**NETWORKING MEETING August 23rd 2018**

**Attendee’s:** Donna(CVS) Chair, Mark (Age UK), Paul (Mind), Sarah (Carers), Alex (Shelter), Helen (PSU), Rohan (Youth Zone), Sean (B/burn College), Jeremy (Probation), Kathryn (Alzheimer’s), Michelle & Jen (Snowdrop Doula), Gabrielle (CBP), Anthony (CAB), Imran(BwD), Brian (BwD), Scott (CSI),Angel (Bootstrap), Ian (N-Compass), Tracy(CBP), Phil (Secret Santa), Nancy (Shadsworth Stake holder Group), Yasmin (CVS).

Donna welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the background and purpose of the meeting.

Attendees provided an update on their role & where they are from.

**Guest speaker from N Compass Ian Leadbeater,**

Gave an overview of his role & the organisation. He is based in Preston, with contracts in Cheshire East, Blackburn with Darwen, Rochdale & Wirral. The team is made up of 5 members of staff & 2 Manager.

The services offered includes Advocacy, Carers Support, Counselling, and Health & Well-being for both adults and young people. The counselling service is also delivered in Schools in regards to self-harm.

Advocacy Service receives over 1000 referrals whom are supported by staff & volunteers. Initial meeting takes place with the potential volunteer before they actually commence volunteering. They are supported on a 1-1 basis, with DBS checks undertaken due to Safeguarding policy, training is provided & references are taken. Volunteers are encouraged to shadow before they actually start.

Befriending Service has recruited over 100 Volunteers. Volunteers are trained in providing a Befriending Service which allows the Carers to have a break. Carers need to be registered to access the service. An automated chat line is set up dealing with 150 phone calls.

Discussion ensued on the value of references, safeguarding, DBS. Ian mentioned that Ncompass have created their own Safeguarding package which they adhere too.

2nd Guest speaker – Phil Boulding from Secret Santa Ltd introduced himself & gave an overview of his project which is run by himself & his wife.

The project is one year old with donation from SAMS who contributed toys to Secret Santa. Businesses have supported the project really well with donated of £1000 & £3000.

Within their 1st year they distributed 700 sacks of presents to underprivileged children. Phil mentioned that originally, they had a goal of 200 sacks but following a meeting with Maureen Bateson (head of Childrens services) who shared the size of the problem within BwD, Secret Santa increased their sacks from 200 to 700.

We received a donation of 800 teddy bears. 500 sacks of presents were dropped off to Duke St which contained selection boxes, board games, and main present to the value of £10, football or skipping rope, a book & a teddy bear.

Secret Santa also arranged a late Christmas party for 100 elderly lonely people at Derwent Hall and each person received a box of chocolates and a Teddy Bear.

This year their goal is to provide sacks for 750 Children and to cater for 250 elderly lonely people in BwD

Secret Santa collected Prom dresses & sanitary towels to help ease Period Poverty in our two towns. These were distributed (3,500 of them) via “Femcura” to local schools, and the Wish Centre.

Discussion ensued for each area with Secret Santa.

This year on the 17th November 2018 Secret Santa are having a Christmas party at Blackburn Rovers. Tickets will cost £30 each which entails drinks on arrival, 3 course meal & a brilliant DJ.

Money donated will enable Secret Santa to buy presents for children from 0-17 (It helps fill the gaps between what we need and what we get from actual Toy donations)

Youth Zone & Probation who work with underprivileged children would like Secret Santa to deliver toys to the individuals.

**3rd Guest speaker – Tracey Davies employed by Game Changes for Community Business Partnership**, funded by the Lottery.

Three year project with first year coming to an end. Predominantly targeting Higher Croft Area were poverty & isolation is high. It’s aimed at 25 years old plus. The project provides activities to bring the community spirit & it also enable to improve Health & well-being.

50+ project going from strength to strength. Looking at recruiting volunteers for Café, run activities & SAMS.

Coffee Morning on the 14th September 11:00am-3:00pm, Invitation will be sent to Donna who will send out via email.

**AOB:** Helen from Personal Support Unit National Charity employs one paid staff member who provides court support for families in Preston, her role entails to prepare for hearing, assist with divorce, eviction in desperate measures & money claim. Most of the referrals come from CAB, organisation & self-referrals.

Volunteers currently working for Personal Support Unit are Criminology students age 21+, retired GPs, Science Teachers.

Michelle from Snowdrop is based in Burnley & Baccup, who work on maternity wards to support pregnant women by providing holistic support. The group needs nappies & sanitary towels. They also support dad’s with post-natal depression whom when referred are supported by Counselling.

Referrals are made by Brook, Refuge & Inspire & self-referral. The project is funded by the lottery for 3 years. It covers Blackburn & Baccup area.

Sean from Blackburn College mentioned Volunteer Fair 10:00 – 12:00.

Scott mentioned activities within the Shadsworth area such as Basket Ball, Badminton, for people suffering from Mental Health, Depression & Isolation. Children willing to participate within the activities should be supervised.

Age UK – Fundraising event at Hopwood Court on the 9th Sept 1:00 – 4:00pm.

Nancy from Shadsworth to organise Clean Up on the 18th Sept 2018.

Next Meeting 27th September 9am – 11am @ the Boulevard Centre