**Minutes of the Community CVS Network Meeting**

**Thursday 23rd March 2023**

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

Janine Bradley – Volunteer Now – [janine@bureaublackburn.co.uk](mailto:janine@bureaublackburn.co.uk)

Becca Porter – CVS/The Bureau – [becca@bureaublackburn.co.uk](mailto:becca@bureaublackburn.co.uk)

Anthony Carr – BwD Refresh Team – [Anthony.Carr@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Anthony.Carr@blackburn.gov.uk)

James DaCosta – Community CVS – [james.dacosta@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:james.dacosta@communitycvs.org.uk)

Tim Horobin – Prevent (BwD BC) – [Tim.horobin@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.horobin@blackburn.gov.uk)

Clare Rigby – BwD BC Adult Social Care – [clare.rigby@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:clare.rigby@blackburn.gov.uk)

Mike Gibson – NWAA – [Mik.gibson@nwairambulance.org.uk](mailto:Mik.gibson@nwairambulance.org.uk)

Levi Gibbs – Lancashire LGBT – [levig@lancslgbt.org.uk](mailto:levig@lancslgbt.org.uk)

Jennifer Simpson-Hoyle - NHS Leeds GIS – [Jennifer.simpson-hoyle@nhs.net](mailto:Jennifer.simpson-hoyle@nhs.net)

Dawn Treanor – IMO – [dawn.treanor@imocharity.org](mailto:dawn.treanor@imocharity.org)

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

Rubina – DWP

Saaima Khonat – DWP - [SAAIMA.KHONAT@DWP.GOV.UK](mailto:SAAIMA.KHONAT@DWP.GOV.UK)

Jake

Sheila Feilding – Christians Against Poverty - [sheilafielding@capuk.org](mailto:sheilafielding@capuk.org)

Jo-Ann Dwyer – BwD Early Years Help & Support - [jo-ann.dwyer@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:jo-ann.dwyer@blackburn.gov.uk)

Laura McKelvey – BwD Early Help – [Laura.Mckelvey@Blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Mckelvey@Blackburn.gov.uk)

Vicki Fort – Training 2000 - [vfort@t2000.co.uk](mailto:vfort@t2000.co.uk)

Lauren – Training 2000

Tamara Hitchen – Blackburn Youth Zone - [tamara.hitchen@blackburnyz.org](mailto:tamara.hitchen@blackburnyz.org)

**Apologies:** Julie Moran – Herbert Parkinson, Carol Swindells – East Lancs Hospice, Kiran Sadiq – BwD Carers, Amanda Fletcher – Nightsafe, Louise Taylor – CANW, Stuart Hammond – BwD BC,

**Sheila Feilding – Christians Against Poverty**

* We help anyone and everyone irrelevant of faith
* The only people we cannot help are self-employed individuals
* The service is free and is funded by the church and donations
* Our service is very intense and there is a lot of hand holding
* We go to our client’s homes to work with them – there are a couple of reasons for this 1) it helps us to gather all the paperwork

2) It helps the client to be more relaxed

* We work with individuals who have complex needs, mental health etc
* Martin Lewis from The TV refers lots of people to us
* We provide a holistic service – our team of volunteers act as the befrienders – we all know that debt etc can be a really stressful time
* We understand that debt can be the cause of problems but also a result of problems
* If the individual needs extra support from other agencies – we sign post
* We don’t have many clients – I have 3 currently so we don’t support lots and lots but the work we do is very intense and we stay with the individual until they are debt free
* If someone is looking at Insolvency we hold their hand throughout the process – we are seeing insolvency on the rise ( we complete all paperwork for the individuals)
* Many of our clients once they are debt free remain debt free because of the support and budget skills that we and our volunteers put in place

Q: what is the referral process and what is the waiting list at the moment?

A: the waiting list at the moment is a month and the referral process is very easy – we ask the individual to contact head office via phone ( if someone makes the call themselves it shows an element of commitment) once they have phoned in – head office will allocate them to me and I will phone in the first instance then meet in person

Q: What if they aren’t in debt but on the borderline due to budgeting etc. do work with them then?

A: Yes, we can work with anyone at any level of debt

Q: Do you help with the cost of Debt relief orders?

A: Yes, we can access funding, we do encourage individuals to source their money from family etc – but we can support them if we have to

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/getting-a-debt-relief-order/getting-a-debt-relief-order>

Q: Do you provide financial Statements?

