

## **Notes of VCS Assembly Executive Committee**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 12.00 noon – 2.00p.m.**

**Present:** Andy Haddon, Joe Jackson, Sharon Spurling, Ann Lyall, Sue Ashmore, George Scott, Ralph Firth, Ann Atkinson

**Apologies:** Annie Evans, Julie Dodson, Carol Ashworth, Mike Gowland

### **1. Notes of last meeting**

Note of last meeting were agreed.

### **2. Matters arising not covered on the agenda**

AA confirmed that she had contacted parish clerks to inform about affiliation to the Assembly and that only two parish councils had taken this up. Parish clerks had also been asked to distribute e- bulletins to members of the parish council.

### **3. Letter to Health and Well-Being Board**

There had been no response from the Health and Well-being Board in relation to our letter about membership of the Board. RF had raised this at the Communications and Engagement Sub Group of the Health and Well-being Board. Discussion took place on the way forward.

**Action: JJ to send a follow up letter/email to the Chair and Vice Chair to check that received the letter and enquire about their intentions.**

**JJ to raise at VCS Liaison Group meeting and AL and JJ to raise at meeting with the Leader of the Council.**

### **4. NCC/VCS Liaison Group feedback and next meeting**

Members discussed the meeting and the importance of working together to meet the needs of our communities and being able to have an influence. Also having clarity about where information from this meeting went to and the structures in place for decision making. There was a need to ensure that our voice is heard and that we contribute to policy decisions. It was felt important to identify questions we want to ask in relation to agenda items and ensure that we get a response. AA indicated that there is a regular item on the agenda in relation to issues raised from Networks as well the main agenda item which for the next meeting will be 'Investment in the VCS', where questions could be raised.

**Actions: Executive members to send any questions in relation to the Spending Review or issues arising from Network Meetings**

**to AA for consideration for raising at the VCS Liaison Group in December.**

**Assembly members to be sent a regular item in the e-bulletin about issues they would like to raise with the VCS Liaison Group.**

## **5. Work plan and progress report**

AA stated that the work plan provided to date involved ongoing activities and that it was felt important there were also identified key areas of work to focus on. The areas of work proposed were:-

- In response to the Health and Social Care Network event, a task and finish group to look at our aims and objectives in relation to working with the CCG. This group to be organised once a date for a future meeting with Siobhan Brown had been obtained to discuss the way forward.
- In relation to work evidencing the value of the sector and in the context of volunteering being the VCS Liaison Group main topic for March 2016, it was suggested gathering information on organisations volunteers and the number of hours they contribute. RF raised that this information would be in organisations annual reports and this would be a good starting point for getting hold of the information
- In response to the Volunteering Event, it was felt important to raise awareness of employers of volunteering opportunities and ensure that they are linked into volunteering databases. Also to explore the opportunities of providing a brokerage service and linking with Business in the Community. It was also raised that attendees at the Volunteering Event were keen to learn from one another about volunteering issues e.g. trustees.

Areas suggested were agreed.

**Actions: AA to arrange meeting with Siobhan Brown and SS/RF/AH/AL/AA to hold task and finish group.**

**Executive members to inform AA of annual reports with details of volunteering number and hours.**

**AA to explore ways of raising awareness with employers of volunteering opportunities.**

## **6. Feedback from Assembly Volunteering Event**

Feedback from the event was very positive. Issues arising are detailed in the agenda item above.

## **7. VCS representation on partnership strategic boards/working groups and feedback**

Paper enclosed on working groups that members attend.

**Actions: Members to let AA know if there are additional strategic boards/groups with NCC where they are represented.**

## **8. Report back on Health and Social Care Event and moving forward**

This was a very positive meeting with the CCG looking for co-production and co-design and a desire to move to longer term contracts. See item 5 for plans for moving forward on this.

## **9. FACT VCS representation**

Agenda item raised by JD who was unable to attend the meeting.

**Action: AA to contact JD about the content of the item to assess whether appropriate to raise with Liaison Group in December**

## **10. AOB**

AL raised that Carolyn Reynolds had offered to provide support/advice to the Assembly and Northumberland CVA in relation to marketing. AA and JL had a useful meeting with her and have arranged to get in touch with her as and when required.

AA stated that NCC were wanting to hold a meeting with the Assembly to inform them about Devolution and implication for the sector. This meeting will be held at County Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

Dates of future meetings were raised and the location of meetings. GS suggested that as Liaison Group meetings were being held at different locations it was satisfactory to continue holding Executive Committee meetings at Northumberland CVA.

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 12.00 noon – 2.00pm at Northumberland CVA**

Suggested future dates of meetings to be confirmed at the next meeting:-

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August