

Notes of Central Network Meeting, NCBA, Staithes Lane Morpeth

12th July 2016, 2.00pm to 3.45pm.

26 Attendees

1. Presentation

A presentation was given by Andrea Perrett, Co- CEO of Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland and Development Worker, Grace Northumberland Rape Crisis. (presentation on website)

2. Assembly and Support Services activities

Ann Atkinson gave an update of Assembly activities

- The South East VCS Network would take place on Tuesday 6th September 10.30 am – 12.00 noon at Bedlington Community Centre where Marc Johnson from Northumberland CVA will provide an Introduction to Better Bid Writing.
- Trustee Network was launched at the Assembly Event at Kirkley Hall on 22nd June. Membership of the Network is free until the 31st September 2016 so do let your trustees know about this. The network's main purpose is to support trustees and give them the tools they need to become more effective and efficient in their role. Membership provides access to a huge online bank of resources offering guidance on the trustee's role, monthly e-bulletins, two network meetings a year and discounts on training.
- Job Club starts every Wednesday at Northumberland CVA from 10th August 9.30pm – 3.00pm. Contact Lisa Wackett on 01670 858688 or email lisa.wackett@northumberlandcva.org.uk for more information
- Ann asked that attendees complete the training needs form to assist Support Services in providing training courses.
- Ann stated that the Assembly had been represented on the multi- agency Refugee and Asylum Seeker Working Group led by NCC to consider support needs if NCC was to agree to take Syrian refugees. The Council has now agreed to take Syrian refugees and 4 families will arrive in the Autumn. The Assembly are part of the Operational group and will be coordinating support from the VCS to assist the refugees who will be located in Cramlington.

Anne Lyall added that the Assembly would now be represented on the Health and Well-Being Board which was a great achievement and had taken some time and effort to obtain.

Maureen Shepherd informed attendees that Volunteer Fairs were to be held in Morpeth Town Hall on 14th September 10.30am – 1.00pm and at the Berwick Town Hall on Sat 15th October 10.00am – 2.00pm.

3. Getting Value from Network Meetings

Ann Atkinson asked attendees what they wanted from the network meetings to ensure that the network meetings met their needs. The responses included:-

- Networking opportunities
- Opportunities to work in partnership
- Information sharing
- Hear about funding opportunities and share knowledge
- Consider opportunities for themed groups to get together e.g. youth organisations and consider other times of the day e.g. evenings
- Need a good topic to attract interest
- Like informality and opportunity to chat to people, cross fertilisation and can inform our networks
- Collaborate on issues and produce information together

4. Information Sharing and Issues

Karen Walker Blyth Development Trust

Karen thanked NCVA for their support in relation to the Tall Ships. There are tables at the event for VCS organisations to profile what they do and recruit volunteers. Some groups are from outside Northumberland.

Liz Finch Stepping Up (North East) Ltd

Work with ISOS Housing in Morpeth, Pegswood, Stobhill and Hexham to raise confidence in local communities by holding workshops, 1 to 1 coaching focused on clients that would benefit from support and mindfulness courses.. The project runs to the end of the year. We can also work with volunteers building confidence and self awareness.

Jim Wyness Blyth Stroke Support Group

Carers and volunteers to assist users on trips needed e.g. pushing wheelchairs.

Andy Crosbie Mortal Fools

Developing a Confidence Project with schools and industry, young employees and schools working together to boost employability of school leavers. County wide programme from 2017, still finalising partners

Ceri Mc Ghee Big Lottery

New Lottery programme called Celebrate with grants of up to £10,000 to celebrate a place, person or history, no closing date. Priority to fund those not funded before.

Lewis Atkinson Community IT

VCS should be considering implications of Brexit and provide a response. Groups should keep up to date with data protection legislation and register with ICO as could be changes to EU legislation.

Colin Nevin Toby Henderson Trust

The organisation is now based at Earth Balance and was grateful of being informed about the funding potential from Tesco bags and had put in a bid for a play area at the new centre.

Liz Johnston Northumberland Cancer Support Group

Meet three times a month at Hexham Hospital. Format includes one session of relaxation, a speaker at the second and free for all at the third each month.

Liz Chadwick Together Newcastle

Have been setting up lifesavers in schools which is a credit union to encourage children to save.

Louise Laws North East Youth

Provide NE wide support to organisations working with young people, providing a training and activity programme for 82 member organisations and newsletter.

Andrea Perrett Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland

Issue - Have voluntary organisations been excluded to solutions on community safety? Community Safety multi agency partnerships no longer exist and have been replaced by Community Safety Hub meetings but VCS does not appear to be represented at these meetings where discuss and agree joint solutions to issues. Where has been the consultation on this?

Brooke Burgess Northumberland Community Enterprise Limited

Avril Chisholm Northern Learning Trust

'I learn' ISOS backed project working with working age unemployed to assist in journey to work. Provide vocational training. Final model to role out to SE Northumberland, doubling our target for the year. Half are ISOS tenants. The over 50's are more challenging and offer volunteering opportunities. Northern Learning Trust provide Universal Job Match an online programme to get people into work. Do an accreditation level 1 and 2. Funding available for functional skills - maths and English entry level to level 2 and free of charge. Also provide employability skills.

Sue Ashmore, BPW

Representative for the central area of Northumberland on the VCS Assembly and willing to take forward to the Executive or Cabinet Advisory Group any issues or concerns Assembly members have. Will take forward issue raised by Andrea.

Denise Robson Macmillan Support Services

In need of more volunteers. Lot of work in SE Northumberland but branching out to West Northumberland. Provide 1:1 support – walk and talk, craft group and health and well-being group. Need volunteers across Northumberland

Heather Alabaster Golden Guide

Promoting guide to over 50's Copies of the guide available at NCC libraries, Age UK, Northumbria Healthcare care teams.

Helen Elliot Healthwatch

Communications and Engagement Office for Northumberland Healthwatch making sure views on health and social care are heard.

Peter Stonell Pegswood Community Hub

Three year Children in Need grant for children's work 10 -13 years olds. 1 in 4 of village children involved in activities.

Caroline Rogan Tomorrows People

Amble works programme 16- 25 year olds, 10 week course building confidence, employability. Independently funded, will see anyone. All attendees have gone on to what they want to do after 10 week course. Activities have included micro conferencing, model interviews, team building, leadership with the Army. Provide support for a year.

Tom Roll Golden Age Forum

Involved in organising the Winter Warmers event in SE Northumberland in November 2016. Opportunity to promote VCS activities. If you want a table at the event let Tom know.

Audrey Anderson Contact Mental Health Group

30th anniversary year in SE Northumberland. Provide a drop in centre, receive referrals from GP, counselling service. Run workshops in IT, creative writing, healthy eating and lifestyles programme, social activities.