Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Stronger Safer Communities Forum

Thursday 3 November 2016 10.00am-12.00pm
Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester

MINUTES

Present:
Robin Agascar
Sally Bond-Williams
Sarah Clifton-Gould
Emma Griffiths
Catherine Kevis
Elisha Kyne
Steve Long
Peter Paul
Barbara Pond
Jez Spencer
Amanda Stancombe
Wayne Stevens (Chair)
Christine Sweet
Bill Wragge
Gay Glos
Cotswold Friends
Cotswold District Council
Gloucestershire Counselling Service
Gloucestershire Community Foundation
British Red Cross
CCP
Cotswold Friends
GRCC
Fair Shares
P3
Victim Support
Trust in You
Cotswold District Council

Apologies:
Jill Cooper
Isabel Livingstone
Sally Pickering
Stroud Beresford Group
Clinks
Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswolds

In attendance
Chris Brierley
Kirsten Fruin
Matt Lennard
Jem Sweet
Susan West
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
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1. Welcome and introductions

Wayne Stevens welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Chris Brierley, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Kirsten Fruin from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

2. Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and OPCC office

Chris Brierley explained he has been appointed by Martin Surl to be Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. The role of Deputy is give more support to the Police and Crime Commissioner,
attending meetings on his behalf and highlighting opportunities with a key responsibility for working with the VCS.

The Police and Crime Plan sets the priorities for the police, it is not about operational policing. Gloucestershire is only one of four force areas where there has been a decrease in crime but there is no room for complacency.

He emphasised his main interests are in working with the voluntary and community sector, restorative justice and offender management. He is keen to make the sure the public know what the OPCC and Gloucestershire Constabulary are offering.

Chris acknowledged that urban and rural policing are very different. He wants PCSOs to be present in local communities. In rural areas elderly people are not always aware of who to feed their concerns to. He believes the Constabulary review of neighbourhood policing has to include local views with public consultation to agree what neighbourhood policing looks like.

A new road safety partnership has been launched. Devolution proposals have gone quiet again.

The latest community safety partnership proposals have been submitted to Leadership Gloucestershire.

**ACTION:** KF has provided this update. Leadership Gloucestershire have agreed the option below to progress as a model for community safety in the county. Implementation will begin in January 2017 over a period of six to nine months. This work will be led by John Bensted who is supported by members of the OPCC team. A steering group, which includes Dr Claire Mould will support this work.

**Structure of the OPCC team**

Martin Surl is the elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

Chris is his unelected Deputy, with no executive function.

Paul Trott is the Chief Executive.

Richard Bradley is Deputy Chief Executive whose role is more public facing and he has a community safety role for the county.

Hilary Alison is the Head of Public Affairs.

Other departments are responsible for commissioning and finance.
**ACTION:** Kirsten Fruin has supplied an organisation chart that accompanies these minutes.

3. **Commissioner's Fund**

The Commissioners Fund is available to invest in voluntary and community projects that will have impact in reducing the demand on the police. The fund stands at £1 million, 1% of the PCC budget, and has supported 270 projects over the last four years.

Kirsten Fruin reminded everyone that the Fund is open for applications until 1 December. It will support existing and new projects for up to four years. They favour projects that are match funded and projects that can become sustainable.

Kirsten is happy to meet people to talk through ideas, eligibility and how a project might fit with the Police and Crime Plan. Contact her at Commissioners.Fund@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk.

After 1 December applications will be read, scored, reviewed by an internal panel before Martin Surl makes a final decision in February/March with funding to start in the new financial year.

**Discussion**

It was acknowledged it can be difficult to source match funding especially from District Councils for county-wide projects.

Kirsten explained that extensions to existing projects, particularly for staff costs, can be processed more quickly with decisions in January. She added the Commissioner's Fund cannot fund everything and is not designed to replace County Council funding.

The OPCC will recognise in-kind matching, for example volunteer time, and internal income generated from training.

There is no targeted allocation against priorities. To date most funding has gone to young people’s projects, based on applications received.

Funding decisions are based on the quality of applications, not where in the county they are from.

Funded projects have to submit quarterly monitoring forms and final evaluation forms. Funded projects are listed on the OPCC website, but the outcomes are not. KF agreed to look into this as it was felt further connections could be made.

It was agreed measuring some outcomes is difficult, for example young people not getting into trouble is positive but can be hard to quantify. KF emphasised they can be flexible, ultimately funding is for projects that will result in crime prevention.

Cotswold Friends highlighted the huge role volunteers play in their organisation and that securing funding for infrastructure is difficult. Large funders want small-medium sized organisations to collaborate rather than give funds direct to small organisations.

It was agreed that some services are delivered by national organisations who lack local knowledge.

4. **Social Prescribing and its impact on the VCS**

Jem Sweet explained that social prescribing seeks to address non-medical needs. It has been running for over two years and now covers the whole county with all GP surgeries involved. There has been no extra funding. Social Prescribing Co-ordinators are employed on a district-basis and clinicians refer individuals to the co-ordinators. There are 24 co-ordinators in the county.
The CCG conducted an evaluation of social prescribing using the University of the West of England (UWE). They did not plan to look at the impact on the VCS so the Alliance ran its own survey. There were 57 responses and Jem thanked everyone who took part. The overall result was favourable, organisations receiving referrals were happy with the service, those without referrals were not. Jem is concerned that smaller organisations are not used enough.

