**Networking meeting minutes Thursday 26th April 2018**

**Introductions/Attendees**; Denise Hayhurst, Donna Talbot – Community CVS, John Verity Age UK, Ilyas Patel – BRFC Trust, Kiran Sadiq – BWD Carers Service, Tracy Davies – CAB, Rohan Awan – Blackburn Youth Zone, Bev Marsden – Each Step, Ray Smith – In Partnership, Angel ???

Apologies from: Louise Taylor – Bootstrap, Judith Houghton – Samaritans

Presentation from **Tracy Davies** – **Citizen Advice Bureau**

* CAB is no more –unfortunately we didn’t secure our funding.
* However we now come under Lancs West CAB – this covers the areas of Blackburn/Fleetwood/Skelmersdale/Chorley/Ribble
* Tracy is based in Blackburn – I haven’t got an office as of yet however I will still be doing outreach and based at the Foodbank every Friday 11am – 2pm – no appointment needed.
* My email is the same and will remain – however if you need to speak to someone you can ring Chorley – opening times 9am – 5pm 0344 245 1294
* All agencies with Blackburn with Darwen can refer clients – potentially will have an office @ Zenith Solicitors @ Strawberry Bank every Thursday there will be 5 slots and it will work on an appointment only basis.
* We only deal with Debt & Bankruptcy – No Benefits
* We still are holding our drop in @ MP Kate Hollern office on Richmond Terrace
* Lancashire West Cab is a very different creature from Blackburn CAB – much more robust with finance and funding. The funding streams that they tap into are very good something that was lacking for Blackburn CAB
* It will be very sad to leave the Energy Zone
* We are looking at Digital inclusion this is something that Blackburn Cab have never had in place going forward this is something we are looking at now.
* We do look at Energy efficiency as well

Q. What area does East Lancs CAB cover?

A: Burnley, Rossendale and Pendle

Q. How do we refer someone to you?

A: Just email me

Q: is there someone at Care Network Hub who looks at Energy Efficiency

A: Not that I know of – the Hub signposts people to us – If someone is struggling to pay

Credit Union and Shelter do give out top up credits for both Gas &Electricity) each individual is allowed 3 tops up

Presentation from **Jess Whitehead** from **Femcare**

* We have a collection of businesses – 15 in total
* At the end of last year we looked at Period poverty in Blackburn with Darwen – which is the 13th worst borough nationally.
* Women in the current economic climate cannot afford food let alone sanitary products and many are going with out
* We run a service on Facebook were an individual can message us a request and we will deliver
* Donations – secret Santa has just donated 2500 sanitary towels which are being distributed.
* We originally had a small number of clients however demand has got higher has the word has spread,
* We are linking in with Shelter who are happy to work with women to look at their budgeting finances etc.
* We are now distributing packs in Blackburn Central High School, St Wilfrid’s, St Bedes and also community centres and foodbank.
* Aim that all secondary /high schools can offer this service so that no teenager has to go without sanitary products.
* We have organised a ladies night to raise awareness and funds – Period & Prosecco we will be offering cocktails with period themed names: Crimson Wave &Time of the Month.
* At the ladies night there will be a host of stalls all offering information on womens services and products.
* We are asking all those who attend to bring a donation of sanitary products
* We have linked in with Donna and public health for a consultation to identify the real size of the problem.
* We would like a system like the old Brook keying so that individuals wanting to access the service only need to show a key ring or band and they won’t have to ask directly for sanitary towels.
* We want to look at how to tackle the stigma of periods
* We are looking for volunteers to help out
* Our ultimate aim is to banish the cost of sanitary towels it is nature and we shouldn’t have to pay £4800 over our lifetime for a product that we need, sanitary products are also considered a luxury item!!
* Period poverty can have a massive negative impact on the women mentally, emotionally and physically and in worst case scenarios can lead to crime.
* We set up to help women.
* In all locations who get on board there is will be a branded box were you can find packs of 5 and single sanitary products
* We have the Telegraph coming to the ladies night
* We have the service in the WISH centre
* We would also like to offer free sanitary towels in toilets just like they do at Northcote.
* Going forward we will be placing baskets for people to donate sanitary products in very similar to the Foodbank Scheme.

Q. MS from BwD Carers – we work with a lot of carers who are experiencing poverty – we could definitely have one of your boxes if possible.

A: Yes that great we offer a contact form system so when you getting low on products you simply fill in the form ping it back to me and we aim to refill your supplies within 24/48 hours we also have an emergency contact were we aim to refill your supplies within 12/24 hours.

We can also drop items off to individuals if they have messaged us directly through Facebook.

Q: Angel Bootstrap – We work with 15 to 24 year olds and lots of them have many problems so it would be great to link in with this services.

A: We already have an appointment booked with Bootstrap for next week.

Each Step – Please could we have a box we have many staff and volunteers that would benefit from this service?

