Short Term: please suggest 3 tasks each that you would want the Community Network to put in place within the first 12 months

**James :**

1. **Representation** – At BwD Meetings who will represent us as a sector and how will they feed info back
2. **Collaboration** – across all membership – we are so diverse – how can we collaborate easily?
3. **Annual Event** – banners, networking opportunities

**Rachel :**

1. **Understanding** - the people we represent – we also need a community and youth representative
2. **Consistency**
3. **Communication** – digital - correct and aligned formats on all social media also understanding formats that some can use and others can’t when sharing info

**Shigufta :**

1. **Assessment** – what are the needs? What are the key priorities? Moving forward we need a collective need – many of us come with bias so that we can build/develop and showcase
2. **Digital** – communication
3. **Outcomes** – how are we going to measure collectively? How are we going to achieve these and show case them?

**Aggie:**

1. **Celebrate and reinforce**
2. **Central Hub** – all services on one website people can find out what’s going on- everyone can promote and update ( info in all different languages)
3. **Marketing Plan** – social media, important its not those that do the most its those that shout the loudest, ( videos etc)

**Angela :**

1. **Mapping** – groups and sector
2. **Communications Plan**
3. **Understanding the needs of the sector**

**Tim:**

1. **Understand reviewing priority –** what is already going on it needs to be a quick review
2. **Quick Prioritisation –** prioritise and this will drive success - 12 Month Strategy & Action plan – not the NHS or Councils plan – your plan
3. **Capacity -** be mindful of capacity and also focus on the Digital

**Rolonde :**

1. **HMOS –** if we can review , influence the regulation and standards – they are shocking – I leave them feeling distraught
2. **Access to mental Health services** – very difficult to navigate even for professionals
3. **Organise Network Activities –** have a street presence – clean ups with the police, fire etc engage with the residents, Actions speak louder than words

**Suzanne :**

1. **Marketing and Communications** - who and when
2. **Representation**  - local/pan Lancs
3. **Priorities** – what are the priorities? Where is the investment going to come from?

**Vicky :**

1. **Communications and Engagement** – mechanism for the wider community network
2. **Understanding & Agreeing** – where we want to focus
3. **Development** – for the board members

**Phillipa :**

1. **Agreeing Principles** and ways of working
2. **Agreeing – your pitch**
3. **What are your support Asks?** – we can support with time, development etc

**Donna M:**

1. **Raise Deaf Awareness** – raise the profile of the deaf in the community, ensure that all services are deaf aware
2. **Collaborative projects** – power in numbers
3. **Audit need** in the borough and ensure the information/data is valid.

**Richard :**

I believe the main operose of this board is to challenge the system – there are no more resources but there could be a better use of money with a greater level of success

1. **Clear Scope** – set a scope/vision focus on what is achievable with time and capacity
2. **Clarifying the Roles of the Board Members** – what is each member going to work on?
3. **Communications** – tell the world what you are doing

**Hannah:**

1. **Collaborative work** – share info, signposting etc
2. **More grass Roots work** – people want to see things being done; more enablement of the community – pop up hubs services coming along to communities
3. **Digitalisation** – is a big exclusion for many residents

**Garth :**

**Equity** – young people and other marginalised residents

**Lobby & Influence** – lobby regulators, champion the voices not heard – Lobby and Lobby Hard!!!

**Board Development**

**Garth :**

* Community CVS’s : planning Annual Conference in June
* Survey Sector – we currently have 1200 members - ask lots of questions – buildings, volunteers, needs, problems etc
* If you have anyone interested please forward their details to Donna
* Contemplating an online Directory

**Aggie :**

* Would it be possible to have lanyards? Part of the branding and also powerful, good way to spread the word who we are and what we are doing – also sense of belonging
* Vicky
* Identity badge a good Idea – boards etc will identify BwD Community Network

**Angela :**

* VCFSE Alliance are commissioning a survey of local groups – maybe we could link in with them and then there isn’t duplication

**Borough Issues – what are they?**

·         Access to Services for non-English speaking & Deaf residents

·         Accessible Services

·         Aspirations

·         Collaboration

·         Common Agenda Day – Power to the Many

·         Community Action Day

·         Community Cohesion

·         Digital Inclusion

·         Environment

·         Equity

·         Green Agenda

·         HMOS

·         Mental Health

·         Social Isolation

**Richard :**

BwD Council have a “Vision” – that no-one is left behind

[A more prosperous borough where no-one is left behind | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council](https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/corporate-plan-2023-2027/our-vision/more-prosperous-borough-where-no-one-left)

The NHS have changed their language and talk more about building communities - but how much money do they actually invest?

The BwD Community Network is unique – an elected board has never existed before – you guys are the voice, you are there to challenge strategies, push really hard look at national funding/grants – are we really leaving no-one behind? There are lots of vulnerable people in Blackburn with Darwen

Make sure that you map the changes and celebrate them – in 12 months you can go back to the Council/NHS and show them what you have achieved as a network

HMOS – what are the barriers to communication? What does need to be done and why can’t it be done – ask the questions

**Garth :**

Meeting to speak to the relevant groups – we can organise those and collectively we can engage with the relevant individuals and groups

**Vicky**:

We already know quite a lot we just need to continue to engage – we don’t need to ask for example about digital exclusion, we already are aware of the problems

what we need to do is gather that intelligence together , we need to enable the smaller groups to be heard – they struggle to amplify what they do

**Aggie :**

Language is a massive barrier and I am constantly butting heads with the council – the only in English approach is excluding large parts of the community

The workforce doesn’t represent the area – there is a skills shortage and there is also a problem with the translators provided, they are not always qualified so there are massive safeguarding issues

**Richard :**

Outcomes, the NHS wants to be more focussed on the VCSFE sector – show them what difference you are making

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 23rd April 10:00am – 12:00pm

Boulevard Centre, 35 Railway Road BB1 1EZ

for more information please contact Donna or Garth on 01254 583957

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