling
- Have produced a leaflet to highlight what VCS Assembly is and does, funding changes – how we operate
- Possible name change suggested (Northumberland VCS)
- Assembly website to be updated with news feeds and community news
- VCS to re-launch after survey sent out and results compiled
- AL to update Terms of Reference/Work plan which will then be viewed by VCS Assembly.