A:Yes absolutely – we know it can be hard and stressful for the individual – that’s were our befrienders help, but we do want to empower them – Its such a hard process that one ex-soldier told me that he would prefer to being Afghanistan fighting than pulling all the info together for insolvency!!!

Q: Do you help put the Debt Respite Scheme (Breathing Space) into place?

A: Yes, we do

[Debt Respite Scheme (Breathing Space) guidance for creditors - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/debt-respite-scheme-breathing-space-guidance/debt-respite-scheme-breathing-space-guidance-for-creditors#:~:text=A%20standard%20breathing%20space%20is,and%20charges%20on%20their%20debts.)

[CAP UK | Home](https://capuk.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw8e-gBhD0ARIsAJiDsaU6wzFBSItDXKMXnRGk1xvsc2HN01j-eycdwO_EfElxGfqal84jG94aAlDYEALw_wcB)

**Becca & Janine from Volunteer Now/Chip in**

* The Volunteer now project is a joint project with Community CVS and The Bureau
* We are working with young people aged 16 – 30 – helping them find volunteering opportunities that are good for them
* We currently have 18 partners that we are working with – BRFC, Foodbank, Youth Zone etc
* The idea of the project is to help build young people’s CV’s, their experience etc we match them with an organisation and a mentor.
* The project is for 2 years
* Restrictions to the project – just age – but if you live, work, play in BwD you can sign up
* Build a digital platform – what organisations need, what we need and what do young people want – this will be the project legacy
* We have recently worked with the college on a new name for the project and they have come up with “Chip in”
* If anyone can help us out – please get in touch

Q: Training 2000 work with 19 years+ we work around employability, many of the young people are not sure what they want – we encourage volunteering and work experience – is this something we could work on together?

A: Yes absolutely – we are currently linking in with the Princes Trust

Q: is the volunteering for a set time? Days/hours etc

A: The volunteering could be anytime, one off – festivals etc, weekly, monthly – what ever works for the organisation and the volunteer

Q: Do you work with Schools?

A: No, not at the moment

<https://www.communitycvs.org.uk/volunteer/volunteering-now/>

**Jo-Anne & Lauren – BwD Early Help and Support**

* The Early help and support team – raise awareness in the community of how to identify neglect and what you can do if you do spot it
* The sessions are informal and open to everyone, volunteers, organisations – we want to spread the word
* The session is a one off and lasts 2 hours
* The sessions are part if the BwD BC neglect strategy – many get poverty and neglect mixed up, just because a child is poor doesn’t necessarily mean they are neglected – the training helps individuals spot the difference
* Early help and support – works with lots of different families at all different levels
* CAF – ( Child and family support) – early support – looking at strengths of the family
* There are lots of different needs – Conflict/Neglect/Domestic Violence/New to Area/New parents
* We work with schools/Nurseries – it’s a whole family approach – healthy relationships
* We have a parenting team – evidence based
* Henry project – work with 0-1-year olds – supporting the child’s development, looking at family rewards, boundaries we also work with 0-5-year olds and 5 – 11-year olds
* EPEC – empowering parents, empowering Communities
* Looking at Parents that want to be parent leaders – offering peer support to families
* This is a 12-week programme, that is manageable and has a national accredited training
* Once trained up the parent leaders will go out and deliver training – we currently have 8 volunteers and one of the volunteers has gone onto full time employment in a local school

[Child and family assessment | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council](https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/families-children-young-people/child-and-family-assessment)

**Vicky & Lauren – Training 2000**

* We offer around 30 – 40 apprenticeships – anyone can do an apprentice ship they are not just for young people
* You must live/work in England – if you don’t have English and Maths we can help you with this
* I’m here to talk about our brand-new Health and Social work course – level 3 accredited
* This course is for anyone working in the health and social care sector – anyone providing care, social prescribers this course will give you the qualification
* There is lots of support for anyone signing up to it, set criteria, lots of lived experience – online – its bespoke to health & social work
* The course runs for 12 months on a Wednesday for half a day
* If your organisation wants to pay for their staff – it will cost around £350

[Community Health and Wellbeing Worker - Training 2000](https://www.training2000.co.uk/apprenticeships/healthcare/community-health-and-wellbeing-worker)

