**Minutes of the Community CVS Network Meeting**

**Thursday 22nd July 2021**

**Attendees:**

Donna Talbot – Community CVS - donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk

Amanda Fletcher – Nightsafe - amanda.fletcher@nightsafe.org

Chris Bell – Mind - ChristopherBell@lancashiremind.org.uk

Christina Spencer – BwD BC - christina.spencer@blackburn.gov.uk

Julie Davies – DWP - JULIE.DAVIES1@DWP.GOV.UK

Aaron Abbot – Newground - aaron.abbott@newground.co.uk

Rachel Simm – Gamcare - Rachel.Simm@gamcare.org.uk

Tracy Davies – Bwd BC - Tracy.Davies@blackburn.gov.uk

Beverly Marsden – Lancashire Women - Beverly.marsden@lancashirewomen.org

Amanda Fletcher – Nightsafe - amanda.fletcher@nightsafe.org

Sheralee Turner- Birchall – Blackburn Foodbank - sheralee@blackburn.foodbank.org.uk

Clair Arkwright – Inspire - Claire.Arkwright@cgl.org.uk

Heather Wearden – DWP - HEATHER.WEARDEN@DWP.GOV.UK

Gail Barton – Our Lancashire - Gail.Barton@lancashire.police.uk

**Apologies:** Dilwara Ali – BwD Healthy Living, Gail Barton – Our Lancashire, Shen Mulla -Humraaz, Aggie Kwiecien – Polish Support, Teresa Kirby – Care network, Ruth Packwood – Hope for Justice, Natalie White – Princes Trust

**Presentation Rachel Simm from Gamcare**

* Gamcare is 25 years old next year
* We provide information, advice and support for anyone affected by gambling harms.
* We operate the National Gambling Helpline, provide treatment for anyone who is harmed by gambling, (0808 8020 133)
* We create awareness about safer gambling and treatment, and encourage an effective approach to safer gambling within the gambling industry.
* We run online Forum and Chatrooms that are available to anyone who wants to share their experiences and seek support from others
* Gam Care’s Young People’s Service can support anyone aged 18 and under across the UK (including Northern Ireland) who is either ‘at risk’ of or experiencing harms because of gambling. This can be if they are gambling themselves, or if they are affected by someone else’s gambling.
* We offer a women’s programme, Women can be disproportionately affected by gambling-related harms, experiencing financial, relationship and mental health issues.
* we work with the criminal justice system; research studies have found that prison populations are more vulnerable than the general population to problem and disordered gambling. There are links between disordered gambling and crime, whether crime is committed to support gambling or to pay off gambling-related debts. Gambling related offending may include fraud, theft, domestic and financial abuse, and links into wider criminality or criminal circles.
* So what can you do as a professional?
* Problem gambling is a complex and multi-dimensional activity. GamCare training is specifically designed to:
	+ - * + Improve understanding of gambling and problem gambling behaviour and psychology
				+ Increase awareness of the social impact of gambling and problem gambling
				+ Provide the necessary skills to address the needs of those adversely affected by problem gambling
* Training is free, accredited and is offered Face to Face we can come along to your work place and we offer weekly sessions
* We simply start the conversation because we know that people do not talk about gambling and it can be hard to start the conversation – we give you the tools to do so
* Q: How long is the training?
* A:The Sessions are 2 hours via zoom and ½ day face to face – we can offer a full day training if that’s needed but we have found that we can cover the information.
* Q: How many people can attend?
* A: upto 15 people
* We have funding for 2 years so we have plenty of time to offer this training

[Home - GamCare - The leading provider of support for anyone affected by problem gambling in Great Britain](https://www.gamcare.org.uk/)

**Presentation Tracy Davies – Community connector from BwD BC**

* BwD have 4 community connectors (North, East, West and Darwen)
* Our role is to connect residents to services
* Most of our referrals come via Transforming lives however anyone can refer ( I will send Donna a copy of the referral form)
* We work with individuals over a 12-week period – however this could be longer dependant on the individual needs
* Anyone struggling with isolation we will look at activities that are available, encourage them to participate
* If the individual has any problems – debt, drug, alcohol etc we will refer them to the relevant services
* As community connectors the focus is on creating links
* We also help out in the Help Hub – which now has new premises in Blackburn Town Centre
* Originally set up during lockdown to support people – the hub is now offering that support in the town centre
* We also have a team of Social prescribers who support individuals
* Q: Where is the Hub in Blackburn Town Centre?
* A: We are opposite Soccer sports entrance and next door to Secret Santa
* We take Self referrals and people will be able to pop in Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm Hope fully we will be opening Week commencing 26th July
* Q: Can we refer clients to you who have been referred to us with a case worker – sometimes we find that case workers refer clients to us and it’s not always appropriate
* A: If you would like to Ring Emma Costa, Michelle Rutherford, Tracy True or Rachel Feilding they will be able to tell you if we can accept the clients

**Presentation Amanda Fletcher from Nightsafe**

* I’ve been at Nightsafe for the past 18 years and I now manage Platform 5, the Nightsafe Shelter and the Outreach
* As you may be aware during Covid we had to close
* Numbers where limited due to social distancing and if one of the young people tested positive it was a nightmare trying to keep them in isolation
* We now have to do the lateral testing on a daily basis
* We now have 4 beds open at the Night shelter – the 5th bedroom has to remain closed to adhere to social distancing rules
* We are starting face to face sessions in the day centre – we have maintained contact with a lot of our young people via phone, however it has proved problematic talking to the young people about personal problems
* However things are starting to change, we can have 8 young people in the day centre and things are picking up slowly
* A lot of the old volunteers have not come back and we desperately need volunteers to support the young people – chatting to them, making them feel welcome
* We have a 4th house with 20 beds increasing the support for 16 -24-year olds – Gatehouse for young people leaving care

Q: I have a client who really wants to volunteer however they are put off with the process of applying/DBS etc – how long is your process?

