**Minutes of the Community CVS Network Meeting**

**Thursday 27th January 2022**

**Attendees:**

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

Javeria Amjad – Community CVS:javeria.amjad@communitycvs.org.uk

Samara Alameer – Community CVS:samara.alameer@communitycvs.org.uk

Kim Isherwood – CGL/Inspire:kim.isherwood@cgl.org.uk

Asia Malik – Blackburn College:asia.malik@blackburn.ac.uk

Kiran Sadiq – BwD Carers Service:kiran.sadiq@bwdcarers.org.uk

Chris Grimshaw – Recovery Homes CIC:chris.grimshaw@recoveryhomes.org.uk

Pamela Hargreaves – Recovery Homes CIC: pamela.hargreaves@recoveryhomes.org.uk

Claire Rigby – IPP – floating support :clare.rigby@greatplaces.org.uk

Fairoja Utarkar – DWP :Fairoja.utarkar@dwp.gov.uk

Nargis Alizadeh – Community CVS

Karen Marsden – Newground: karen.marsden@newground.co.uk

Ian Whittaker – Newground: ian.whittaker@newground.co.uk

James Smith – Rainbow Café

Nikita Stephenson – Inspiration Station/Soft Play: Nikki.Stephenson97@outlook.com

Emily Greenwood Inspiration Station/ Sensory Station: em.greenwoodcampbell@gmail.com

Shamim Razaq – Blackburn College : Shamim.razaq@blackburn.ac.uk

Fatima Zafir – Blackburn College: fatima.zafir@blackburn.ac.uk

Rachel Simm – GamCare: Rachl.Simm@gamcare.org.uk

Chris Trickett – Community CVS: Chris.Trickett@communitycvs.org.uk

**Apologies :** Alexandra Clayton – Shelter, Alison Webb – Blackburn College, Beverly Marsden – Lancashire Women, Denise Cottam – BwD Borough Council, Gabrielle Aspinall – SAMS/CBP, Heather Hook – Kooth, Lorraine Hargreaves – Milly’s Smiles, Julie Hutton – I Cann, Leanne Proctor – The Billy Project, Gill Fourie – The Foodbank James Lannon – BwD Council, Jason Cothliff – The Mall, Louise Taylor – CANW, Heather Wearden - DWP

**Presentation from Emily Greenwood from Inspiration Station – Sensory Room**

* Our Sensory Station has been designed and equipped to suit the needs of children/adults and those who have physical/learning disabilities or sensory preferences.
* Enjoy facilities such as: Light Projectors, Bubble Tube, Fibre Optic Light Strings, Water Bed, Colour Changing Lights, Immersive Mirrored Surfaces
* A Safe Space can be booked separately for those who need one on one quiet areas of relaxation.
* People can pick and chose their music we have one guy who listens to nothing but The Chemical Brothers and one lady who loves Disney songs
* Book via the online booking facility or pop in
* Opening Times
* Monday to Saturday 9:00am – 5:00pm
* £10:00 per Hour per person

**Presentation from Nikita Stephenson from Inspiration Station – Soft Play**

* Our Soft Play Station is the perfect place to push our users’ physical boundaries by exploring and learning in a safe environment. The Inspiration Station have designed a soft play room that encourages imaginative play, whilst developing other key skills such as gross motor skills and socialisation.
* The space is available to the public for sessions, private hire and group bookings. Why not book for a Birthday party?
* Facilities Include: Baby changing station, Soft play surfaces & staircase, Interactive toys, play tunnel, Number wall, Basic arts & crafts, Role Play, Ball pit and Bean bags
* Online booking facilities
* £5.00 per child per hour and £1.00 per adult per hour
* So if your shopping in the Mall you can pop in when the kids are getting fed up – let them play and then get on with the shopping
* Morning Sessions for babies
* Afternoon sessions for Adults & Children

Q: Do you take on volunteers? How do they apply

A: Yes and just pop in and have a chat

[Inspiration Station | Sensory | Soft Play | Crafts | Blackburn (inspiration-station.co.uk)](https://inspiration-station.co.uk/)

**Presentation from Clare from IN partnership Project**

* My role is funded by BwD Council and Great Places
* We work with adults 18+ who have drug and alcohol issues (current or historical)
* Our Clients have to have their own tenancy in Blackburn with Darwen, we cannot work with the Homeless
* We work with Inspire and we receive referrals from lots of places – Community Care Hub
* We do not just work with housing, we help with tenancy agreements, maintaining a home, financial help and support for individuals well being
* There are 2 members of staff me full time and one part time
* We help with CV’s/employment/training/benefits/PIP forms
* We can take referrals from the HMO’s/Hostels – but not the Salvation Army (that counts as double funding)
* There is not a lot of housing available at the moment – so we are low on stock – I do have some good contacts with Places for People
* We also provide support and accommodation for women aged 16 – 55 who are homeless and who also need help with drug or alcohol issues. Our support promotes independence, recovery and we help customers to move on into their own accommodation. We have 17 fully furnished, self-contained flats and excellent communal facilities which include a lounge, training kitchen, gardens, well-being suite and training room. We are located in the centre of Blackburn.
* The Flats are all fully furnished and are located in East Park Road in Blackburn

Q: Is It European Funded?

