**Minutes of the Practitioner & Volunteer Coordinators**

**Breakfast Networking meeting Thursday 06th June 2019**

**Attendees:** Donna Talbot, Beverly Marsden, Kate Lee & Denise Hayhurst – Community CVS, Chloe Dobson, Nancy Kinyanjui & Deborah Robinson – Health watch, Dara McCann- Foodbank, Alex Wieczorek – CVS volunteer,Brian Holliday MBE & Jacqueline McGrew BEM – Whitebirk +Intack TARA, Tracy Davies – CB Partners, S.McNally – Creative Support, Natasha Morris – Inspire/Go2, Zaynab Jogi- Z’s Defence Academy, Lynn Mitchell – Near Neighbours.

**Presentation from Tracy Davies– Game changers at Energy Zone**

* Project is based at Higher croft
* CP partners has been around for over 7 years and is split into two sections, one is ***business*** and the other is ***community***
* Game changers is a funded project for those who live on higher croft estate in particular post codes. Those on the project have to be over 25yrs.
* Activities include, cooking on a budget, Arts and crafts, painting.
* We are taking on volunteers to help out with the different activities
* We have opened up the café and encourage those who want to meet up to us our café. We link in with the waste not want not project and use food donated to create different meals.
* We have an area outside “grow Zone” and it’s all about teaching people how to maintain a garden – we have a 12 week programme on how to grow vegetables and how to identify weeds. This will be run by Ian and a volunteer on **Tuesday** & **Thursdays 10.00 to 1400**.
* We are also looking into renting some of the space “Grow zone” out to services to encourage their service users to engage. Over 18 only but during the summer we are looking to offer this to under 16 but nothing confirmed yet.
* We have food donations from Monday to Thursday and anyone can access and those who can’t give a donation, will receive this f.o.c. 16.30 is the cut off time.

Q. can anyone from any area access the service

A. yes – we also put together £5 bags this is collected on Tuesdays only and has to be pre-booked for the following week. We also have a range of clothes for men and women for a small charge. Ladies suits and men’s suits.

We are waiting on a donation of bedding – if anyone know of any families who need bedding or if you know someone who has just moved into a property then you can contact Gabby – we are also in the process of collating xmas presents p.o.c is Gabby.

**Presentation from Lynn Mitchell – Near Neighbours**

* The purpose of the project is to bring people together and help people build up connections/ friendships
* Offer small grants from £250 to £5,000
* Can apply for a one off event e.g. knit and natter, litter picking.
* Criteria - It has to be multi-cultural e.g. Muslims and Christians the focus is to break down barriers
* The aim is to see long term relationships
* We also fund groups and projects that help young people stay away from crime.

Q. Are there any exclusions?

A. Yes – we don’t fund those that have a turnover of over £150,000. Groups don’t have to be constituted.

We will fund for sessional workers – but not for salaries

We can arrange a session to chat about the different sessions and funding

Q. What’s the boundary area?

A. Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Pendle, Burley and Haslingden.

Info – funded by the Church urban fund on a first come first served basis. We are running a session – “honest Talk” on Radio Lancashire from 12.00 to 14.00 with food anyone can come along.

We are holding an information session to help with funding and grant applications – this will be held on 18th June from 13.00 to 15.00 at woodnook church Accrington.

**Presentation from Zaynab Jogi – Defence Academy**

* New project setting up to teach women self-defence.
* I have been training since I was 12 in Thai boxing. I have been a Thai boxing instructor for the past 10 years. I have a level 3 qualification in self-defence.
* Just set up a 4 week self-defence programme at Accrington community centre, starts Monday 17th June from 6-7pm.
* Looking to join other organisations to teach people the basics of self defence
* Also hoping that people will build up their confidence to use the techniques.
* Targeting females only from 12 to 65
* My goal is to concentrate on this full time and to branch out into other areas. I would like to train up some volunteers who will be equipped to help me to deliver the training.

Info - C.P partners may be able to help you set up your own business.

Q. Would you do sessional work – thinking about circle of friends?

A. Yes

Q. Can you do a taster session for 10 year old?

A. Yes I could do 1 day free taster

Q. Would you do any predictive training?

A. Yes – we can put together a training session to see how a predator thinks.

A.O.B – Samina Empower are organising a party in Accrington mall on 12th June from 1.00 to 3.00.

Volunteers week – We have resources on line for those who would like to print off any promotional leaflets, posters or certificates. The final event for volunteer’s week will be held in Blackburn library on Tuesday 12th

Festival of making – anyone wanting to volunteer for this event please go on line to register.

Denise – we are running a small group for Simple IT sessions for vulnerable people. This will be a 121 session and an online learning programme.

Whitebirk will be holding a carnival on Saturday 8th June

Next Networking Meeting on Thursday 25th July 2019

@ Boulevard Centre 9.00 to 11.00