Q: RA from BYZ – have you linked in with Youth Zone

A: yes we have an appointment with Pip

Q: DT Community CVS – please could you let me know who your contact at the Lancashire Telegraph is as I have always struggled to get anyone interested in anything!!

A: I will pass on the details

Q – Do you have any leaflets?

A: - They should be ready from next week on – I will send them to DT electronically when they’re done.

Presentation from **Michael Strahan** from **Blackburn with Darwen Carers**

* BwD Carers we do what it says on the tin – we offer support to anyone who cares for anyone – could be a parent, child, neighbour with any kind of health issue.
* We offer 1-2-1 support and the support comes in a number of ways this could be financial – carers grant, debts etc or it could be activities, holistic therapies and also respite.
* I have 2 roles a) generic carer and b) drug & Alcohol – we are struggling to get families affected by drug and alcohol through the door, there is a stigma attached however the service is totally confidential.
* Our Carers News has all the info inside of what we do:

Older peoples Advisor

Learning & Disabilities

Drug & Alcohol

Asian Carers Group

Dementia Café

Mental Health Carers Support Group

Autistic society Support Group

Working carers – Support

Parent Carers

* The age range we work with can be as young as 5 with no age limit.
* Young Adult Carers – 16 – 25 years – Femcare would be great to link in with this age group.
* Some individuals are carers and don’t even realise it
* We also offer a volunteer academy
* We are organising a Masquerade Carers Ball on Saturday 16th June 2018 – 3 course meal, entertainment should be a great evening. (cost £45 per head, table 10 - £400)

Q: If someone is looking after someone and is affected themselves with issues can you help?

A: We do not support the cared for – however we will signpost onto relevant service.

Q: What support would you give a young person who cares for someone?

A: We would help with benefits etc if they are working look to how we can support help make their life work balance better, we can offer one to ones so they can offload etc, we offer holistic therapies and lots of different activities.

We can also offer 16 hours free respite for a short time period via social services.

Presentation from **Denise Hayhurst** from **Community CVS.**

* Volunteer Week 2018 – we are holding a fair at Blackburn Cathedral on Tuesday 5th June from 10am – 2pm.
* We are looking for organisations who would like to book a stall and also asking organisations to promote the event to their service users so we have a great number on the day.
* We have 50 stalls in total – still some available of anyone is interested.
* We have created a guide to volunteer’s week and all the activities that will be happening – please feel free to let me know of anything that you would like to promote.
* We have an event taking place in The Mall so if anyone would like to have a session in the Mall let me know.
* Community CVS are running a Photograph Competition open to all Community CVS members – the winner will receive £100 and we are asking people to take pictures of volunteers in their place of work. (see details attached)
* The winners will be displayed at Radio Lancashire Exhibition Space.

Update from **Donna Talbot** – From **Community CVS**

* Blackburn with Darwen Volunteers Week Award Ceremony which is to be held on Monday 11th June at King Georges Hall – Windsor Suite
* BwD Council are 100% behind the event – which is great
* Nominations need to be by Friday 11th May 5pm – if you would like a nomination form please let me know
* The event will start @ 6pm – 9pm with food served
* Unfortunately due to funding we have limited spaces so can only offer invite only
* There are 12 categories of nominations – you can nominate and individual or a group and you can nominate them for as many categories as you like.
* Anyone needing any info please contact me.

Update: GDPR

* I know everyone is struggling with the implementation of GDPR and its causing great stress so I have contacted the council to see if there is anyone willing to come to a special meeting (date yet to be confirmed) So far the response has been positive.
* Louise Mattinson director of Finance and IT has got back to me and has asked Sarah Critchley the Information Governance Manager, who is leading on implementation of GDPR at the Council –to assist in providing an overview of the regulations and the key issues/risks therein. (Sarah is currently on holiday and will be back May 3rd)
* I will keep you all updated.

Update on Voice Service User Forums

* Public Health are keen to talk to service users with complex needs – “It remains our objective to link with you and your service users to develop an independent, effective, wider service user feedback mechanism for those in our Borough with complex needs”.
* Work on 2018 -19 Service User survey – a list of 4-5 questions asking for your service users for feedback on barriers good things etc.
* So if you work with individuals with complex needs please could you let me know if you would be happy for one of our volunteers to come along and talk to the services users and collate the information

Update **John Verity** from **Age UK**

* Mark Wood sends his apologies and also an update of all activities offered at Hopwood Court
* Digital Inclusion project – now running from doctors surgeries – we are struggling to recruit digital champions
* Short training events offered to organisations with individual who are interested – they can then access accredited qualifications
* All training is very informal – particularly good for young people wanting to update their CV’s
* Volunteering is very flexible you can do as little or as much as you like.
* It’s a great opportunity to give and gain

Reminder from Michael Strahan – BwD Carers

* Walk a Mile in a carers Shoes – Sunday 8th July @ Witton Park Blackburn
* We are asking for teams for it’s a Knockout - £10.00 entrance fee
* Please let me know if anyone would like a stall
* Should be a great day

Next meeting will be on Thursday 26th April 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