

# **Notes of VCS Assembly Executive Committee**

**Wednesday 15th February 2016 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm**

## **Northumberland CVA**

**Present:** Joe Jackson, Ralph Firth, Anne Lyall, Julie Dodson, Sharon Spurling, Cath Stocks  
Ann Atkinson

**Apologies** George Scott, Andy Haddon, Sue Ashmore, Avril Gibson

### **1. Notes of last meeting and matter arising**

Notes of last meeting agreed.

AL reported that she had spoken to SY (Newcastle) and LG (North Tyneside) regarding representation of VCS at a regional level in relation to STP and HSC Commission and informed that whilst there was talk of a regional group they were not aware of one.

AL and AA had not managed to get a better understanding why the sector had not applied for the secondment opportunity.

AA stated that still needed responses from TK on Equality rep and Brexit report  
AA had received feedback from JW on Assembly value in relation to Syrian refugee resettlement

AA stated that she had not managed to get anyone interested in representing the West on the Executive. Attendees discussed different approaches.

### **2. Partnership working and feedback from members**

JJ reported that Trustees network had not developed and little/no interest in ideas provided for training.

AL reported that Healthwatch Board have had their contract extended for one year. All the Board are standing down and they are currently recruiting a new chair. Reduced funding has meant a re-structure taking place.

JD reported that Adult Safeguarding now includes North Tyneside. North Tyneside have a VCS representative and model used by North Tyneside it was felt should be used. JD to follow up re VCS representation. VCS represented on the Children's Safeguarding Board although future legislation indicates that just health, police and local authority have to be represented so need to be aware of this.. JD also raised that the Safeguarding Boards had joined with Community Safety to provide a Joint Communications Group and that the Assembly should be represented there. A work plan should be available soon and JD stated that she will share this with us.

JD also stated that Community Safety Hubs were mirroring the Area Committees and enquired whether we are linked in with them and had seen their plans. She suggested contacting Louise Stobbart, Strategic Partnerships Officer.

In relation to Safe Place Scheme, JD stated that Safe Reporting Centres already existed which were set up in relation to hate crime and providing support to vulnerable groups. Clarity was needed over these two schemes as presented a confusing picture. Also the community also needs to know it was available and how it operates.

RF raised the issue of waiting times for mental health services which was reported at Health and Well-Being Board and asked what was being done to change and influence as there did not appear to be a multi-agency approach to looking at mental health. Key performance monitoring is provided but no strategy appears to be in place to address this. JD said she would look into this. A multi-agency approach was being developed for suicides as this had increased amongst young people.

**Action: JD to follow up VCS representation on Adult Safeguarding Board, share workplan of Joint Communications Group once available and explore whether strategy in place in relation to mental health.**

**AA to contact Louise Stobbart, Partnerships Office re Community Safety Hubs representation and plans**

### **3. Accountable Care Organisation/STP – having a voice**

RF reported that from the STP consultation the wrong messages were being relayed in relation to trust e.g. the Rothbury hospital closure and the issue of too many older people needing care. This made older attendees uncomfortable and defending not going to the Doctors unless it was absolutely necessary but at the same time this did not help the prevent agenda where issues can be picked up before they are too late. SS reported that the Vanguard Co-Design Forum which she attended did work well, raising issues and getting responses from the CCG. She would share these with the Executive

**Action; SS to share Vanguard Co-Design Forum issues raised and responses with the Executive**

### **4. Assembly Event 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

AA reported that the agenda for the morning had been circulated and she asked attendees to ensure that groups they had contact with were aware of the event and that they encouraged them to attend. JD suggested that it would be useful if the event could be recorded.

**Action: AA to explore the possibility of recording the event and the costs involved to do this.**

### **5. NCC/VCS Cabinet Advisory Group feedback and next meeting**

AA reported that the agenda was fairly limited. In relation to the Safe Place Scheme there was a need to add in information in relation to the funding received by the Splinter Group to deliver this that she had heard about subsequently and the Safer Reporting Centres raised by JD.

## **6. Progress report and Impact of Assembly Activities 2016/17**

AA reported on the activities she had undertaken since the last meeting which included network meeting in the SE, West and North, supporting asset mapping exercise by Public Health, attendance at STP event, support to Syrian refugee Support Workers, initial meeting with VODA re Sector Connector Scheme, planning Assembly event and exploring Safe Place Scheme opportunities. AA reported that a survey had been sent out to the VCS to assist the Support Team in monitoring their KPI's. 70 responses were received and the results had been very positive in relation to networks/events, e-bulletin, funding and governance advice. A visual report using infographics was in the process of being finalised and this would be shared with members once complete.

**Action:- AA to share monitoring report with committee members once complete**

## **7. Success and challenges – how is the Assembly working?**

JJ suggested that the current meeting would not give adequate time to discuss and debate this and suggested that a separate informal meeting be held for Executive members to come together, discuss and debate. This would include where we are at and the challenges in the future. Also to consider how members feel about their roles as Executive members, who we should be building relationships with and whether as a sector we have the resources and are in a position to deliver. Attendees were supportive of this. AA to check with other Executive members if supportive of this and arrange a date for this.

**Action: AA to ask Executive Committee members if willing to participate in an informal meeting to discuss success and challenges for the Assembly.**

## **8. AOB**

KS raised the lack of forums/networks to know what is going on across the area. It was suggested that groups should be encouraged to attend the Assembly geographical network meetings that provided that opportunity.

SS informed that a joint bid had been put in to Sport England for Active Ageing money from Carers Northumberland, Ageing Well, Active Northumberland and Age UK. It was suggested that there was probably a role for the Assembly in promoting partnerships.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 12.00 noon at NCVA**

**Dates of future meetings: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017**