**Networking meeting minutes Thursday 25th January 2018**

**Introductions/Attendees**; Denise Hayhurst, Beverly Marsden and Donna Talbot – community CVS, Tim Balhatchat – the challenge, Rohan Awan – Blackburn youth Zone, Lynn Mitchell – Near Neighbours, Angel Spratt- Bootstrap, John Verity and Linda Guise – Age UK, Ilyas Patel – BRFC Trust, Andrea Wesley volunteer community CVS, Kiran Sadiq – BWD Carers Service, Diane Price – Indigo, Kathryn Clay – The Alzheimers society, Judith Houghton – Samaritans.

**Presentation From John – Age UK**

* John is the digital Inclusion review manager which started in November 2017.
* This is a pilot project funded through the big lottery.
* Working with people over 50
* 1st part is to engage with 100 other agencies to inform them about the project e.g. sheltered housing, anchor house.
* Initial involvement with organisations has been positive
* 2nd part is working with 3,500 over 50+ and speak with about what technology they have if any.
* Working over Lancashire
* From the 3,500 interactions we have, we need to deliver 1,000 meaningful interactions
* Looking to recruit 200 digital champions, those people have to be comfortable talking about technology.
* The project is until May 2019
* Hoping that people over 50 will recognise if you need help with I.T to go to age UK
* We offer training, we can coach and train young people so that they can show other step by step.
* Those that are aged 65+ only 30% of those have access to internet
* Linking in with telling tales – on line chat room
* Have linked in with EE and 3 mobile networks and they have offered extra support to those that need it to help set up their phones
* We have a drop in at Hopwood court on Tuesday afternoon were people can bring their devices.

Q. Is there an age Cap?

A. No – we are going into schools to teach the kids to go back and teach their parents and grandparents. Have to be 16+to volunteer

Q. Are you liaising with silverline?

A. No not at the moment. But will follow this up.

Q. Reach I.T project – help people that are digitally excluded can we work together on the digital champions.

A. we use different training packages but we can see how we can link in together.

**Presentation – Kathryn Clay – Volunteer officer form Alzheimers Society**

* Newly appointed and based in nelson – Side by Side Project
* Side by side service is a 121 volunteering service
* Build on a befriending service – focusing on empowering people affected by Alzheimer’s and dementia to get out and about and link into other services.
* Enables people with dementia to stay connected to activities and services.
* The national helpline is 0300 222 5706
* We need volunteers for the project, the training package is really good, and we pay volunteer expenses. Volunteers can chat in a cafe or do an activity.

Q. age uk run similar – dementia buddies which re based in Blackburn – and we struggled to recruit volunteer for the project – you may be able to link into the college and get people who are doing a health and social care course.

A. yes we need to have a meeting to discuss this further – 800, 000 people have dementia it’s about overcoming barriers.

If you are finding it hard to get volunteers – ask them to buddy up so that there is a 2:1. The volunteers then can support each other.

Q. What age to volunteer as a dementia buddy?

A. 18+

Q. Do you have any videos that you can show to people- this might encourage people to volunteer if they know more about it.

A. there is some info on the Alzheimer’s Society website.

**Presentation: From Lynn Mitchell From Near Neighbours coordinater from Blackburn Diocese**

* Have been 3 months in the post and are funded through the church urban fund
* Project is about people getting to know their neighbours better to build up better relationships from different faith backgrounds
* Also based at the cathedral one day per week promoting interfaith.
* Supports local groups to help them get to know their neighbours. Have funding that can help set up a party or go out for a meal, encouraging interfaith discussions.
* Big event on Tuesday 6th from 10.00 to 2.00 at the cathedral, having stalls craft market, workshops and food for international women’s day.
* We have course for training on governance and safeguarding.
* It’s a faith based footprint
* Also running a young leader ship course for 16 to 25 year olds.

Q. Is it just interfaith – just faith based

A. Yes – the gran is about relationship building a great tool to combat isolation.

Q what day are you at the cathedral

A. It varies

**A.O.B**

**Info** : Blackburn college have a refreshers fayre on Wednesday 31 January from 10.00 to 2.00

**Samaritans** – Recruiting for volunteers for the next intake training which will be in May. Volunteer are expected to volunteer for minimum 4 hours per week. The training will last for 9 weeks and is quite intense.

It’s Blackburn’s 50th year in May and there will be an open day 10.00 to 3.00 date T.b.c

We are currently re vamping the Blackburn building to providing more access for disable people. Looking for funding for this as it’s a big job. May have to do it in 2 sections depending on money.

Currently taking on average about 30,000 calls per year. We are looking a developing chat rooms.

We have 101 locations and about 80 volunteers and need more to cover the busy phone lines.

Q. Is it national?

A. yes .. We have a system that if someone is engaged it trips to the volunteer that has been waiting the longest.

**Ilyas – Euro fit**

* Pilot project for males aged 30 to 65 run at Blackburn rovers
* For those who want to lose weight/ improve their mental health
* On for 2 hours per week, 1st hour will be educating about diet run by council staff and 2nd hour will be looking at the fitness side, walks, exercise, walking football slowing increasing the fitness levels as the weeks progress
* We hope to increase individual fitness to at least 30 mins of physical activity per day
* The project is free open evening for those interested will be in feb – date t.b.c. the project will start in March
* 2nd project – working with community groups giving out Blackburn rovers match tickets to adults and children. Also at Blackburn rovers they are trailing halal food this Saturday.

Next meeting will be on Thursday 22 February 2018 @ The Boulevard Centre 09.00 to 11.00. Please inform Donna of anyone wishing to chat about their project. [Donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:Donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk)