



**Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Interim C&YP Forum**

**Wednesday 19 March 2014 1830hrs
Together in Matson, The Redwell Centre, Redwell Road
Gloucester GL4 6JG**

MINUTES

Present:

Jan Foreman	OPENhouse
Peter Guns	Gloucestershire Boys Brigade
Dave Hall	Gloucestershire Scouts
Marilyn Jennings	Gloucester YMCA/GCVYS
David Wallace (Chair)	Cheltenham YMCA
Vanessa Worrall	Together In Matson

Apologies

Tracy Clark	Young Gloucestershire
Simon Gillings	Youth & Community Services CIC
Liam Graham-Whelan	DROP
Ciaran Murphy	Gloucestershire Nightstop
Ele Semadeni	Gloucestershire Young Carers
Graham Spearman	Forest of Dean Youth Workers Network
Helen Welsh	Gloucestershire Girl Guiding

In Attendance

Andrew Lee	Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Matt Lennard	Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Susan West	Gloucestershire VCS Alliance

1. Welcome and introductions

David Wallace welcomed everyone to the meeting. AL introduced Matt Lennard who is the new Engagement Officer for the Alliance, starting on 1 April.

2. Previous minutes and actions

County Council

- AL has circulated the new Shire Hall structure which will also be added to the Alliance website. AL has also circulated a link to the CYP Strategic Plan and Partnership Board papers.
- Councillor Paul McLain is the portfolio holder for Children and Young People. He is also Chair of the Partnership Board.
- The County Council has set up a commercial unit up to oversee commissioning decisions to ensure there are no conflicts of interest. Graham Collins is the Interim Director of the Commercial Unit managing its implementation.
- Duncan Jordan, Operational Director, has been seconded to Gloucestershire Care Services for 18 months. Mark Branton is taking over Duncan's work.

Young People's Partnership Board

- AL has enquired about VCS representation on the Young People's Partnership Board. The Forum Chair needs to write to Linda Uren, Lead Officer for CYP in the County Council, copying in Sally Hebbs, to request a meeting to discuss representation. The VCS has a seat on the Board that will become obsolete if it is not taken up. The lever for this is that the Alliance is funded by Shire Hall to undertake this role.

Troubled Families Unit

- AL has met Eugene O'Kane, Head of the Troubled Families unit, to discuss VCS input into their programme. Sally Hebbs, Commissioning Officer for the Troubled Families contract, is very keen to see the relationship between the Alliance CYP Forum and the Troubled Families programme strengthen.
Action Matt Lennard to email Eugene and Sally requesting a meeting.
Action Forum members need to identify what they want the meeting to achieve and email their ideas to Matt or Susan West by 2 April.

District Network Group

- AL & ML attended a District Network Group meeting on 18 March, chaired by Mike Dawson, Chief Executive of Tewkesbury Borough Council. Each of the six districts has been allocated £50,000 for CYP funding for the 2014-15 financial year. This spend will be monitored towards the end of this financial year but not influence future funding.
Action: AL to circulate the existing monitoring data to Forum members.
- The County Council is funding £265,000 for CYP (ages 6-19) for the 2015-16 financial year. Local county politicians will decide how this money will be allocated in November/December 2014. The Council will create guidance notes to assist the politicians with their decision-making. AL has requested Alliance input into development of the guidance notes.
Action: Forum members to link with Matt to influence the guidance.
- Dave Hall asked how to obtain funding for activities not financed by the County Council. He is keen for the Council to recognise the amount of extra work done that is not council funded. AL recommended building this into the CYP strategy, being explicit about what activities take place over and above the funding received. He recommended Linda Uren is a key person to speak to.
- The Police & Crime Commissioner website has sources of funding available and the funding round is currently underway.
Action: Vanessa Worrall to forward an email about PCC funding to Susan West for wider circulation.

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for Forum and Developing Strategy

There had been no nominations for the post of Chair or Vice Chair. The two posts needed to have a balance of strategic and operational skills representing children and young people.

A discussion then took place on developing the VCS CYP strategy and creating a unique selling point for the Forum.

Jan Foreman suggested revisiting the flipcharts created at the meeting held at PATA last year which looked at issues facing CYP. These would be a useful starting point for a

strategic plan. Marilyn Jennings asked whether any of the background information provided by the consultants could also be incorporated into the strategy.

Action David Wallace and Susan West to ensure Forum members have a copy of the flipcharts and PowerPoint slides.

AL reminded the meeting that the Alliance is independent as it does not bid for contracts or provide any services. Matt can therefore represent Forum members and make their voice heard in Shire Hall.

Action: The Forum requested Matt arranges to meet Graham Collins at Shire Hall.

It was agreed that that a new chair could be an interim appointment of someone who is prepared to drive forward developing the strategy.

Marilyn Jennings proposed that **Jan Foreman** be appointed interim chair. This was agreed. David Wallace proposed **Marilyn Jennings** as interim vice-chair. This was agreed.

Dave Hall thanked David Wallace and Sue Barker for all their hard work in getting the Forum to its current position. This was supported by everyone present.

Jan Foreman proposed holding a meeting specifically to develop the strategy. This should identify the Forum's unique selling point, why people should want to join and what the Forum wants to achieve. Jan felt the strategy should clearly say that members cannot use the Forum for their own interests but only for wider VCS issues.

It was agreed a working party should meet to develop the strategy on Wednesday 9 April at 6.00pm at Together in Matson. It was proposed and agreed that the working party should consist of Tracy Clark, Jan Foreman, Peter Guns, Dave Hall, Marilyn Jennings, David Wallace, Helen Welsh and Vanessa Worrall supported by Matt Lennard and Susan West.

AL reminded Forum members to use their networks to generate enthusiasm for growing membership of the Forum. Vanessa Worrall suggested this would be easier once the strategy was developed and the Forum is clearer on what it aims to achieve and has a stronger collective vision.

4. Strategic representation on various groups

David Wallace proposed it would be easier to identify the groups where the Forum should be represented once the strategy is developed.

It was agreed it would be useful to have a jargon buster for the various groups to explain what they are.

Action: To start this Susan West will circulate a sentence about the Children's Partnership Board explaining what it is.

Cathy Griffiths is keen to meet the Alliance to discuss representation from the Alliance on the **Safeguarding Children's Board**. The current CYP representatives are service providers and do not have a mandate from the Alliance's C&YP Forum, as the independent voice for CYP. There is one place available to represent the Forum and its members. The Forum needs to agree if the place should be taken by a Forum member or Matt Lennard. Dave Hall was keen that the person sitting on the Safeguarding Board on behalf of the Forum should represent all CYP interests and feedback to the Forum.

Action: AL to circulate an email from Cathy Griffiths about the Safeguarding Board.

5. Adult Education contract – to be discussed at the next meeting.

6. **Any other business**

Dave Hall suggested alternating the meetings between day time and evening to make it easier for more people to attend.

7. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 April at 6.00pm at The Redwell Centre, Matson, Gloucester.

The Forum thanked Andrew Lee for all his hard work and wished him well for the future.