**Minutes of the Community CVS Network Meeting**

**Thursday 24th September 2020**

**Attendees:** Donna Talbot – Community CVS, Kiran Sadiq – BwD Carers, Denise Hayhurst – Community CVS, Jason Walmsley – CLCRC Probation, Sheralee Turner-Birchall – Foodbank Chrissie Spencer – BwD, Abdelrahman Ali – Community CVS, Rosemary Cook – Kyra Women Project, Dominique Wrigley – Cygnet Health Gaby Aspinall – CBP, Christina Dilshad – CBP

**Apologies:** Kate Lee – Community CVS, Maggie Asquith – NHS East Lancs CCG, Lisa Rawcliffe – North West Air Ambulance Nina McCallion – Renaissance UK

Introductions

*Rosemary Cook – Kyra Women Project*

* Kyra Women project – works with women to make positive changes in their lives
* We offer long-term support to women who have experienced DV, drug and alcohol addiction, confidence issues, mental health issues
* We offer a range of courses, therapies, life skills and events for women
* On average interventions last 2 years
* We are based in York

<https://www.kyra.org.uk/>

*Sheralee Turner – Birchall – Blackburn Foodbank*

* Sheralee is new to the post and has been there only 4 weeks
* The foodbank helps people in crisis with food supplies
* We have also offered help with Debt
* We have a newly appointed Benefit advisor
* Clothes Bank
* Café
* Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 – many of the additional service have not been able to operate

<https://blackburn.foodbank.org.uk/>

*Chrissie Spencer – BwD Borough Council*

* I usually work on the social integration team as an engagement officer – however due to Covid 19 – we have been deployed
* Initially we helped out I the Help Hub – sorting and delivering food parcels
* Now we are helping out with the Covid testing
* Fingers crossed we will be receiving some money that small community groups can apply for working around social integration – as soon as I have the details I will let you know

<https://blackburn.gov.uk/>

*Dominque Wrigley – Cygnet Health*

* I am an occupational therapist
* Cygnet Fountains supports men who have severe and enduring mental illness
* We provide a safe and comfortable environment that promotes efficient rehabilitation and recovery.
* We link in with SAMS etc finding new opportunities for our clients to participate in

<https://www.cygnethealth.co.uk/locations/cygnet-fountains/>

*Kiran Sadiq – BwD Carers*

* BwD Carers – we provide lots of different services for carers in Blackburn wit Darwen
* We support carers caring for those with dementia, drug and alcohol addiction, Young carers,
* We offer activities and support services
* We also offer support with welfare benefit entitlement and GP & Hospital liaison
* Unfortunately, due to Covid 9 – and the fact that our offices are in a supported housing facility, all support has been virtual – we are all getting very good at it
* In October we hope to be stating our volunteer academy virtually – I will send information to Donna
* We are looking for a room in Blackburn so we can see people face to face – if anyone has anything or knows of anything – please let me know

<http://www.bwdcarers.org.uk/>

*Christina Dilshad – Community CVS*

* Im Project Assistant to Tracy on the Gamechangers project
* We are just waiting to hear back from funders to see if we have continuation funding for Game Changers

*Gaby Aspinall – Community CVS*

* I have returned to CBP to work on a digital inclusion project (See attached poster)
* We still have lots of projects going on at Energy Zone
* Waste not Want not – Free food Mon – Thursday
* Weekly free food pack to the value of £30 for those with income affected by Covid – 19
* Weekly £6 food parcel – available to all to purchase
* Q: Are you taking on volunteers?
* A: Not at the moment – we have a couple of long-standing volunteers who are helping out with the Waste not Want not project

<https://cbpartners.org/>

*Jason Walmsley – Probation*

* I work at probation and we support offenders
* Im always looking for new projects for the guys I work with

*Kiran Sadiq – BwD Carers*

We are looking for guest speakers for our Carers Rights week – November 26th so if anyone knows anyone who can speak to carers about

Carers Rights

Mental Capacity Act

Please contact me [Kiran.Sadiq@bwdcarers.org.uk](mailto:Kiran.Sadiq@bwdcarers.org.uk) Tel: 01254 688440

