**Minutes of the Practitioner & Volunteer Coordinators**

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

**Attendees:** Donna Talbot- Community CVS, Chloe Dobson & Nancy Kinyanjui – Healthwatch, Samantha Taylor – Creative Support, Will Holman – Creative Support Lisa Rawcliffe- North west Air Ambulance charity, , Dara McCann- Foodbank, Phil Boulding- Secret Santa, Mark Wood – Age Uk, Jade Gregory-Haselden-Lancashire Mind, , Imran Hajat, BWD- LVP, Beth Wolfenden – Public Health, Kathryn Cassidy – St Marys College, Maura Gannon – St Marys College, Jen Fielding – Snowdrop Doula, Denise Hayhurst – CVS, Eileen Murphy – McDonalds, Johny Ainsworth – Blackburn Youth Zone, Feroz Sidat – Blackburn College, Helen Andrew- BWDBC Paul Haunch – Our Lancashire, Dean Edwards – Blackburn Youth Zone, Amber Wells – We are Lancashire Women, Louise Taylor – Bootstrap, Kiran Sadiq – BwD Carers

**Apologies**: Jason Walmsley – Probation, Ilyas Patel Blackburn Rovers Community Trust Salma Saleh – Humraaz, Lorraine Hargreaves – Millys smiles, Gary Wilkinson – Canal & River Trust

Presentation for Kate Lee – Community CVS

* We are organising lots of activities over volunteers week
* Anyone who would like to get involved please contact Kate or Denise

[Kate.Lee@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:Kate.Lee@communitycvs.org.uk) & [denise.hayhurst@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:denise.hayhurst@communitycvs.org.uk)

* Or alternatively come along to the meeting on Tuesday 30th April at 10am @ The Boulevard Centre
* There is a packed agenda with a “Big Thank you” on Friday 7th June – there will be lots of celebrations everywhere and it will be like a massive party.

**Presentation from Beth Wolfenden – Public Health**

* Beth’s remit at Public Health is Food, Health and Diabetes etc
* “Be Well Together – project” Be Well Together has been developed by Blackburn with Darwen Council’s Public Health Team to be adaptable and freely available to any organisation in the public, private or voluntary sector.
* 2 elements – website which is currently under development
* First element is The website is a great source of info – Health resources, Health & Well Being – weight management,
* Tabs – events – what’s coming up, Local events, - its free to register
* The second element is the work with schools, works and community groups – working with staff/vols/service users/pupils/partici[pants – everyone
* It could be a local neighbourhood – street that are working on making their space healthier/greener/cleaner- we offer advice and support on how to achieve this.
* We offe one hour of public health staff – they will come along (dependant on what I is you want to achieve wil depend on who comes to see you )
* In the hour we will help you make a plan/draught of what it is you would like to achieve, we will come back in 6 months to see how things are gong
* We will also link you in with other organisations/ funding events everything that will help you achieve what you want to achieve
* Sports England: From September we are looking for organisations that can link into this funding – it doesn’t have to be an organisation that has traditionally offered sport
* Training opportunities – we can help you access whatever training opportunities you need – dependant on what you would like to achieve
* We will also be offer an opportunity to network
* If you would like any info please contact Beth Get in touch via the contact form on this website, drop us an email to [publichealthadmin@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:publichealthadmin@blackburn.gov.uk) or gives us a call on 01254 585345
* Sports England – BwD lead the bid and will decide where the money goes – we are working with a collection of organisations that are already delivering sport/activities etc but we are looking for different organisations
* I will come back at a later date to give you more info – We are holding a workshop at the beginning of June - I will send more info and Donna can circulate it
* £3 million across Pennine Lancashire – some of the money is for digital support etc – the money will be spread across the 4 Primary Care Neighbourhoods right down to street level.
* There are a number of cohorts that we are looking to work with
  + - * + Bereaved
        + Post/anti natal
        + Unemployed
* There is a target audience we need to work with individuals with mental health- any age, anyone you work with really
* The only criteria is that they must be Inactive
* This funding is a test and learn – test of what works and what doesn’t – if it does how do we scale that up and if it’s not working the money will be taken back.
* The approach of Sports England is very different to what it used to be
* If successful there is potentially a further 7 million for the accelerator programme
* Working on a bid for childhood obesity I will keep you posted

