



**Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Interim Children & Young People's Forum**

**Monday 8 December 2014 at 2.30pm
Together in Matson, The Redwell Centre, Redwell Road
Gloucester GL4 6JG**

MINUTES

Present

Judith Bell	TIC+
Tracy Clark	Young Gloucestershire
Elaine Drew	Gloucestershire Young Carers
Jan Foreman (Chair)	OPENhouse
Ness Holbrook	Hope Support Services
Marilyn Jennings	Gloucester YMCA/GCVYS
Hugh Pelham	Community Foster Care and Community Family Care
Steve Robinson	Nailsworth Youth Club
Catherine Roberts	Gymnation Woodland Project
Clare Thomas	Hope Support Services
Helen Welsh	Gloucestershire Girl Guiding
Vanessa Worrall	Together In Matson

Apologies

Robin Agascar	Gay Glos
Peter Guns	Gloucestershire Boys Brigade
Dave Hall	Gloucestershire Scouts
Simon Gillings	Youth & Community Services CIC

In Attendance

Diana Billingham	Gloucestershire County Council
Matt Lennard	Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Jem Sweet	Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Karen Taylor	Clinical Commissioning Group
Susan West	Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Hannah Williams	Clinical Commissioning Group

1. Welcome and introductions

Jan Foreman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially those attending for the first time. She reminded everyone that the Forum is a place for VCS practitioners in Gloucestershire to talk about Children and Young People's issues. It's an opportunity to give feedback to Matt Lennard, the Alliance's Engagement Officer, for him to report back to commissioners.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 13 October were agreed.

3. Gloucestershire County Council Grant Schemes

Diana Billingham from Gloucestershire County Council spoke about three grant schemes.

- **Children's Activity Fund** – each County Councillor has £5,000 available for their Division. The fund will support projects that encourage children and young people to get active and improve their wellbeing. Applications have to be supported by a County Councillor. This money is available now and for the next financial year. Find more information at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/childrensactivityfund>.
- **Active Together** – each County Councillor has funding of £40,000 across two years available for their Division. The funding is for projects that get local communities active and covers all ages. Again the County Councillor has to support any applications. A quarter of the pot has currently been allocated, with 150 projects funded so far. The University of Gloucestershire is evaluating Active Together, looking at social return on investment over a two year period.
- **Healthy Together** looks to reduce health inequalities and is aimed at the whole population. Grants can be used for projects that meet specific health and wellbeing priorities which have been identified and agreed by local county councillors. Priorities vary in different areas. Funding is available for projects up to £100,000. The deadline is 23 December 2014. Evaluation will take place in January with grants awarded in March 2015 for projects to be delivered between April 2015-March 2016.

If an organisation operates county-wide, Diana recommended approaching several county councillors and applying across a number of localities.

4. Mental health issues for Children and Young People

Hannah Williams and Karen Taylor from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) talked about the county's mental health and wellbeing strategy.

The Clinical Commissioning Group is part of the NHS and commissions most health and social care services, apart from GP and specialist services, such as those for the military or prison population. The CCG designs, buys and monitors services, including those for mental health. 2gether Trust is the main provider for mental health services in the county.

In Gloucestershire the county strategy is available on the County Council website at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=56736&p=0>. There are six main objectives in the strategy with action plans for each one. The strategy covers all age groups. Historically strategies have been about people who are ill. Now there is an emphasis on preventing people getting ill. The plans are modified during the year with a formal refresh annually.

There is a county-wide executive group that meets every six weeks. It is made up of a Chair plus leading members from the sub groups. The Executive oversees the work of the sub groups.

The sub groups meet every eight weeks and are mainly attended by people from the VCS. Some sub groups have good VCS representation, but there is room for more. There are representatives from formal education and good representation for pre-natal and early years. There is funding available to cover travel expenses. Anyone who feels they have a contribution to make is welcome to join a sub-group. If interested, please contact Karen at karen.taylor29@nhs.net.

The CCG holds quarterly stakeholder events on the mental health and wellbeing strategy. The next meeting is on 15 January 2015 at the Guildhall in Gloucester starting at 12pm. There will be presentations on adult and child services and an open forum. Everyone is welcome.

ACTION: The VCS will promote the stakeholder events in its bulletin and on the website.

The National Mental Health Crisis Concordat was published in February 2014, challenging local services to make sure that places of safety and beds are always available for people experiencing a mental health crisis.

Organisations in Gloucestershire have signed up to a local Mental Health Crisis Care Declaration and launched an Action Plan in September, setting out what will happen when people need help in a mental health crisis.

Gloucestershire is the first area in the country to launch an action plan. The CCG has been working with partner organisations and agencies, including the NHS, police, ambulance service, social care services, the fire service and voluntary organisations.

The Gloucestershire action plan aims to make continuous improvements over the coming years, putting mental health on a par with physical health. Its key areas of focus are: support before crisis point; urgent and emergency access to crisis care; quality of treatment and care when in crisis; and recovery, staying well and preventing future crises.