**Jennifer and Levi – Lancashire LGBT**

* Lancashire LGBT work across Lancashire – get people better connected, Peoples Health and Wellbeing
* People can self – refer – we offer groups, one-to-one, coping, self- goals, barriers, problems
* Organisations can get our training on inclusivity
* Outreach – Leeds Gender Identity Service – we have 5 workers who are employed by NHS England and based at Lancashire LGBT, we have 3 in Yorkshire and 2 in Lancashire
* I have 16 years lived experience as a trans-woman, and Brad my colleague is a trans-male we work together across Lancashire – all our team have lived experience
* We support individuals with their transition, there is a 4-year waiting list – this wait can impact on the individual’s mental health – we support them with – social transition, coming out, changing their name, pronouns etc
* We work with 18-year-old + - we do not work with anyone under 18 – we signpost them to the relevant service – which is currently under review
* We have an advice line – we can also signpost to other services if needed
* If someone needs more in depth help we can offer one to one support – either on the phone, digital or in person
* We link in with other groups – like the Rainbow Café in Blackburn with Darwen
* Groups – Man space – online, walking group and swimming ( Blackpool)
* We have a Trans-Masc. zoom support group for anyone masc presenting (including non-binary people) aged 18 upwards, there may also be occasional face-to-face meetups in Lancashire in the future. You can register to join the group
* Inclusivity group in Preston for Males @ The UCLAN Student Union Building – you can register come along and open up it’s a safe space all confidential
* Gender Drop in @ UCLAN 12pm – 2pm – for students and families, we have a brew and a chat with like minded people
* Online Group for women/females we meet once a week, one afternoon and the following week in the evening
* We will be meeting up face to face in the summer, so I will be organising picnics in the park and I’m really looking forward to that
* All the info of all the groups is on Lancs LGBT website

[Lancashire LGBT - Happier, healthier and better connected (lancslgbt.org.uk)](https://lancslgbt.org.uk/)

**Anthony – Re:Fresh**

* We will be holding a well being event for Women on Sunday 14th May @ Blackburn Leisure Centre 12.00pm – 3.00pm
* There will be info sessions, stalls,
* More details and info regarding activities for the day will be released in the coming weeks but if any organisation would like to get involved, then they can contact myself [Anthony.Carr@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Anthony.Carr@blackburn.gov.uk) or Victoria [Victoria.McCoy@Blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.McCoy@Blackburn.gov.uk) for more info.

**Mike – North West Air Ambulance**

* We have 3 helicopters – we have 7 incidents per day with around 3000 in total per year
* We don not get any funding from NHS or The Government
* We have collection tins that need collecting and we are looking for a volunteer who can do this
* Mileage is paid, its not really onerous – just a couple of hours per month – if you know anyone please let me know

[Home | North West Air Ambulance Charity (nwairambulance.org.uk)](https://www.nwairambulance.org.uk/)

**Syka – CVS**

* We offer free training for Volunteer Managers and Volunteers – for more info please contact Denise Hayhurst

[**denise.hayhurst@communitycvs.org.uk**](mailto:denise.hayhurst@communitycvs.org.uk)

* For Volunteers Week – Community CVS are producing a series of films – volunteers talkingabout their experiences etc, we are also organising a number of events for volunteer’s week – so if you would like to be involved please contact Kate Lee

[kate.lee@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:kate.lee@communitycvs.org.uk)

**Donna - Cvs**

* **Re:Use network** – new network – trying to link those who are throwing things away with those that need them
* Project – CVS, Suez and BwD BC are working on – many people cannot afford furniture and we want to stop perfectly good items going to landfill
* If you would like to join please let me know
* **International Mens Day** - Working with a number of partners – BRFC, Police, Fire Brigade and a number of charities to put an event on for international Mens day
* Sunday 19th November – hopefully at Ewood Park
* We want lots of activities going on but also lots of info
* Ideally, we would like to produce a booklet that men can take away with them
* Again if you would like to be involved – please let me know
* **Community Volunteer Awards** – nominations will be launched on Monday 5th June – anyone wanting to sponsor us – please do so
* **Rainbow Café** – Blackburn Wednesday afternoon 1pm-3pm @ The Geek Retreat – drop in for members of the LGBTQ community – 18 years + free brew, make new friends, workshops
* We also have one in Darwen Friday afternoon 1pm – 3pm @ The James Street Project

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday 27th April 2023**

**9:30am – 11:30am**

**The Boulevard Centre**

**45 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***