**Presentation form Johny Ainsworth – Blackburn Youth Zone**

* Blackburn Youth Zone has state of the art facilities
* We hire out the facility to schools initially we had 2 schools now we have 10
* We hire out to businesses and community groups
* We also have meeting and conference facilities
* We work with all groups and ages and we can do everything
* You can hire just the facility or you can hire staff support too
* The facility is a great place to hold health and wellbeing activities for staff – you can hire the facility in the evening/weekend
* You can access football pitches, climbing, tennis courts, fitness suite etc
* We offer teambuilding days – it can be simple fun and games or it can be commando Joe – missions
* We offer team challenges that will help your team become the best team that they can
* We also have facilities to hold community events, meeting rooms we really do have lots of facilities – Healthwatch have recently held an event with us
* Pricing – see attached form we can offer different rates and as standard for multiple bookings we can offer discounts for multiple bookings

**Presentation from Paul Haunch form Our Lancashire**

* Our Lancashire is a new project born out of Lancashire Volunteer Programme (LVP) – public sector volunteers
* In post 10 weeks just looking at what we need to achieve
* The project is developing as we speak on the back of an independent evaluation - for every £1 invested in LVP a social return of £9.97 is returned
* Volunteering is changing many lives and makes the money go further
* Police new to LVP so on that basis there was an appetite to develop the volunteering further
* Linking volunteers with the need/enabling work supporting volunteering sector to stretch and gap the groups – that’s were Our Lancs was born
* LVP is funded collectively – Our Lancs is funded exclusively by the Police
* Our Lancs – social network working with small local grass root groups/neighbourhood watch etc, there is already a realisation that social action is doing well but not always well joined up
* So what is in it for the public sector – less we invest once we build community confidence – the less demand on public sector – it’s very much a leap of faith. If communities support themselves demand on every emergency service will dwindle
* Benefits for the public sector – belief that we can reduce the demand, we can identify more appropriate service we believe social community can do more
* Opportunity with volunteers – continue to work together we hope to add value to what you guys are already doing
* Q: What does reduce mean?
* A: reduce the number of 999 calls very much like social prescribing is for doctors, most calls to 999 are not urgent and most of the individuals have no need for urgent care they have a number of other complex issues.
* We work with small groups developing them joining n them up with other small groups – so we are looking to work with more grassroots groups
* If we identify gaps in provision and support we can feedback to LVP – any intelligence we can get will help inform a more intelligent decision
* We need partnership working we cannot achieve this on our own
* Groups we are looking for – local groups/environmental groups/walking groups/ topic based groups, resident groups/vol groups/book groups/youth clubs
* In order to do that we have 3 community engagement officers across the police force division
* Join together any new project – initial duplication etc – Im here with a new perspective – what can we add?
* How – Neighbourhood watch AGM – 50 different groups attended but there are 250 different groups – how do we get all groups communication? Massive challenge – how do they tap into each other’s resources? We are hoping the new website will be a great window of opportunity
* Recourses – community action fund – there to build resilience within the community
* Volunteering development work – volunteer project community champions – pilot to put in a volunteer in a uniform within Parish and town councils. There isn’t funding for police officers or PCSO’s so the new volunteers will wear a similar uniform and create that presence
* The new volunteers will be given a task list which has been put together by the police and town councils – lots of ideas improving parks, neighbourhoods – local events – road closures etc
* We have developed and rolled out the role in Garstang, Hesketh Bank, Longridge and Up Holland.
* We hope to pilot in 13 – 14 town councils, we will look at the feedback again it’s a leap of faith – hopefully it will help to make town councils parish council’s more resilient. In Wood Plumpton there is high number of isolated farmers who pose a greater risk of suicide – so the local community champion as part of their role will pop in on the local farmers and talk to them and be trained to look out for the signs of suicide etc. The community Champions will be the eyes and ears of the emergency services and as such there presence will be a welfare benefit
* Task List for the community champions – their role will develop
* The Community Champions will receive a number of different training – health & safety etc
* The Community Champions will be resilient and know how to signpost clients – they will not be given a caseload of clients
* The Community Champions are not here to do regular policing – they are here to interact with the local community not police it
* The Pilot will tell us what is working and what isn’t
* Q: Is it a uniformed Role?
* A: Yes the uniform gives the volunteer authority – We did ask does this give the wrong message – the community champion could be the highly representative of the parish/town councils
* We are not however tied to the uniform – everything is trial and error
* Uniforms can be a barrier especially to individuals who are socially isolated – clients can be intimidated (Sam – Creative support)
* At RNLI our vols wore similar uniforms to the paramedics and we eventually had to change the t-shirts so they were clearly identifiable as volunteers and not staff
* This is something we will take on board
* If you know anyone who would like to apply to be a community champion – they can do so through the LVP website

