**Minutes of the Community CVS Network Meeting**

**Thursday 29th September 2022**

Syka Quraishi – Community CVS: [syka.quraishi@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:syka.quraishi@communitycvs.org.uk)

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

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Rob Nuttall – Blackburn College – [Robert.nutall@blackburn.ac.uk](mailto:Robert.nutall@blackburn.ac.uk)

Brian Magee – Lancashire Police – [3877@lancashire.police.uk](mailto:3877@lancashire.police.uk)

Lillie Parrish – Lancashire Police – [6291@lancashire.police.uk](mailto:6291@lancashire.police.uk)

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Mark Wood – Age UK – [mark.wood@ageukbwd.org.uk](mailto:mark.wood@ageukbwd.org.uk)

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Karen Livesey – No Whispers CIC – [karen@no-whispers.co.uk](mailto:karen@no-whispers.co.uk)

David Bevis – Ribble Rivers Trust – [david@ribbletrust.com](mailto:david@ribbletrust.com)

Ruth Halden – Auxilium Housing – [ruth.halden@auxiliumhousing.org.uk](mailto:ruth.halden@auxiliumhousing.org.uk)

Samantha Barry – Auxilium Housing – [Samantha.barry@auxiliumhousing.org.uk](mailto:Samantha.barry@auxiliumhousing.org.uk)

**Apologies :**

Donna Talbot – Community CVS, Clare Rigby – Great Places, Rebecca Royce – South Pennines Park, Kim Isherwood - Calico

**Presentation from Brian at Lancashire Police**

* We deal with a lot of hate crime around Lancashire, particularly Blackburn, Pendle, Burnley and Rossendale.
* We tend to deal with a lot of complex issues – the first being that we have to determine whether it was a hate crime or a hate incident which has taken place.
* Hate Crime – this is an incident which constitutes criminal damage resulting in an assault/damage
* Hate Incident – this is where there is no criminal offence as such but an incident which is motivated by prejudice.
* We work with the CPS and communities and are currently looking at why people are reluctant to report offences. The CPS have stated that the numbers are falling.
* We work with victims and repeat locations.
* We have noticed a correlation in the summer where the numbers are higher (alcohol-fuelled possibly).
* Sentencing is dependant on the seriousness of the case.
* We do aim to work within the police setting offering options to conduct restorative meetings.

Q: I worked with a young lady who was being treated unfairly in the married home and it resulted in her being sent back to Italy (where she was originally from). I disagree with that outcome.

A: Arranged marriages and domestic violence is the part of my job which I am really passionate about and, in my opinion, the young lady shouldn’t have been sent back to Italy. We will work with IDVA’s and support the person prohibiting taking them out of the country.

Q: I have a friend who wants to get out of a dead-end marriage but cannot leave because her husband threatens to keep the children. He tells her she can leave but the children will stay with him.

A: She should seek support from places like The Wish Centre and if need be family law solicitors. The police do have powers to protect the individual where a non-molestation order has been obtained if it has been proved in court and backed up by a conviction.

Q: Are you available to speak to community groups?

A: We are happy to speak to community groups but if you email me, I will look into the best way forward with this.

**Presentation from David at Ribble Rivers Trust**

* We do a lot of conservation work at Ribble Head in Clitheroe – tree planting, river banks and erosion.
* We have community growing groups and a number of volunteers.
* We work towards delivering river improvements across the entire Ribble catchment.
* We are currently working on a six-month pilot project in Darwen covering the River Darwen.

Q: We have students looking for placements. If we placed them with the trust, what kind of work would they be doing?

A: They would help with school visits, woodland treatments, running volunteer days, electro fishing – this is where we check the health of the rivers.

Q: I work at Whitehall Park and just wanted to ask if you get a lot of invasive species because that’s something we have a lot of.

A: We do and we do a lot of work with invasive species. If you email me we can work in collaboration.

[Who We Are - Ribble Rivers Trust (ribbletrust.org.uk)](https://ribbletrust.org.uk/about-us/)

**Update from Vicki at Whitehall Park Supporters Group**

* We have a community garden which we are working on. It’s a fantastic space with flat surface and wheelchair accessible.
* Hold various community events and gardening club. Promote, enhance and fundraise for the upkeep of the park and facilities.

**Update from Ruth at Hope for Justice**

* We have launched an app for your phones now. I have some leaflets with the QR code. If you scan this, it should take you to the app in your phones.

[Hope for Justice | End Slavery. Change Lives.](https://hopeforjustice.org/)

**Update from Karen at No Whispers**

* I deliver courses on CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation and have two evenings courses coming up in January. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please email me.
* The vulnerabilities of CSE has increased but there are barriers. We know that it’s still happening in schools and communities.

[Keeping Our Children & Young People Safe - No Whispers (no-whispers.co.uk)](https://no-whispers.co.uk/)

**Update from Kiran at BwD Carers**

* Just wanted to mention our lasting power of attorney service. This is a service we offer as part of the Carers Service where we support unpaid carers both 18 plus and young carers.
* I also run volunteer courses and the next one will be in October. As soon as I have the dates finalised for it, I will ask Donna to circulate.

[Home - Blackburn with Darwen Carers Service (bwdcarers.org.uk)](https://www.bwdcarers.org.uk/)

**Update from Mark at Age UK**

* We have appointed an IT support worker. Their role will be to support over 50’s helping them to get online.
* We also have volunteer placements available in the shop where we offer advice and information.

[Welcome to Age UK Blackburn with Darwen](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/blackburnwithdarwen/)

**Update from Syka at CVS**

* Just to let you all know that we have the Community Wall in the Mall. You are welcome to email me and promotional materials and I will put them up for you.
* We also have our monthly volunteer bulletin so if anyone has any new volunteer roles available at your organisations, email me and I will include these in the bulletin.

**Next Meeting : Thursday 27th October 2022**

**9:30am – 11:30am**

**The Community Hub 35 Railway Road, Blackburn BB1 1EZ**

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

[**Donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk**](mailto:Donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk)

***Parking – please do NOT park on the car park next to the Community Hub – this is a private carpark and you will be fined***