A: No

Q: Where do you meet clients?

A:We have been talking to people on the phone due to Covid but we are moving towards more face to face appointments, I usually take them out for a brew and have a chat – we don’t really go to people’s homes

Q: Do you have housing you can offer?

A: No we help bid for properties, find the properties – we can help people get the banding put up

Q: Do you work across Accrington?

A: No just BwD

Q: Once you have got accommodation for individuals where do you source carpets etc?

A: Community Care Grant, Lancashire Crisis Support, Turn2Us, Children in Need, British Gas, United Utilities, IKEA – Community Team – Carpets are really hard to source

[In Partnership (greatplaces.org.uk)](https://www.greatplaces.org.uk/independence-and-wellbeing/find-an-independence-and-wellbeing-service/detail/in-partnership)

**Presentation from Shamim from Blackburn College**

* I have a couple of roles one is to support SME to take on Student Work placements and the other is to find placements for IT/Digital Level 3 students
* The Students are au fait with Social Media, Coding, Database Development, Digital Media, IT Administration, IT Customer Support, IT Sales, IT Security, Network Administration, Software Development, Web Development
* The Placements are 45 days (315 hours) or 30 hours – which can be a full week or a couple of hours per week
* If you want to take on a student you must have employer liability insurance and we will need to do a H&S check
* We struggle finding just IT companies -the students do benefit form other sectors as they learn different skills to – not just computer skills
* Students can help with promotional videos etc
* Students ned to be supervised at all times and need to have facilities – loo etc

Q: What is the benefit to the employer of taking on students?

A: Free Work, help with social media, they can do other things that IT , they can teach you lots of new IT skills, Tik Tok etc (Tik Tok – you can get funding for videos and creating posts)

Q: what level are the students?

A: Level 3 which is year 1 & “ students

* The Support we offer to SME is showing them how to get the most out of the experience, we offer support with mentoring, H&S , help you identify where the students can help and help point you in the right direction.
* We work with any business

<https://www.blackburn.ac.uk/work-placements-for-employers/>

**Update from Fairoja from DWP**

* New DWP campaign – Way to Work
* ½ million people into jobs in 5 months
* People will now have to start actively looking for any job after 4 weeks as opposed to the 3 months before
* The Focus is now on look at what you can do not what you want to do
* There are 1.2 million vacancies to fill, so there are lots of opportunities, many of which need no prior experience.
* Work Coaches will now offer increased dedicated face-to-face time for jobseekers, and this tailored support will significantly improve chances of finding work.
* This will be backed up by a focus on taking a job within the first four weeks of your claim, which will help prevent you ending up out of work for a prolonged period.
* Meanwhile, Jobcentre Plus is engaging directly with employers across booming sectors like construction, social care and transport and logistics
* if people are not able to find work in their previous occupation or sector, they are expected to look for work in another sector and this will be part of their requirements for receiving their benefit payment.

Q: Is this replacing Kick Start?

A:Yes this covers all ages

Q: What about individuals with limited capabilities?

A:They will continue to receive the same support

[New jobs mission to get 500,000 into work - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-jobs-mission-to-get-500-000-into-work)

**Update from Rachel @ GamCare**

* We are now offering our staff training face to face
* We offer a Youth Programme & Women’s programme
* All our courses are accredited

[Home - GamCare - The leading provider of support for anyone affected by problem gambling in Great Britain](https://www.gamcare.org.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIy6L9vNWY9gIVy-vtCh07eQgnEAAYASAAEgIugPD_BwE)

**Update from Donna - The Rainbow Café**



Every Wednesday 1:00pm – 3:00pm @ The Community Hub

35 Railway Road, Blackburn

* The Rainbow Café is a weekly peer support group/drop in
* People can come together over a coffee and meet new people from the LGBTQIA+ community, offering a safe environment where everyone feels welcome.
* We will be offering mindfulness-based therapies and interventions that consider the unique experiences of the LGBTQIA+ Community in a safe environment, we are looking to provide meditation, Art, Relaxation courses free of charge.
* The Rainbow Café is part of the Circle of Friends – A weekly social group for those with disabilities, some of our members had mentioned that support for the LGBTQIA+ across Lancashire was predominantly on line and support for those with disabilities was practically non-existent
* We want to work with everyone and we are closely linked in with the Blackburn Pride – 18th June 2022

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday 24th March 2022**

**9:30am – 11:30am**

**Conference Room – The Boulevard Centre BB1 1EZ**

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

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