



Notes and action points

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

Thursday 25th July 2024

Chair:	Elaine Butt	Notes:	Farzana Patel
---------------	-------------	---------------	---------------

1. Welcome	Lead
<p>Present: Farzana Patel, Elaine Butt, Pamela Eaton, James Walton, Munera Umarjee, Calene Kirton, Kirit Patel, Lisa Forrest, Laura Bagley, Tom Lavery, Shakeel Ahmed, Hubert Kayonda, Sandra Crompton, Drissia Ahmed, Beryl Monaghan, Marie Boardman, Marie Oxtoby, Leah Edwards, Diana Khasa, Dani Gaines, Heather Berry</p> <p>Apologies: Dave Bagley, Dee Luckza</p> <p>Elaine welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	

2. Highlights from the Chair	Lead
<p>Elaine read out an e-mail from Suzanne Hilton, CEO at Age UK Bolton who will be retiring in the next couple of days:</p> <p><i>'As most of you may know I will be retiring tomorrow after a decade as CEO of Age UK Bolton which has been an absolute honour, privilege and a joy and a wonderful way to sign off my paid career. Our charity has grown significantly over that time in fact it has quadrupled in size in terms of income and staffing which is only important because of what that enables us to do for, with and on behalf of, older people in the town. We now support over 10,000 older people every year through more than 20 different services, projects, activities and events. Much of what we do is in partnership with other local organisations and it is fantastic to be part of such a wonderful, supportive, vibrant and dynamic voluntary and community sector. Bolton will always have a special place in my heart. I am going to miss the work and the town but it is the people that I shall miss most of all as it is always the people that make somewhere and some periods of our lives special. Bolton is such a friendly, warm place and there is a genuine generosity of spirit and togetherness. Our inspirational volunteers and our partners prove that to me every day, so I wanted to say a big thank you to all of you for being such a great bunch of people to work with and to know and for making the magic happen.</i></p> <p><i>There have been some real challenges in recent years but we came to together to support local people and one another and there has been lots of fun and laughter along the way too.</i></p> <p><i>I'm proud to have been part of the best VCSE sector around. Although I won't be living or working in Bolton anymore I won't be disappearing altogether as I am staying on the board of CVS and the Arena so will look forward to seeing many of you around those meetings and to catching up with all the good stuff you will continue to deliver.'</i></p> <p>Elaine introduced Marie Oxtoby who will be retiring from her role as Chair at Bolton Neuro Voices. Marie Oxtoby has been part of the VCSE sector and part of Bolton CVS ever since it has started.</p>	<p>Elaine Butt reported</p>

Marie mentioned the support she has received from Bolton CVS over the years and thanked Bolton's VCSE sector as being the best!	
---	--

3. Proper Good Sustainability Check In	Lead
<p>Lisa started her presentation giving an explained the meaning for sustainability by The United Nations: <i>'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'</i></p> <p>Lisa talked through the sustainable goals from The United Nations and gave a Bolton's perspective where Bolton Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, we have a Bolton Climate Change Strategy and the ambition is to make council operations net-zero carbon by 2030.</p> <p>Lisa gave examples of what is happening in Bolton to save energy in schools, Bolton Council buildings, Bolton at Home properties.</p> <p>Lisa explained what a sustainability check-in is, what are the benefits, the 3 steps to undertake in a check-in and what you could do to increase sustainability for your group.</p> <p>Lisa talked through the process, as Headspace for example, what the action plan looks like and the feedback received.</p> <p>Lisa talked about groups to start thinking about developing an environmental policy as this is now what funders are looking for. Lisa asked if anyone needs further information or support, e-mail lisa@boltoncvs.org.uk.</p> <p>The full presentation can be found here.</p>	<p>Presented by Lisa Forrest, Project Co-ordinator at Bolton CVS</p>

4. Training Review	Lead
<p>Samim and Diana talked about how Bolton CVS are reviewing their training programme and wanted attendees to participate in a 5 minute survey</p> <p>You can complete the survey here.</p>	<p>Presented by Samim Vali and Diana Khasa, Bolton CVS</p>

5. Bolton Brick Multibank	Lead
<p>Tom introduced himself and talked about the who Bolton Brick Multibank are; they redistributes surplus and donated goods to people on low incomes who are struggling to cover the costs of everyday essentials. These items range from bedding and cleaning products to clothes and toiletries.</p> <p>The project was launched in December 2022, working with local charities and community groups in areas outside of Wigan to expand the coverage of the multibank initiative across North West of England.</p>	<p>Presented by Tom Laverty</p>

<p>The Multibank would like to facilitate the connection between supplier and end user, provide a secure, reliable and comprehensive supply of essential items that either bolsters or extends current offerings. To establish a network of charities and community groups across the North-West aligned under the Brick Multibank initiative.</p> <p>For more information, e-mail Tom@thebrick.org.uk or visit https://www.thebrick.org.uk/</p> <p>Full presentation can be found here.</p>	
--	--

6. Money Skills Service	Lead
<p>Shakeel introduced himself and talked about the Money Skills Service is available to anyone who lives, works or studies in Bolton to take control of their finances and gain knowledge and confidence to manage their money sensibly.</p> <p>Shakeel went on to talk about how they can help with a range of issues including: high energy costs, budgeting guidance and dealing with debts.</p> <p>The Money Skills Service works with tenants, community groups, housing associations, and other service providers. We design, plan and deliver a variety of training and awareness raising events and activities to improve people's knowledge and develop their confidence in money management.</p> <p>Shakeel mentioned how to people can access the service, you can make a self-referral – online and over the phone or services can refer their customers via referral form.</p> <p>You can find more information: https://www.boltonsmoneyskills.org.uk/</p> <p>Full presentation can be found here.</p>	<p>Presented by Shakeel Ahmed</p>

7. Any Other Business	Actions
<p>Kirit Patel is from Can Survive UK groups which is a cancer awareness group providing support around barriers, stigma and challenges. For more information, e-mail kirit@can-survive.org.uk</p>	<p>All</p>

Date of next meeting:
<p>Thursday 26th September 2024, 10.30am – 12.00pm at The Bolton Hub</p>