



Notes and action points

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

Thursday 28th November 2024

Chair:	Dave Bagley	Notes:	Farzana Patel
---------------	-------------	---------------	---------------

1. Welcome
<p>Present: Dave Bagley, Farzana Patel, Elaine Butt, Pamela Eaton, James Walton, Munera Umarjee, Kirit Patel, Sandra Crompton, Leah Edwards, Sue Desai, David Houghton, Maria Palamai, Juice Vamosi, Abdi Abdullahi, Carlton Milenkovic, Jim Beardsworth, Janet Taylor, Anne Fasan, Nick Russell, Martin McLoughlin, Zeynep Sahih, Alex McAllister, Karen Arkwright, Kelly Gordon, Janet Lythgoe, Vicky Shenton, Debbie Mercer, Lisa Murray, David Kenyon, River Isaacson, Kallum Wallbank, Ruth Makin, Sophie Hilton, Duncan Keary, Liz McNabb</p> <p>Apologies: Dee Luckza, Olwyn Holgate, Beryl Monaghan</p> <p>Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>

2. Highlights from the Chair	Lead
<p>Forum Name Change Dave asked the members of VCS Forum to change the name of the Forum to VCSE Forum, include social enterprises as part of the sector. Those present agreed for the name change to take place.</p>	Dave Bagley reported
<p>Budget Consultation with VCSE Sector Come along to a special meeting to hear about the Council’s budget proposals for 2025-2027 on Thursday 18th December 2024, 1.00pm – 2.30pm at The Bolton Hub. Lee Fallows, Director of Corporate Resources, and Graeme Wilson, Borough Treasurer, will talk about the proposals and answer any questions. Limited spaces, register on Bolton CVS website.</p>	
<p>Services around Christmas and New Year If you are providing a service for the local community over the festive period and would like Bolton CVS to share through their communications, please e-mail Farzana by 6th December; farzana@boltoncvs.org.uk</p>	

3. Bolton Brand	Lead
<p>Duncan started by saying the new Bolton brand and story is a forward looking view of what Bolton will stand for as a place, its distinctiveness and ambition. Went on to show a timeline indicating the idea of a Bolton brand has started since 2005.</p> <p>Duncan clarified the new Bolton brand is not a replacement of the current DNA branding of Bolton Council that will still remain.</p> <p>The new brand means a clear, shared, wider leadership, active collaboration, being place-led.</p> <p>Duncan spoke about the key components of the brand, the difference it will make and how do we keep Bolton distinct in the region.</p>	Presented by Duncan Keary at Bolton Council

Research was done last year, asking people in Bolton, what Bolton means and what do people say about Bolton. Snippets of the results were shown.



Duncan showed the overall Bolton brand and what each colour represents. He, also, mentioned about the vision of the new brand to be recognised and businesses to invest in Bolton.

Woven throughout the brand is the Bolton Fabric – the instantly recognisable visual language that evokes our borough’s unique voice and identity. The unique brand identity is made from distinct coloured strands – working together they each represent a different value, asset or idea that matters to our residents, businesses and a range of audiences.

Duncan explained the reasons for each choice of colour.

There is a new website where everyone can use the Bolton brand by downloading the comms pack; www.wearebolton.co.uk. On this website, you can share stories, there are useful resources and feedback your thoughts on the new brand.

The full presentation can be found [here](#).

4. Funding Update	Lead
<p>Liz introduced herself as Grants and Funding Manager at Bolton CVS. Liz talked about the Bolton’s Fund grants programme, supporting the VCSE sector in Bolton to do carry out activities/projects helping to grow and thrive.</p> <p>Liz talked about the eligibility, priorities and deadlines for each grant level of the Bolton’s Fund. Liz went on to speak about the priorities of the Bolton’s Fund and how to apply from the Bolton CVS website.</p> <p>Liz mentioned other grants that are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolton Community Homes Grants - charities, community groups, organisations and individuals are invited to apply for grants to help support projects that will benefit Bolton Community Home customers. • Hate Crime Awareness Grants – Micro-grants of up to £500 are available to Bolton-based, not-for-profit VCSE groups to organize a one-off event or activity promoting Hate Crime Awareness during the 2025 Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week. 	<p>Presented by Liz McNabb, Bolton CVS</p>



Notes and action points

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

Thursday 28th November 2024

Visit Bolton CVS website for more information or e-mail funding@boltoncvs.org.uk .	
The full presentation can be found here .	

5. Bolton CVS New Members	Lead
<p>The Karmic Collective CIC: provides community access to holistic therapies, cross agency collaboration, social prescription and signposting to the resources available to everybody. They believe that these things will greatly improve local communities, economy and have a huge impact on individual people's lives. Offers sound and music therapy, art therapy, massage therapy, mediation. Find out more.</p> <p>Turton & District Probus: James Walton talked about the group being a men's club for over 55's, consists of retired professionals and businessmen. The group is looking for members to join and can benefit VCSE organisations by providing experienced and professional support. The group meets twice a month, where they have lunch and speakers. Find out more.</p> <p>Bolton Lions Club: Bolton Lions Club is part of Lions International, a worldwide voluntary organisation. In the Northwest, there are 78 Clubs, nationally there are 660 Clubs, and any person 18 and over can join. Lions are ordinary people volunteering in their local community raising money for good causes. Every Christmas, Bolton Lions run a Toy Appeal requesting for toy donations, Sandra Crompton shared an update from the Toy Appeal in 2023. Find out more. Their full presentation can be found here.</p> <p>KaskoSan: KaskoSan works with the East European Roma community to get rid of misconceptions and the barriers they are facing. In collaboration with dedicated partners, we produce cultural content and consultancy. Find out more.</p> <p>Elite Community Hub CIC: Kallum talked about the group being a community gym focusing on delivering physical and mental health sessions as well as working with local schools and authorities to help tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour. Find out more.</p>	<p>Led by Karen Arkwright, Bolton CVS</p>

6. Dave's Hot Potatoes	Lead
This has been postponed to the next VCS Forum meeting.	

7. Any Other Business	Actions
None.	All

Date of next meeting:
Thursday 30th January 2025, 10.30am – 12.00pm at The Bolton Hub