**Minutes of the Practitioner & Volunteer Coordinators**

**Breakfast Networking meeting Thursday 28th March 2019**

**Attendees:** Donna Talbot & Beverly Marsden – Community CVS, Chloe Dobson & Nancy Kinyanjui – Healthwatch, Lorraine Hargreaves-Millys Smiles, Samantha Taylor – Creative Support, Lisa Rawcliffe- North west Air Ambulance charity, Helen Andrew- BWDBC, Dara McCann- Foodbank, Phil Boulding- Secret Santa, Mark Wood – Age Uk, Jade Gregory-Haselden-Lancashire Mind, Dominique Wrigley- Cygnet, Thelma Tomlinson- Shelter, Jacky Mullaney- Blackburn College and Imran Hajat, BWD- LVP.

**Apologies**: Jonny at Blackburn youth zone, Eileen Murphy - McDonalds

**Presentation from Helen Andrew – BWDBC**

* The Programme is in its 3rd year, and currently works with young people up to 18yrs
* Have set up a small programme called graduate retention
* Contact schools and work with the top 10 highest achievers
* We contact individuals and match them up to an employer
* Undergraduates are struggling to get jobs
* Students are willing to volunteer to gain experience to enable them to gain employment
* We currently have about 20 students some link up with employers over the summer period
* The feedback from employers is very positive and employers can work around the students’ needs and programmes can be tailored to the individual needs
* The purpose is to retain the skills of individuals within the borough
* Each individual goes through an assessment process to identify needs

Q. Why is just the top (crop) there are other students who need support?

A. Due to capacity, but we won’t turn people away.

Q. Can students have a break – GAP year?

A. Yes we can support in the Gap Year

Q. What age up to?

A. Up to age 25 – a lot of students don’t realise the opportunities within the borough – we are trying to promote.

**Donna Info** – ***Volunteers award*** is at **King Georges Hall**. The deadline for nominees is Friday 05 April. The event will be on **Monday 10Th June 2019** **@ King Georges hall**. McDonalds are sponsoring the trophies. Please everyone vote for your volunteers as it’s a great opportunity to say thank you.

**Presentation from Beverly Marsden Community CVS Drinks Meter**

* Linking in with inspire to collect data for individual drinking habits
* Have cards that have a link to the survey, also have a couple of iPad’s that people can take the survey.
* It measures people’s perception of their drinking habits to national statistics
* Purpose to raise awareness about individual alcohol intake and the effects that medication can have.
* Currently targeting those that live within Blackburn and Darwen
* Cards handed out to all who attended to complete survey.

Tracy Davies from Sam’s – collecting Easter eggs to be delivered to children and will also be put into the food bags, they will also be distributed to the food bank.

**Thelma from Shelter**

* Currently require volunteers. Had 5 volunteers, they all built up their skill set and gained employment.
* Really struggling to find volunteers for specific roles.

Q. Does anyone else struggle to recruit volunteers for specific roles?

A. Yes. Do you advertise on indeed?

Info – Maggie will be training from 12.00 to 16:00 today for volunteer’s coordinators

**Jackie from Blackburn College – Skills for life programme**

* Giving students more information on volunteering – most students are unemployed
* Gaining skills from volunteering
* Traineeship – Educating student that volunteering is much more that charity shops

**Open discussion – Volunteering**

* Finding people for different roles and retaining volunteers is difficult
* Volunteering attitudes have changed
* Trail dates work so that volunteers aren’t waiting around for a start date

**Helen – Event @ Cathedral**

Looking at putting on workshops in the cathedral, myth busting about volunteering. To change individual perceptions. Looking at September 2019 date TBC.

**The Green Gym – cleaning up parks – Hope Street Creative Support**

* New staff Team, support individuals for up to 2 years
* Therapeutic – more activity’s
* Open day on 16 august 2019 BBQ open to anyone
* Starting a gardening group, art group
* Info to be sent to donna to distribute with these mins
* Can accommodate up to 12 tenancies and have 2 crisis rooms
* Main issues or low self-esteem and drug and alcohol issues

**Mark Wood – Age UK**

* Remember Rovers – first Thursday every Month – old rovers players, supports get together to talk and reminisce about the rovers – tackling dementia
* Age Uk – looking for war memorabilia
* Reminisce and memories – looking at how creative arts can help recall memories and events – Tuesday 9th April @ The Hub@Hopwood
* Showing Film - Calamity Jane

**Dominique – Cygnet**

* Work with people in hospital
* Some of the issues are those with mental health issues, schizophrenia, personality disorder, psychosis, PTSD, OCD.
* Step down at Ewood – independent living
* Would do training – to help or do a workshop

**Secret Santa – Info**

* Currently at lower Darwen but would like to move premises
* Anyone who has any ideas or comes across any premises please let me know

**Jade at Lancashire mind**

* Info for volunteers – free tickets for Blackburn rovers

Next Networking Meeting on Thursday 25th April 2019

@ Boulevard Centre 9.00 to 11.00