The CCG final report has been delayed but the headlines are that the Gloucestershire social prescribing project has been cost effective and successful. There have been 2476 referrals from 81 surgeries. The outcomes are improved health and wellbeing, reduced medical appointments at GP surgeries with 72% of people referred saying social prescribing has made a difference. In the long-term it will go out to tender for commissioning alongside the village agent contract.

The researcher at UWE is interested in what the Alliance has been doing and will incorporate our findings into his report.

Steve Long, as a Social Prescribing Coordinator for Cheltenham, said that local knowledge is key and partnership working important. 50% of people referred have had mental health issues and 63% had benefits or housing issues. These individuals need to deal with their social issue before moving on. Larger organisations tend to be better equipped to deal with the broader social issues. It was agreed that social isolation is a huge problem in rural areas.

Sarah Clifton-Gould, a Social Prescribing Co-ordinator for the Cotswolds was interested to know which organisations had not received referrals. The NHS Health Inequalities Fund may be able to help with funding.

**ACTION:** JS/SW to provide Steve and Sarah with names of organisations who completed the survey and had no referrals. DONE.

The contracts for social prescribing and village agents are being funded from the same budget. They are separate contracts, an organisation can bid for one and not for the other. It was agreed transport can be a huge issue for people to access classes and activities. It is not yet known if the contract will be county-wide or by locality. The tender document is due out in early December with the contract expected to go live in June 2017.

The Compact was discussed. This had been a county council initiative with the VCS with agreements and guidance on the commissioning process, communication and partnership working. It had fallen into abeyance since the recession. Matt Lennard felt it would be hard to reinvigorate without support from the County Council and CCG and this was not likely to be forthcoming.

5. **High Sheriff Multi-Agency Forum**

This is about bringing key partners in Gloucester city together and is deferred until a future meeting.

6. **Drug and alcohol contract**

Matt Lennard had asked someone from the new provider for the Drug and Alcohol contract to attend but it had not been possible at this stage. The contract has been awarded to CGL, ‘change, grow, live’, a national organisation and social enterprise that currently holds 70% of the national drug and alcohol contracts. They will deliver the service at lower cost and in a different way. They are keen to work with the VCS and their partners include Barnardo’s and Young Gloucestershire. The contract is for five years with a possible two year extension and starts on 1 January 2017. Existing staff at Turning Point will transfer to CGL under TUPE regulations.

**ACTION:** ML will invite CGL to attend a future forum.
7. **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting on 8 June 2016 were approved.

The Alliance had offered two proposals to the OPCC for consulting with the VCS on the draft Police and Crime Plan. The OPCC decided not to take up the offer. The Alliance advertised the public consultation on the plan and offered a tele-conference which only had a limited take-up.

8. **Round table update**

**Hate Crime Strategy** – Robin Agascar reported that the county hate crime strategy was launched at an event in October at Gloucester Guildhall. The new strategy is available on the Constabulary’s hate crime webpage at [https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/staying-safe/keeping-yourself-safe/hate-crime](https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/staying-safe/keeping-yourself-safe/hate-crime). He circulated sets of posters that raise awareness of hate crime legislation. If anyone needs more copies please contact Robin at ragascar@aol.com or download them from the hate crime webpage. The Constabulary has appointed Stephanie Lawrence as its Hate Crime Co-Ordinator. She is responsible for raising skills and knowledge of hate crime amongst the police and working with Victim Support. It is acknowledged there is massive underreporting of hate crime. Education is a key focus. Following a pilot, lesson plans and assembly materials have been sent to schools.

**GRCC** is arranging a meeting in Northleach on 24 November for VCS organisations working in the Cotswolds to network, discuss key issues and explore opportunities for joint working.

**Gloucestershire Community Foundation** is part of the national network of community foundations. Catherine Kevis’s role is to raise more money from major donors to be able to make more grants especially to smaller organisations. GCF is conducting a needs analysis across the county and is aware that some needs are hidden. Nationally the Foundations are responsible for the Managing New Beginnings fund for refugees and Building a Stronger Britain together fund.

**Trust in You** is delivering six mental health first aid training courses for Public Health Gloucestershire. Three are fully booked with a large waiting list, a further three courses will be organised. Trust in You is soon to be accredited for safeguarding adults.

**VCS Alliance** has recently launched a Commissioning Calendar that brings together commissioning, funding and community events to one central place. You can access the calendar at [https://calendar.glosvcsalliance.org.uk/calendar](https://calendar.glosvcsalliance.org.uk/calendar). There is a section to ask questions about commissioning and organisations can sign up to advertise their own events. Jem reported that free training available for the VCS on advanced care planning was not taken up and there are likely to be drop-in events arranged that take a social rather than clinical approach.

**GAYGLOS’s** youth group continues to flourish. They no longer run a helpline in real time. They have recently been asked for support by people ranging from mid 30s to early 70s who are struggling to come out. Although information is available, face to face contact in a safe space remains important.

**Cotswold Friends** provide a transport service for Gloucestershire Young Carers which is working well. They have challenges in reaching out to both clients and volunteers. The value of volunteers must not be underestimated.

**Fair Shares** has been working with GRASAC and Beresford Group on training on domestic violence and abuse.
Gloucestershire Counselling Service offers adult, child and family counselling. They have found it difficult to recruit child counsellors and developed a training stream to ‘grow their own’. Their website http://gloscounselling.org.uk/ has details of the training and services they offer.

Victim Support provides services for those affected by crime. It’s a national organisation but community based with local volunteers and a home visit service. Visit https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/south-west/gloucestershire for further details.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be in early 2017, probably in Cheltenham.

Transport, community safety partnerships and community safety and crime affecting young people were suggested as future topics.