**Minutes of the Community CVS Network Meeting**

**Thursday 27th April 2021**

**Attendees:**

Donna Talbot – Community CVS - [donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk)

Mimi El – Khattam - Our Lancashire - [omaima.el-khattam@lancashire.police.uk](mailto:omaima.el-khattam@lancashire.police.uk)

Kiran Sadiq – BwD Carers - [Kiran.Sadiq@bwdcarers.org.uk](mailto:Kiran.Sadiq@bwdcarers.org.uk)

Callam Barnes – Community CVS – [callam.barnes@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:callam.barnes@communitycvs.org.uk)

Beverly Marsden – Lancashire Women – [Beverly.marsden@lancashirewomen.org](mailto:Beverly.marsden@lancashirewomen.org)

Dan – AA - [dancava@gmail.com](mailto:dancava@gmail.com)

Shen Mulla - Humraaz - [Shen@humraaz.org.uk](mailto:Shen@humraaz.org.uk)

Tariq Ali – Growth Company - [Tariq.Ali@gcemployment.uk](mailto:Tariq.Ali@gcemployment.uk)

Tom Macpherson Pope – The Making Rooms - [tom.macpherson-pope@makingrooms.org](mailto:tom.macpherson-pope@makingrooms.org)

Rachel – Gam Care - [Rachel.Simm@gamcare.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.Simm@gamcare.org.uk)

Tayyibah Masood – Positive Smiles - [Tayyibah@positivesmiles.co.uk](mailto:Tayyibah@positivesmiles.co.uk)

Sheralee Food Bank - [sheralee@blackburn.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:sheralee@blackburn.foodbank.org.uk)

Maggie Asquith - Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS - [margaret.asquith@nhs.net](mailto:margaret.asquith@nhs.net)

**Apologies:** Lisa Rawcliffe – NWAA, Chrissie Spencer – BwD BC, Amanda Fletcher – Nightsafe, James Lannon – BwD BC, Chris Bell – Mind, Yvonne Thistlethwaite – Bamboo Massage, Tracy Davies – BwD BC

**Presentation from Dan from AA**

* I am the liaison officer and I have been in recovery for 15 years
* Im going to start with a quick video ( available on website)
* AA was started in 1935 and is celebrating 75 years in Great Britain, AA is concerned solely with the personal recovery and continued sobriety of individual alcoholics who turn to the Fellowship for help
* Traditionally, AA members have always taken care to preserve their anonymity
* Due to the pandemic we have had to change how we hold our meetings - thanks to the introduction of Zoom our meetings are going from strength to strength
* In fact during the pandemic our numbers have increased – more people find the zoom meetings more accessible than going along in person
* Main points of AA
  + Free
  + No official referral required
  + Call Helpline
  + Website
  + Meetings in person – easily found on main website
  + You don’t have to speak or share when you come along, you can simply sit and listen
* There are a lot of myths about the AA meetings, that they are places of despair – they are the exact opposite they are places of hope
* We follow the 12-step programme and this helps turn peoples lives around
* The AA also offer free training to organisations

[**https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/**](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/)

**Presentation form Tom Macpherson- Pope – The Making Rooms**

* What we are – we are a makerspace
* We have a number of specialist equipment available to the public 3 - Laser cutters - 3D printers - CNC router - Potter’s wheel - Kiln - Vinyl cutter - Milling machine - Electronics - Screen printing - Mould making
* A creative technology lab
* A training centre
* A studio collective
* A venue for creativity

Our Mission

* Support creation of creative & manufacturing businesses
* Improve employability through technical skills training
* Increase participation in STEAM
* Improve the well-being of Lancashire residents

Our Programmes

Fab Lab Blackburn

* Free access to machines & training
* Free scrap material or BYO
* For personal projects or unfunded groups
* Advanced training programme for volunteers

The Reboot

* (re)training for volunteers using live lab projects
* to improve the space and showcase what’s possible

Young person’s Accelerator

* 32 delegates between 15-24
* Up-skill to improve employment opportunities
* Inspire to become entrepreneurs
* Funded by DCMS
* Looking for more project partners3D modelling - 2D design - Crowdfunding - Electronics development - Product photography - Videography - Graphic design - Branding - YouTube - Website development - Project management

Tech Blackburn

* Accelerator programme to develop products
* Fully funded by BwD council - Machine training & access - 8 delegates for 8 weeks - Applications open for next cohort in May

Creative Accelerator

* Accelerator programme for creative practices
* ACE funded - 6-month programme for 5 delegates
* 2nd cohort starting September

Working with Blackburn Youth Zone

* Delivering digital creativity sessions
* Machine set specification for on-site maker space
* Training staff
* We want to help more organisations use this technology

Blackburn Studios

* 13 studios
* Range of businesses - Artists - Creative practitioners - Web developers - Seamstress - Business coach - Accountant - Network & collaborate
* Rooms available from £195 per calendar month

Commercial design & prototyping

* We design parts and products
* For local businesses & entrepreneurs
* In-house prototyping

Entrepreneurs

* Regular machine hire users
* Most started through our programmes
* Signposting
* Networking
* Technical consultations

Able designers

* Programme to train people with disabilities to design solutions to issues they face
* 3D modelling, printing & electronics
* Looking for project partners & attendees