A: I can have everything done within a month – that includes the DBS, references etc – if the references come back quick it really doesn’t take that long

Q: I support the LVP volunteer process one thing that surprised me was how lots of people struggle with references – many of the people who would benefit form volunteering live very closed lives and the concept of references is daunting

A: The problem is getting the balance right between ensuring you are adhering to Safeguarding policies and making the process easy for volunteers.

[Nightsafe are a local Charity in the Blackburn with Darwen area](https://nightsafe.org/)

**Presentation Claire Arkwright from Inspire**

* Im here today to ask for your ideas and thoughts on how we can get a message across to professional and older people about their drinking
* During lockdown there has been an 82% increase in peoples drinking and we have a mammoth task ahead of us
* We work with vulnerable and chaotic people and this we believe is a reason why people wanting support will not approach our building – it has the stigma of chaotic people
* We would like to put together a promotional video promoting drinking healthier amounts of alcohol and for people to be aware of their drinking habits
* We do have a van so we can pull up outside GP’s, work places and even homes
* We are looking at a digital offer or even sending messages via phones
* I just would like to hear your thoughts etc
* AA: Social media is a good idea, maybe look at GP services, Community Centres – there is the Shad Hub
* Digital offer is definitely more accessible – good proportion of people are staying home
* Newground have a new project supporting employees with their mental health – the Chamber of Commerce are signed upto it so it may be something that you guys link in with
* BM: What about posters in public/work toilets with a number slip that you can take away – its very discreet
* AA: what about Football stadiums – link in with the clubs, men don’t like talking about problems but if there was potentially some presence in football grounds this may encourage them to seek help
* DT: you could also link in with the local football groups/Sunday league etc, May be link in with the Hive – Ian Brown is a great chap always looking to support the community
* STB: The problem is that sometimes workers do not want to let their employers know they have a drink problem for fear of repercussions – with the promotional video are you looking to target employers? Once we open the Foodbank you are more than happy to hot desk and have a presence, and the offer is open to everyone
* DT: Can I ask have you a budget to produce the film? If not, it may be worth contacting the media tutors and see if the students would like to get involved, I have worked with the students for the Community Volunteer Awards and they did a fab job – I will pass on their details
* STB: We are looking for help to paint the foodbank we would like it to be welcoming and tidy when our customers come in – does anyone know anyone who can help us?
* DT: Maybe Blackburn College students they are always looking for projects for the students
* AF: Have you contacted Crown paints? The Round Table?

 [Inspire House - Inspire Blackburn with Darwen (changegrowlive.org)](https://www.changegrowlive.org/inspire-blackburn-darwen/inspire-house)

**Update Sheralee Turner-Birchall from the Foodbank**

* We are looking for volunteers for our Warehouse Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:00am/9:00am to 2:00pm
* We also have a gardening group – we have secured some funding for a 6-week training course which is accredited
* The course starts next Tuesday – 27th July
* We also could do with someone to come and strim the garden and edges

Q: Have you linked in with U3A ? it’s for retired people and it provides a wide range of opportunities for older people to come together and explore new ideas, skills and activities and volunteering.

* We are also looking for 2 new staff member – we have received Lottery funding for the 2 posts for the next 3 years – Donna has circulated the roles
* We also have funding over the 6 weeks holidays to provide extra breakfast things – Cereal, Yoghurts etc
* We have recently recruited 3 debt and benefit advisors who can help with form filling, benefits, debts and bailiffs

[Blackburn Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](https://blackburn.foodbank.org.uk/)

**Update Aaron Abbott from New Ground**

* We are working with loads of businesses with the Kick Start Apprenticeships
* We have the project Health Matters
* We have the HAF Summer Projects from 2nd August to 26th August @ The Shad Hub and Greenfields
* We are currently working with the DWP – restart employment mentoring
* We are delivering Health and social care courses in Blackburn with Darwen we have had groups of upto 9 ladies at a time, many of the ladies got a lot out of the course and they have kept in touch and they have become a little support network with some of the ladies going onto college
* We also offer Hospitality training – food hygiene
* We will be running a Forklift course too

Q: Do you have a flyer that can be sent out via Donna?

A:Yes

CS: Can I please come and see you at the Shad Hub

A: Yes

**Updates Donna Talbot**

New volunteer wall at The Mall which will be dedicated to volunteering opportunities – Jason will be coming along to the August meeting to tell you all about it

**Community Volunteer Awards**

* Community Volunteer Awards 2021 have now been launched
* We are looking for Volunteer nominations – does your organisation have an amazing team of volunteers that deserve recognition?
* Good Neighbour nominations –If you know of anyone deserving acknowledgment for their wonderful deeds
* Community Involvement – If you know of any business that have gone above and beyond for your organisation, your local area?
* If so please nominate them today 😊
* Please find attached a nomination form – simply complete and email back to me, please note that the deadline for nominations is 5:00pm Friday 27th August 2021
* All winners will be announced at a special evening of celebration On Wednesday 3rd November 2021 @ King Georges Hall (main Hall) from 6pm onwards. (invitation only)
* Everyone nominated will receive a signed certificate, all shortlisted nominees will receive an invitation to the ceremony, and all winners will receive a trophy.
* If you need any more info please do not hesitate to contact me on 01254 593857 or email me donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday 26th August**

**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**