



Notes and action points

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

Thursday 28th March 2024

Chair:	Dave Bagley	Notes:	Farzana Patel
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1. Welcome	Lead
<p>Present: Dave Bagley, Farzana Patel, Elaine Butt, Heather Berry, Nicholas Russell, Alun Morris, Sandra Crompton, Marie-Anne Eckersall, Sophie Hilton, Marlene Stringfellow, Bully Darroch, Pam Duxbury, Pamela Eaton, Beryl Monaghan, Carol Corbett, David Greenhalgh, Mandy Jelenje, Kikelomo Folashade, Michael Naughton, Julie Crompton, Phil Kennedy, Ellis McCarthy, Diana Khasa, Andrew Bailey</p> <p>Apologies: Gabriela McGreevy, Olwyn Holgate, Dave Bevitt</p> <p>Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	

2. Highlights from the Chair	Lead
<p>Dave reported that Lauren McKechnie, Deputy CEO at Bolton CVS is leaving Bolton CVS at the end of April and will be taking over from Suzanne Hilton who is retiring as CEO of Age UK Bolton.</p> <p>Bolton CVS has appointed a new COO (Chief Operating Officer), a formal announcement will be made in early April.</p> <p>Bolton's Fund evolution continues, looking at what the partnership/large grants process will look like, more information will be shared soon.</p>	<p>Dave Bagley reported</p>

3. Bolton Council – Support with Events	Lead
<p>Sophie introduced herself and talked about the popular events led by Bolton Council such the Bolton's Food and Drink Festival.</p> <p>Sophie went on to talk about what makes an event great; is a good variety of all different sizes, from international stages to grassroots community activity. Bolton Council would like to encourage more members of Bolton's amazing voluntary and community sector to; host more events, develop the events they already host regularly or try hosting an event for the first time.</p> <p>Sophie talked about how sometimes the cost of equipment hire can be a significant barrier to choosing whether to host an event. Bolton Council has received funding from UKSPF and have invested in purchasing stock of events infrastructure items.</p> <p>These equipment is available to partners in the VCSE sector to help with costs when hosting events. The items we have available include: gazebos, parasols, café tables and chairs, trestle tables and crowd barriers. Electrical items are available: microphones, portable PA systems and stage lighting kits.</p>	<p>Presented by Sophie Hilton, Project Officer, Bolton Council</p>



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<p>To hire any equipment, visit Bolton CVS website: www.bolton.gov.uk/yourevent, check what is available and reserve the items using the booking form. Advice around hosting, compliance, marketing etc can be found on the website too.</p> <p>Bolton Council will be working with Bolton CVS to hold Event Design and Development Sessions.</p> <p>The full presentation can be found here.</p>	
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4. Bolton CVS new members	Lead
<p>Diana talked about the Bolton CVS membership offer, more details can be found here.</p> <p>Provincial Walsh Trust Bolton: Carol talked about how the trust was set up with the purpose of providing modest financial assistance to individuals or groups living or working within the Bolton area to achieve personal goals or small projects, particularly those helping others. It does not provide for personal loans, commercial enterprises or large building projects.</p> <p>Applications welcome from children and young people’s groups, elderly peoples groups, health and care related, education and training etc, focus on target groups and areas in need. E-mail secretary@pwtb.co.uk for further information or visit their website: www.pwtb.org.uk.</p> <p>Noteweavers: Note Weavers CIC is a community of learning for early years music within which early years practitioners, musicians and educators can be empowered through collaboration with each other and find support to develop their practice appropriately thus improving access for children, families and communities to quality musical experiences. David’s presentation can be found here.</p>	<p>Led by Diana Khasa, Bolton CVS</p>

5. Hate Crime Reporting Centres: Minimum Standards	Lead
<p>Andrew talked about his role involves refreshing the hate crime reporting centres. Bolton Council website indicates 23 hate crime reporting centres but the pandemic has had an impact on these.</p> <p>Some centres have volunteers who do not have the capacity to fulfil these duties, it is important for reporting centres to have employed staff that are able to undertake reporting hate crime.</p> <p>Andrew and his team are looking for organisations that are able to support people in their journey of reporting hate crime and looking at whether an organisation are the ‘right’ organisation to be a hate crime reporting centre.</p> <p>Andrew reported that his team are looking for organisations who know the community and what is happening in the community. There is a training package available which is delivered with the police around what the roles and responsibilities are of a hate crime reporting centre, the commitment from the</p>	<p>Presented by Andrew Bailey, Community Safety Officer, Bolton Council</p>



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police and ask any questions. To have a discussion with Andrew, you can e-mail on Andrew.Bailey1@bolton.gov.uk .	
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6. Any Other Business	Actions
No other business.	All

Date of next meeting:
Thursday 30 th May 2024, 10.30am – 12.00pm at The Bolton Hub