Making connections - pending

* Bid to help people in different cultural and faith
* communities better understand each other’s culture
* Co-design and make culturally significant art
* Cultural exchange
* Please get in touch if you’re interested

Precious Plastics

* Precious plastic work space is a place where plastic get transformed form waste into invaluable materials or products
* Community Point connect and grow the network locally
* Collection points gather plastic from neighbours, organisations and businesses to be used

Fab City

* Cities to produce everything they consume by 2054
* Network of 28 cities
* Imports and exports of a city should be
* ideas and data
* Local currencies - customisable crypto
* Support local sustainable organisations
* Aquaponics
* Allotments & farmers markets
* Shared Strategies Adapted to local needs

Distributed local store

* Local organisations and creators
* Museums, libraries, coffee shops Creative hubs
* Make & sell products Using locally sourced materials
* Manufactured locally to local people

Festival hub in 2017/18/19

* 2,000 visitors each year
* Thousands of creations made
* Point of discovery

Volunteers

* Formalise a clear roadmap towards skills and experience
* Curate work & projects
* Charity projects
* Lab projects
* Studio space projects
* Identify a skills hierarchy
* Use every task as a learning opportunity
* If someone is teaching, make sure many are learning

[**https://makingrooms.org/**](https://makingrooms.org/)

**Presentation form Tayyibah Masood – Positive Smiles**

* Positive smiles is a local CIC
* We offer a range of courses, projects, and opportunities to accommodate the community, inspiring and supporting everyone accessing our services. We work predominantly with the BAME community, many participants with disabilities and socially isolated.
* Our fundamental aim is to provide Emotional, Physical and Educational support through community-based interventions, assisting each individuals Social and Emotional wellbeing.
* We do this through a number of different projects
* Health and Well-Being - Providing a range of community-based projects to educate, promote and enhance positive health, equipping users with knowledge and skills needed to improve overall well-being.
* Education & Employment - Upskilling the community through various courses and opportunities to develop functional and employability skills to achieve work training skills. Enhance your knowledge through access to accredited courses, and boost personal development.
* Youth Work - Supporting young people to build confidence and raise aspirations. Exploring individual skills and interests to identify and support future goals and ambitions.
* Environmental Resilience - Nature-Based Wellbeing through outdoor courses exploring environmental and community development work. Learning to drive environmental awareness and change through access to nature alongside the benefits of environmental resilience. We run a number of projects in Corporation Park
* If you would like to refer someone – please complete the online referral form

[**https://positivesmiles.co.uk/**](https://positivesmiles.co.uk/)

**Presentation from Shen Mulla From Humraaz**

Humraaz

* Blackburn based
* By & for black and minoritized ethnic women from diverse ethnic backgrounds
* Sustainably supporting and nurturing women to have a voice
* Crisis to safety in our refuge
* A place to grow, integrate into society with social & economic stability
* All-inclusive nucleus for the BME women to access
* Encompass aspects of social, educational, advisory, employment, therapeutic, health and
* Wellbeing courses and workshops.
* Humraaz is ‘Here 2 Help’

Sexual Violence Advocacy

* Confidential trauma informed service
* BME women specific with cultural & linguistic
* 1:1 support and guidance
* Victims and survivors 18 + years and all forms of sexual violence, sexual abuse and sexual
* exploitation, sexual assault
* Effective care & strategies to recover & rebuild one’s self
* Understand patterns & themes of abuse within the community allowing evidence based
* programme development
* Ensure safety of victims, survivors & their dependents

Additional Support

* Risk & support assessment
* Tailored programme to meet individual needs
* Explore & advise victim / survivor sexual health & healthy relationships
* Single point of contact throughout the service
* Liaise with external agencies/professionals on their behalf solicitors, social workers, police etc
* Engage 1:1/group creative therapy, recreation, education and personal development
* Facilitate discussions around prevention/ awareness and sexual health topics

Service Need

* Lack of specialist BME sexual violence service in the community language, culture, belief system,
* barriers
* High rate of unspoken sexual violence within BME community behind closed doors/digital
* lifestyles
* Understand better how to assist victims/survivors in the community
* Identify patterns & trends of the types of sexual abuse & violence to develop evidence based
* programmes
* Preventative & awareness training
* Safeguard victims/survivors and their children
* Culturally sensitive service who understands the limitations & barriers

[**https://humraaz.co.uk/**](https://humraaz.co.uk/)

**Update – Mimi from Our Lancashire**

Im putting together my June newsletter and if you have anything you would like to include please email it to me

[Our Group Finder - OUR Lancashire](https://ourlancashire.org.uk/)

**Update – Sheralee from The Foodbank**

We have a couple of vacancies (please see attached)

We also have a new outdoor space and we are looking to use this as a growing space – we are however reliant on donations of materials and equipment – would anyone know where we could find them?

A: B& Q have a social fund and will donate equipment etc

A: Try Andy Mather at the Wildlife trust

**Date of next Meeting**

**Thursday 17th June 2021**

**9:00am – 11:00am**

**Via Zoom (invitation will be sent out)**

**For more info please contact Donna Talbot 01254 583957**

**Donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk**