



Notes and action points

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise
Sector Forum

Thursday 30th January 2025

Chair:	Dave Bagley	Notes:	Farzana Patel
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1. Welcome
<p>Present: Dave Bagley, Farzana Patel, Elaine Butt, James Walton, Sue Desai, Abdi Abdullahi, Nick Russell, Karen Arkwright, Janet Lythgoe, Vicky Shenton, Debbie Mercer, Kallum Wallbank, Liz McNabb, Steve Brown, Helen Carter, Bill Webster, Dilly Kaukavangh, Helen Bradbury, Naheed Ahmed, Abdulahi Ahmed, Beryl Monaghan, Lorna Bowman, Jummai Maha, Margaret Cromarty, Hughie Benson, Sam Haughley, Marlene Stringfellow, Annette Hibbert, Anita Powley, Helen Clayton, Paul Welch, Michael Thomasson, Gabriela McQueen, Graham Yardley, Pozz Lonsdale</p> <p>Apologies: Olwyn Holgate, Christina Barron-Palk</p> <p>Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>

2. Highlights from the Chair	Lead
<p>'We Are Here': Art & Photography Competition Bolton CVS is excited to announce an open call for submissions for a vibrant art competition, part of the Bolton Town of Culture celebrations! Whether you're an experienced artist or a creative newcomer, we want YOU to showcase your talent and make your mark in the heart of Bolton.</p> <p>The theme for the competition is 'We Are Here', and we're asking local artists to submit an artwork—either as an A6-sized physical piece or as digital image—that reflects the spirit of our wonderful town. The competition is open to anyone based in Bolton, and it's the perfect opportunity to share your creativity with the community.</p> <p>Nine exceptional pieces of art will be chosen to be photographed and enlarged and displayed in the reception and meeting rooms of the Bolton Hub.</p> <p>Submission Deadline: Sunday 23rd March 2025. More details on Bolton CVS website.</p> <p>Office Space at The Bolton Hub Office space has become available to rent on the third floor of The Bolton Hub.</p> <p>The office space consists of one main office space with 2 smaller offices and is a total of 38.3 square metres. There are shared kitchen and bathroom facilities, lift access, along with a staffed reception with security features for the safety of our tenants.</p> <p>Utilities are included in the price of rent and as a tenant of The Bolton Hub, you'll also benefit from discounted meeting and room hire prices.</p> <p>Bolton Council approves budget to 2027 Bolton Council has approved its budget for 2025-2027, with additional funding for some services and the target for cuts reduced overall. Find out more.</p>	Dave Bagley reported

3. Dave's Hot Potatoes	Lead
<p>Dave talked about what he meant by 'hot potatoes' it could be any pressing issues for your organisation.</p> <p>Table discussions took place, the following topics were mentioned that could be brought to future forum meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up voluntary organisations • Funding – managing when it comes to the end • National insurance contributions – how do you fund • Measuring impact when you can't until 6-12 months, how do you evidence 	<p>Presented by Dave Bagley</p>

4. Bolton CVS New Members	Lead
<p>Karen talked about becoming a member of Bolton CVS, the process and benefits of becoming a member. The full presentation can be found here.</p> <p>The following groups attended who have recently become members:</p> <p>Esther Banquet CIC: The group supports vulnerable girls, women and their families, supporting marginalised communities and groups, supporting enterprise in employment and education, supporting public and community leadership.</p> <p>Street Games: Pozz talked about the group's mission to transform the lives of young people living in low-income, underserved communities through sport and physical activities. Find details about the group here.</p>	<p>Led by Karen Arkwright, Bolton CVS</p>

5. Proper Good Programme	Lead
<p>Helen introduced herself and talked about the Proper Good programme being a joint funding programme established by Access and Better Society Capital that aims to support the development of stronger, more resilient and sustainable social economies by helping social enterprises to develop and thrive.</p> <p>Helen talked about what is a social enterprise and the definition of a social enterprise. Also, if social enterprise is trading if it sells goods or services to customers with the aim of generating income.</p> <p>Helen showcased upcoming Proper Good training sessions taking place. For more information, e-mail propergood@boltoncvs.org.uk.</p> <p>The full presentation can be found here.</p>	

6. All About Rock It	Lead
<p>Paul talked about Rock It Bolton CIC is a community-focused music program based in Horwich, Bolton, dedicated to empowering young people aged 11 to 18 through creative musical experiences.</p> <p>Their mission is to provide opportunities for youth to explore music performance, production, and creation, fostering individuality, creativity, and self-awareness. By doing so, they aim to boost confidence, promote positive well-being, and support mental health among participants.</p> <p>Paul mentioned they operate from The Ramp, equipped with practice rooms and a stage, made possible through generous community support. They offer Saturday sessions led by experienced music mentors and volunteers, where young people can collaborate with like-minded musicians to create and rehearse original music and covers.</p> <p>In addition to regular sessions, Rock It Bolton organises live events, workshops, and gigs that showcase local talent and provide performance opportunities for young musicians.</p> <p>For more information, visit their website: https://rockitbolton.co.uk/</p>	<p>Presented by Paul Welch</p>

7. 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 informed on the assessment questions for each grant level and key points to remember when applying for partnership grants.</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. <p>Visit Bolton CVS website for more information or e-mail funding@boltoncvs.org.uk.</p> <p>Liz mentioned the Open4Community Funding Portal, which is an online funding search facility, <u>free for member organisations</u> of Bolton CVS. You can search for government, Lottery and charitable trust funding, search nearly 600 funders. The full presentation can be found here.</p>	<p>Presented by Liz McNabb, Bolton CVS</p>



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8. Any Other Business	Actions
None.	All

Date of next meeting:
Thursday 27th March 2025, 10.30am – 12.00pm at The Bolton Hub