<http://www.bwdcarers.org.uk/>

*Denise Hayhurst – Community CVS*

* Community CVS is delivering a new “Action for Jobs” project where we can offer support to anyone who is currently unemployed or economically inactive including those with long term health conditions.
* We have key workers ready and in place who can support people in-person on a face-to-face basis, close to where they live (or digitally if they prefer).
* The Action for Jobs Project consists of a 12-week programme of support for individuals who are unemployed/ economically inactive and wish to take steps towards;
  + - * Finding employment
      * Enrolling in Education and or formal training to improve their employability
      * Moving from being economically inactive and out of the labour market to preparing and supporting them to actively search for work

* Our support is bespoke and tailored for each individual, appropriate for their circumstances, needs and goals. Participants will also be able to access additional group sessions of their choice, focusing on these specific support areas;
  + 1. Job Search and CV development
    2. Social media, Internet, Digital Technology for jobs
    3. Employment and Job Agencies
    4. Pre-Recruitment, Interview skills and Communication tips.
    5. Further Education and Training
    6. Personal development and confidence-building
    7. Volunteering opportunities
    8. Business Start Up and Self-Employment support

For more information – you can contact Donna [donna.talbot@cmmunityCVS.org.uk](mailto:donna.talbot@cmmunityCVS.org.uk) or myself [denise.heyhurst@communityCVS.org.uk](mailto:denise.heyhurst@communityCVS.org.uk)

Please find attached a copy of our leaflet with the minutes

<http://www.communitycvs.org.uk/>

*Abdelrahman Ali – Community CVS*

Future Digital Inclusion

Do you need help in using the internet while self-isolating? Join Now – Get support while at home via or phone

Get IT skills, refresh or update your skills.

We will support you to complete everyday tasks safely and effectively e.g. banking, benefits, online shopping, council services and health services.

We support you to learn the following;

Sending & receiving emails, using the internet, Online Search engines, Online forms, Internet safety, Search for jobs and Set privacy settings.

For further information or to participate in the project please contact – Abdelrahman Ali at Community CVS

‘Stay home, stay safe’

Email: abdelrahman.ali@communitycvs.org.uk

*Mobile: 07463208690(Call, Message or WhatsApp)*

Blackburn with Darwen CVS - Future Digital Inclusion IT Project

Do you have any clients who interested in learning new digital skills but don’t have the devices to do so? - We are offering you the opportunity to use a device for free for an agreed period of time.

We invite you to sign up to our FDI Project via:

1. Browse [www.learnmyway.com](http://www.learnmyway.com)
2. Register your personal details including your name, email address, home address and contact number.
3. Use the BWD community CVS centre number: 8001663 (important).
4. Complete the form and then start to complete the 8 units on the course, as follows: -

* Browse the internet.
* Evaluate which websites to trust.
* Fill out an online form.
* Identify and delete spam.
* Search for jobs.
* Sending and receiving emails.
* Set privacy settings.
* Use a search engine.

For more information, please ring or message **Abdelrahman 07463208690**

Or email concerns to: [abdelrahmen.ali@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:abdelrahmen.ali@communitycvs.org.uk)

\*Please note:

* Terms and conditions apply.
* First come first served basis.
* All devices must be returned in a **good condition**.

<http://www.communitycvs.org.uk/>

*Donna Talbot – Community CVS*

* As Denise mentioned I am working on a new project – so if you have any clients that are looking to build their confidence, through training, volunteering, improve their digital skills need help looking and preparing for a job – please contact me

*Update on The Community Awards*

* Thank you to everyone who has nominated their volunteers, as you are all probably aware it is impossible for this year’s award event to go ahead – we have spoken to our sponsors and all are happy to continue their support next year
* We have booked the event for Thursday 3rd June, hopefully the event will go-ahead and we will be able to hold it at King Georges, we are looking at plan B, C and D in the eventuality that Covid has not been dealt with!!
* We will have a new relaunch in the new year – any questions please don’t hesitate to drop me a line

All Network meetings will be via zoom for the foreseeable future

The date of the next Meeting is ***Thursday 22nd October 9.30am – 11am***

I will send out the invitation closer to the date