

Notes of VCS Assembly Executive Committee

Tuesday 21st August 2018 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm

Northumberland CVA

Present: Joe Jackson (Chair), Ralph Firth, Anne Lyall, Sue Ashmore, Gill Smith, Abi Conway, Andrea Perrett, Mary Ormston, Norman Dunn, John McGough, Ann Atkinson

Apologies: Jim Wyness, Jon Niblo

1. Welcome to new members

JJ introduced new members to the Assembly and role in representing the sector, working together and engaging with the community. All members then introduced themselves.

2. Election of chair

JJ was nominated and seconded by Executive members to be the Chair of the Executive Committee for a second term.

3. Notes of last meeting and matter arising

Notes of the meeting were agreed. AL informed that she and colleagues in Newcastle and North Tyneside had written to their respective local authority leads on Devolution to ask when the VCS would be invited to have a seat on the Board. In response to a question on the role of VONNE, AL stated that they arranged meetings but there was a need for representation.

AA reported that actions that were her responsibility had been completed with more information being placed on the website in relation to feedback from Executive meetings, action plan and blogs.

4. Feedback from Executive members

JJ reported feedback from JW in his absence and SA reported that JW had been asked by Equalities officer at County Hall to look at plans for County Hall from the perspective of disabled people.

AC asked for clarification on the content of feedback forms and informed that as many items as she felt appropriate to share with the Executive.

SA asked for the use of plain English with no acronyms as not everyone was aware of what was being referred to.

RF stated that in relation to Health and Well Being Board (HWB) they continued to push for engagement of the VCS at the beginning of the process rather than at the end. Focus is now on an Accountable Care System. Statutory sector find it difficult to let go and find it hard to accept VCS as a critical friend.

JM reported that he had been asked to assist with the Locality Coordinator job descriptions and felt that it would be helpful if the county developed their own model for an asset based approach as seems to mean different things to different people. JM had been in contact with Janice Rose about rural issues and Council role and raised it with the Executive as an important issues to discuss at a future Liaison Group given the recent report 'Recharging Rural' exploring issues in rural areas. JJ agreed that it should be taken forward but we would need to decide how and in what way and what we would

want to achieve from this working with the Council and linking to Liaison Group. Members of Executive did have anecdotal evidence about people who were unable to sustain a tenancy being moved out to outer rural areas, creating greater marginalisation. Discussion around community led housing where need identified, availability of jobs, rural crime and carers in rural areas. The need to liaise with CAN was raised. It was suggested that a task and finish group be set up to take this forward.

Action:- AA to coordinate the setting up of a task and finish group to agree and develop plan to take this forward.

5. Partnership working – Public Health, CCG

AL raised concerns about whether the VCS was able to deliver capacity around commissioning and grants and a quality service. There is a need to know what the CCG expect and support VCS to deliver. NCC have a very traditional approach to commissioning requiring whole procurement process for small amounts which makes it more difficult for smaller organisations to consider. CCG recognise the need to support organisations to deliver. Siobhan Brown, CCG had been asked for a minimum standard so that Assembly could support organisations to meet the standard. This needed to be chased up. CCG advised to relax stringent criteria and the need to work collectively on this.

AA reported that she had met with Rachel Mitchison, CCG Commissioner and a GP about the Complex Care at Home project that would be tested out next in the Berwick area. Recognising the need to involve the VCS and importance of working together on this suggested that Support Planner, VCS and Locality Coordinators once in post got together about support available and identity gaps in provision. I suggested that the Support Planners would find it helpful attending VCS network meetings. I had provided details of VCS groups in the Berwick area to RM.

Action: AA to chase up Siobhan Brown about providing a minimum standard for VCS in relation to commissioning.

6. Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy Response

It was agreed that Executive members would get their views to AA by 3rd September 2018 and she would collate the responses to provide an Assembly response.

Action: AA to submit Assembly response to the Health and Well-Being Strategy

7. KPI's and Work Plan focus 2018/19

AA briefly drew attention to the activities undertaken and work plan. AP had suggested that a table be produced of what had been achieved to date in relation to KPI's. AA suggested possible ways of collecting information about the state of the sector including network meetings, face to face and survey

Action: AA to produce a table of achievements in relation to KPI's and work plan for the next meeting.

AA to explore ways of obtaining information about the state of the sector.

8. VCS Liaison Group and Statement of Intent

AA informed that the VCS Liaison Group planned for 6th September had been postponed because items to be prepared or delivered by NCC were not ready or staff were not available. Also as a decision on the Commission of Support Services would not be going to Cabinet until 9th October it was felt that the meeting should be after that date so this could be reported on. AL raised concern about the delay in a decision being made about the future of Support Services.

Following the last meeting of VCS Liaison Group AA and AL had met with Cllrs Cath Homer and Wendy Pattison about ensuring the Liaison Group was more effective as a group and had an impact. It was understood and agreed that this was an appropriate way forward and that there was a need to raise awareness amongst Portfolio holders of the Assembly role as a voice for the sector and to review the Statement of Intent that had been agreed several years ago. NCC were to address these. As the draft Statement of Intent had not been produced by NCC it was suggested that a Task and Finish Group from the Executive produce a revised Statement of Intent to be agreed by the Executive and shared with NCC for comment.

Action: AA to organise Task and Finish Group to produce revised draft Statement of Intent

9. VCS Assembly Event

There was limited time to discuss this but AA asked for ideas on themes for this year's event and suggested Commissioning, partnership working, link to Health and Well-Being Strategy.

Action: Ideas for Assembly event to be sent to AA and AA to put together a proposal for an event

10. AOB

AA asked if Executive members were happy to share their email addresses and this was agreed.

Dates of future meetings Tuesday 20th November 2018

Tuesday 12th February 2019