For further information visit www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk

5. Social prescribing

Jem Sweet, Project Officer – Social Prescribing for the Alliance, explained that social prescribing is about addressing the non medical needs of people who regularly attend GP surgeries.

Jem is assisting with the roll out of social prescribing to the VCS, and a link between the CCG and Alliance. He is developing a Kitemark for Social Prescribing in the county. In general the focus is on those aged over 18, apart from Stroud & Berkeley Vale who start at 14+.

An example of social prescribing could be someone who has arthritis and taking a variety of drugs. Social prescribing could offer activities such as swimming or walking to help with pain management and provide social interaction.

Pilots are currently operating across the country and will be evaluated by Public Health Gloucestershire. The Forest of Dean and South Cotswolds were the first to start. Different areas are operating in different ways. In the Forest, GP referrals are passed to one of four voluntary organisations who can refer it to others based on their local knowledge. Cheltenham are passing referrals to one of six organisations while Stroud, South Cotswolds and Gloucester are operating across the wider voluntary sector. In Stroud a person is attached to GP surgeries and this is leading to more referrals, again based on local knowledge. As the pilots are happening now, there will be opportunities for more VCS organisations to be involved in the future.

Costs may vary but there is no public funding available.

Vanessa Worrall highlighted that Together in Matson already offers a gym and stress management for those who live locally which could be seen as social prescribing. She urged the CCG to be aware of what is already provided in very local areas.

The Alliance is holding a Health and Wellbeing Forum on 16 December which will cover social prescribing in more depth. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Alternatively if any would like to meet Jem and discuss social prescribing further, please contact him at jem.sweet@glosvcsalliance.org.uk.

6. Engagement Officer's Report

- Matt reminded everyone of the online questionnaire for the Children & Young People's Partnership Plan 2015-2018, open until 27 January 2015 at <https://gloucestershire-consult.objective.co.uk/public/health/workingwithfamilies/workingwithfamilies>. Matt circulated paper copies of Early Help Working with Families 2015 and beyond. This is for practitioners to complete with families and young people. Matt was asked to feed back that the timing of the surveys is too late to develop a strategy for 2015.
- The Alliance is working with Gloucestershire LEP on European Social Inclusion funding for Gloucestershire. There is £3.3m available to be match funded from the Big Lottery with most of the funding available to the VCS. The funding is to cover financial management, child poverty and financial inclusion. More information is on the Gloucestershire LEP website, in pages 53-54 of the EU Structural and Investment Fund Strategy for Gloucestershire.
<http://www.gfirstlep.com/home.aspx?MicrositeID=2&LevelID=434>

First stage applications are due in June 2015 and second stage, in December 2015. Funding is likely to be available in Jan-Feb 2016 at the earliest. Grants will be in the range of £100,000-500,000 and consortia bids are encouraged.

GAVCA and GRCC have secured project development funding to explain the application process and promote the funding through workshops and Forums.

Hannah Williams added that the CCG has offered GAVCA the opportunity to talk about ESIF funding at their January stakeholder event. Barnwood Trust may have money available to support people putting bids together.

- Helen Welsh asked if anything was being done to improve connections between the VCS and the local University. Matt explained there is a volunteering scheme that provides work experience for students.
ACTION: Matt to follow up and report back.
- Hannah Williams asked if discussions around volunteering and work experience include provision for people with long term physical or mental health issues.
ACTION: Matt and Jem to take this forward.
- Matt announced that Richard Bradley, Deputy Chief Executive of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner will be attending the Stronger, Safer Communities Forum on 8 January to talk about VCS representation on the criminal justice board.

7. Any Other Business

- Helen Welsh raised awareness of the Points of Light Scheme. This is a new award scheme run by the Cabinet Office to recognise volunteers in the community. Recipients receive a letter from David Cameron and some individuals are highlighted on the 10 Downing Street website. More information at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/points-of-light-awards>.
- Helen Welsh said Girlguiding had recently published a Girls' Attitude Survey which may be of general interest. Over 1,200 girls and young women, aged 9-18, were asked about their worries, challenges and hopes for the future. The results can be found on the Guiding website at <http://new.girlguiding.org.uk/girlsattitudes>.

- Maz Jennings had recently read a useful article on risky play and insurance. <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/sponsored-feature/1147138/insurance-youth-children-charities#sthash.1fLLyo1y>.
- Simon Gillings has approved the safeguarding summary following the Forum's discussion earlier in the year.
ACTION: Susan West to circulate the summary to Forum members and add it to the Alliance website.
- **ACTION:** Susan West will send a list to Forum participants with names, organisations, email addresses and website links. Those attending the meeting were happy to share their email addresses.

8. Date of next meeting

Jan reminded members that we had agreed to vary the meeting times between day and evening as it was not possible to find a time suitable for everyone.

The date of the next meeting will be on **Thursday 12 February 2015** at 6.00pm at Together in Matson. The theme will be funding. We will invite Summerfield Trust, Gloucestershire Community Foundation and Barnwood Trust to attend.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm.