



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

**Thursday 12 February 2015 at 6.00pm
Together in Matson, The Redwell Centre, Redwell Road
Gloucester GL4 6JG**

MINUTES

Present

Robin Agascar	Gay Glos
Judith Bell	TIC+
Tracy Clark	Young Gloucestershire
Jan Foreman (Chair)	OPENhouse
Peter Guns	Gloucestershire Boys Brigade
Dave Hall	Gloucestershire Scouts
Sally James	GARAS
Marilyn Jennings	Gloucester and Cheltenham YMCA
Adele Owen	GARAS
Hugh Pelham	Community Foster Care and Community Family Care
Ramona Ray	CCP
Vanessa Worrall	Together In Matson
Christine Wray	Gloucestershire Girl Guiding

Apologies

Maddie Massey	Active Gloucestershire
Catherine Roberts	Gymnasion Woodland Project
Clare Thomas	Hope Support Services
Helen Welsh	Gloucestershire Girl Guiding
Tracy Young	Nailsworth Youth Club

In Attendance

Alistair Cormie	Gloucestershire Community Foundation
Amanda James	BITC Business Connector
Matt Lennard	Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Diane Mautterer	Peter Lang Children's Trust
Alice Meason	Gloucestershire Community Foundation
Barbara Pond	GRCC
Anna Rarity	Healthwatch Gloucestershire
Gail Rodway	Barnwood Trust
Susan West	Gloucestershire VCS Alliance

1. Welcome and introductions

Jan Foreman welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly the guest speakers.

2. Funding presentations

Gail Rodway, Barnwood Trust

Barnwood Trust is a charitable foundation operating in Gloucestershire supporting people with physical and mental health challenges to make the most of their lives. Their website is: <http://www.barnwoodtrust.org>.

- Small Grants Wellbeing Fund for individual people with a disability to help with the purchase of domestic appliances, items such as furniture or carpets, or disability-related equipment. These are one-off grants with a simple A4 application form. The individual must be the main beneficiary of the grant. Barnwood Trust has 20 volunteer home visitors who meet applicants to check they need what has been applied for. A decision is given within two weeks of the visit. The average grant is £400. There is no restriction on the number of grants applied for in a year. 800 grants were made in 2014.
- Opportunities Awards are for people aged over 18 to take up an activity or hobby that will enable them to move on to employment or volunteering. The grant will provide equipment or fund training. Grants are made quarterly. Barnwood Trust will meet applicants if the grant requested is more than £500.
- Small Sparks Fund is to help build inclusive communities. It offers grants to people to set up small community groups, for example for gardening or knitting. Grants are up to £250. At least four people must benefit of whom one must have a disability or mental health challenge. Grant applications are reviewed monthly.
- Grants of up to £1000 are made to organisations supporting people with disabilities.

Alistair Cormie and Alice Meason, Gloucestershire Community Foundation

Gloucestershire Community Foundation has money available under three main schemes.

- Main grant scheme for organisations, offering up to £10,000. Average grants are £5-6,000. The priority is to fund those supporting the disadvantaged or isolated, young and old. Full guidelines and an application form are on their website at <http://www.gloucestershirecf.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/gcf-main-grant/>
- The High Sheriff's Fund is aimed at young people, encouraging them to be involved in challenging activities, and deter them from anti-social behaviour and crime. Grants are up to £2,500 and considered at quarterly panel meetings.
- Freemasons Fund offers grants up to £2,500 for groups and organisations working to benefit local communities and to improve the lives of disadvantaged people in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire.

In addition they administer:

- Red Nose Day Community Cash grants of £500-£1,000 for projects that meet Red Nose Day criteria supporting community groups that helps people of all ages feel more included and involved. Applications are open now until 5 March 2015.
- Surviving Winter Grants funded by people who have donated their winter fuel payment to help older people in Gloucestershire, who need additional support as a result of cold winter weather.
- Distribution of government funding to those affected by severe flooding.

Grants are made across a wide spectrum of organisations, for example Gloucestershire Young Carers, St James City Farm and arts-based organisations. Turnaround times are normally 4-5 weeks.

This year they plan to issue a newsletter and visit more organisations across the county. Their website is <http://www.gloucestershirecf.org.uk>.

Barbara Pond, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

Barbara explained that over £6m European funding is coming to Gloucestershire as a result of work done by the Local Enterprise Partnership and the VCS Alliance. GAVCA and GRCC are working together to raise awareness of the funding through the Building Better Opportunities Project.

The priority for funding is social inclusion, to help people furthest away from employment who have complex physical and mental health needs. A secondary priority is financial inclusion.

The European money is just over £3m which is matched by the Lottery to give over £6m in total. The Big Lottery Fund will manage the grant application process, applicants will make one application to the lottery. Precise details of the process are still being worked on.

GAVCA and GRCC are running a series of events during March across the county to explain about the grant, the application process and to hear VCS views and concerns. The events are open to all, with details on the Alliance, GRCC and GAVCA websites. <http://www.glosvcsalliance.org.uk/building-better-opportunities-project-eu-funding/>
<http://www.grcc.org.uk/home/gloucestershire-building-better-opportunities-project>
<http://www.gavca.org.uk/build-better-ops-proj-2015/>

The funding is not ring fenced for the VCS. Grant sizes are still being debated but likely to be in the region of £4-500,000.

Concern was expressed that small VCS organisations will be excluded and large national or regional organisations will receive most of the funding. Although the Lottery is keen to see consortium working, it had not yet defined what it expected to see as a consortium. Development grants were available to help build consortia between Stages 1 and 2 of the application but it was pointed out that large organisations already have the necessary infrastructure. The longer the VCS does not know the criteria the harder it will be to get the necessary arrangements in place.

Barbara encouraged everyone to attend one of the Building Better Opportunities events in March to express their views so that she can feed back concerns to the Big Lottery Fund.

Diane Mautterer, Peter Lang Children's Trust

The Trust is based in Gloucestershire and funds activities across the county. The focus is on early years, 0-3, aiming to give babies and toddlers a loving, nurturing and harm free environment. There is one grant round a year with grants available for three years. There is a two stage application process. Applications open in October/November. These are shortlisted in December followed by a full application and project visit. Decisions are made at the March trustees meeting and grants are issued in June. Applicants must live in Gloucestershire and provide evidence of the need and how they will evaluate the impact of the grant.

Their website is <http://www.plct.org.uk/>.

South West Foundation

Susan West recently attended a Small Grants Workshop run by the South West Foundation. The Foundation runs a small grants programme with the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. Grants are up to £1,000, mostly in the region of £200-600 for organisations with running costs under £20,000. The priority is for small community organisations in rural areas, market and coastal towns in the South West. They do not fund organisations solely operating in urban conurbations such as Gloucester. They prioritise organisations that aim to bring real change to the lives of people in the community and supporting people most in need, including young people who affected by disadvantage in any way.

There is an application form on their website, www.the-foundation.org.uk/grant-programmes and decisions are normally made in two weeks.

The South West Foundation is also seeking feedback from people who have applied to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

Susan reminded everyone that applications are open for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's community grants scheme until 25 March 2015. <http://www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk/the-office-of-the-pcc/commissioning/>

3. Healthwatch Gloucestershire

Anna Rarity introduced Healthwatch Gloucestershire highlighting its three aims: influencing policy by getting views from service users; help with making complaints and providing information on community organisations and health services in the county. Healthwatch has information advisers available for specific questions on health and social care. Current consultations are taking place on hospital discharge, experience of GPs and patient transport. Full details on the Healthwatch website at <http://www.healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk>.

Anna is looking at how best to include questions on mental health and self harm in the forthcoming Gloucestershire pupil survey. She is looking for advice on formulating the right questions. Robin Agascar wanted gender and sexual orientation to be factored in because those issues can lead to a high level of self harm. Adele Owen also said that asylum seekers and refugees were at high risk. The issue of transition from children's services to adults was highlighted.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on December were agreed once Jan had been listed as chair of the meeting.

5. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 April at 6pm at the Redwell Centre, Matson, Gloucester. The theme will be partnership working.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.