**Minutes of the Community CVS Network Meeting**

**Thursday 23rd March 2023**

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

Janine Bradley – Volunteer Now – janine@bureaublackburn.co.uk

Becca Porter – CVS/The Bureau – becca@bureaublackburn.co.uk

Anthony Carr – BwD Refresh Team – Anthony.Carr@blackburn.gov.uk

James DaCosta – Community CVS – james.dacosta@communitycvs.org.uk

Tim Horobin – Prevent (BwD BC) – Tim.horobin@blackburn.gov.uk

Clare Rigby – BwD BC Adult Social Care – clare.rigby@blackburn.gov.uk

Mike Gibson – NWAA – Mik.gibson@nwairambulance.org.uk

Levi Gibbs – Lancashire LGBT – levig@lancslgbt.org.uk

Jennifer Simpson-Hoyle - NHS Leeds GIS – Jennifer.simpson-hoyle@nhs.net

Dawn Treanor – IMO – dawn.treanor@imocharity.org

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

Rubina – DWP

Saaima Khonat – DWP - SAAIMA.KHONAT@DWP.GOV.UK

Jake

Sheila Feilding – Christians Against Poverty - sheilafielding@capuk.org

Jo-Ann Dwyer – BwD Early Years Help & Support - jo-ann.dwyer@blackburn.gov.uk

Laura McKelvey – BwD Early Help – Laura.Mckelvey@Blackburn.gov.uk

Vicki Fort – Training 2000 - vfort@t2000.co.uk

Lauren – Training 2000

Tamara Hitchen – Blackburn Youth Zone - 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 or Victoria 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**

* 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

**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**

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