**Presentation from Jade Gregory-Haselden – Lancashire Mind**

* Community developments from Mind – Lancs Mind – affiliated with National Mind in leading mental health
* Lancashire Mind is independent and we focus on resilience building with young people
* We are not a crisis point we have wellbeing coaches
* With regards to volunteers due to restructuring process we will need lots of volunteers
* Happier Lancashire – no longer free we have introduced charges, it will remain free for school assemblies but for groups and workplaces there will be a small charge
* The sessions last 1 hour
* We need volunteers to deliver these courses
* We also need volunteers for the Time to Change – national campaign looking at the stigma of mental health and we will need campaigners to go out into the community at grass roots level
* We will be opening the local Hub once again in BwD and that will be for clients who can access our services
* We need to create an action plan for staff health and wellbeing, Employers think that it will lead to more staff taking time off – this does happen initially but then plateaus
* We have teamed up with the English football league for our bucket collections – we will be have collections at Blackburn Rovers, Bolton and there will be other matches – 5 in total across lancashire
* Anyone wanting to volunteer will receive a free ticket to the match

**Presentation Eileen Murphy – McDonalds**

* McDonalds don’t just sell burgers – our business manager is keen to get involved with the communities near his 4 stores – he has 4 in BwD, 1 in Accrington and 1 in Haslingden
* We have been involved with the greener/cleaner community campaigns
* We have sponsored Awards – historically BwD Good Neighbour awards now the new Community Awards 2019
* We can get involved with litter picks, fun days – face painting, teas & Coffees
* We have been involved with BRFC – healthy eating we have handed out fruit bags to the local children and the staff have volunteered their time to do the face painting etc
* We want to raise a positive profile of McDonalds within the community
* We have raised money for grass roots football – helping with the cost of kits and training etc
* We have linked in with local community centres – our staff have volunteered their time to go and support groups, this is equally beneficial to the staff just as much as the community
* I am here today looking for staff volunteering opportunities – how can we help you?
* If you need me please ensure that you contact me one month prior to the event so we can ensure our staffs presence
* We are looking for events around the town centre/Whitebirk/Ewood/ junction 5
* Q would you and your staff be interested in volunteering for the Festival of Making?
* A: yes we would and there would be 3-4 staff plus me
* Q: do all McDonalds offer the same?
* A: Not all of them – however the guy who owns the Preston stores (12 in total) is very good at engaging with the community – I will give you his details at the end

**Update from Helen Andrew – Post 16 Learning Manager Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council**

* Just a quick update to next Blackburn is Hiring Event is on Thursday 19th September at Blackburn Cathedral -9.30am – 4pm
* The event was initially aimed at young people 15/16 to engage with employers however this has mushroomed now we work with the DWP and there may be upto 3000 individuals on the day
* Post 16 we are expecting hundreds of clients – the event has a number of stalls – this is made up of employers, voluntary sector, education
* Last year we ran workshops – myth busting working at BwD BC

**Update from Chloe Dobson – Healthwatch**

* We are currently collating feedback for the NHS long-term plan – Donna has sent out the link – please can you spare a couple of minutes to complete the questionnaire, all the info collated will go to forming your local NHS plan

**Update from Kiran Sadiq BwD Carers**

* On Monday 3rd June we are holding a volunteer fair if you would like a stall please contact me directly

**Update from Maura Gannon – St Marys College**

* I am always on the lookout for volunteering Opportunites for our students if you are in need of volunteers please contact me

**Update form Denise Hayhurst – Community CVS**

* Plea for volunteers for this year’s Festival of Making – it’s a fantastic day please come along and be art of it

Next Networking Meeting on Thursday 6th June 2019

@ Boulevard Centre 9.00 to 11.00