1.Did The 6P’s Conference meet expectations?

Having been my first time attending the event, I wasn't too sure what to expect but I must say that I did take a lot from the day. I appreciated the introduction to the 6Ps and felt this helped solidify my knowledge on the purpose to the event, the work that has been done and aspirations for the future.

It did, was a shame about the weather for the people outside.

More than. It was my first experience of a conference for the voluntary sector and I was blown away by the participation and engagement

Yes

I had not realised that the event stalls would be so separate to the conference. This meant we could not ’staff’ our stall as we are a two-person team and had both booked into the conference. I thought we would have been able to go there in breaks and people from the conference would be mingling there who we could chat to. We could have asked a volunteer to come and be at the stall if we had realised it was, in effect, a separate event.

I think it met expectations I attended the opening section in the morning that set the scene and it was informative and I attended the opening session in the afternoon and that was good.

Yes, Absolutely

I was only able to attend the latter part of the morning session, and afternoon. The equity talk was interesting, everyone had the same feelings; communication needs to improve across all sectors.

The Planet workshop was poorly attended, and Ronda from the wildlife trust was more focused on what the wildlife trust was doing and nothing to do with how do we reach and engage with deprived communities to tackle climate change.

I also didn’t feel that Ronda was aware of my part in the workshop, but I did get to talk and then get people to talk about the discussion.

The speech from the deputy leader of the council didn’t really fit the narrative of the conference and it became a platform for individual’s opinions and issues, which really should have been addressed separately. What’s more, the deputy leader was unable to answer most of the questions regarding the issues, he just “past the book”!

Overall yes although i didn't have any information about the itinerary of the day until i arrived so i had very little in terms of expectations.

The 6P`s conference was really beneficial and myself and Suzanne were really happy to have been invited.

Yes, it did. It was great.

Yes it did.

Absolutely 100% - I thoroughly enjoyed the all event

Yes, it did. - The market place was organised well. It would have been useful to have chairs for the volunteers who are an unable to stand, otherwise I liked it. Unfortunately the weather made it cold for some of our volunteers.

Yes

I found the 6ps conference very valuable in terms of making connections in my new role at Community & Business Partners. A very well-run event.

Yes it did. Well organised and well attended

My colleague Gemma Brennand represented Lancashire Mind at the Market event – I didn’t get the chance to visit this as I was attending the 6P’s conference

Yes, it was well planned.

Yes.

It met my expectations and was well attended and informative.

Yes

Yes, shame the weather impacted potential foot fall.

This was my first, so I had no idea what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised at the numbers attending. I thought the session in the morning worked really well, and I was able to contribute – I had to leave before lunch.

yes

From our perspective, not really. We booked a table with gazebo, and arranged to have volunteers to cover it in the afternoon. I left our tablecloth and banner on the table but when I came back at lunchtime it was wet through. I just had to pack it up. I did go to a couple of stands in the gazebo but they were busy so I didn't get chance to speak to them

We didn’t attend the lectures/workshops as we had a stand outside in the town centre.

Yes, the location was brilliant and was very well organised. I was greeted at the library by your members of staff and signposted to the gazebos for me to set up my stall.

Yes it was a good event.

What I did this year was only attend one session that stood out in the advance publicity as being most relevant to me. And, yes, it did prove to be so.

I will be honest and say that I didn’t see the market place because all my time was taken up inside the library. I did help to set up in the morning and what I saw on the pictures and from speaking to a few people, the market place looked amazing.

Yes, the conference met the expectations laid out in the information pack.

Yes, lots of valuable information.

Yes, it met my expectations

Yes it did but unfortunately the weather put people off I think

Footfall was reduced due to the poor weather conditions

Yes, really enjoyed the event and was informative.

2.What was most useful about the event?

I thought the workshops were really useful and quite clever to pair with the stalls so there's opportunity for local people to access information about support but there's also space for professionals to come together.

Networking and the possibility of the local groups being set up

The opportunity to network and learn about what everyone did and their challenges

It was really good networking opportunity, through the stalls.

It was useful to connect with other charities/organisations.

the workshop I ran was good it was a shame that 70% of the attendees left in the afternoon but the ones that attended were engaged and provided interesting information.

Networking and attending the workshops

Yes, but I think to outcome from the workshop’s will be more useful.

It was great to have a marketplace offer in the town centre and despite the appalling weather we did speak to a couple of people

The workshops - these were really engaging and allowed for connection and conversation.

Knowing about what other services are available and how we can all work together to improve the lives for the community of Blackburn and Darwen.

The attendance of many organisations.

Networking with other organisations and sharing information about our services as well as finding out about other services within the local area.

Networking – there is plethora of services and we rarely get the opportunity to come together on such a scale

The opportunity to network and meet other like-minded organisations, It was good to discuss various subjects.

I found the workshops interesting hearing other people’s ideas and perspective of things and it was good that everyone engaged in the workshops.

The most beneficial aspect for me were the session I attended around Digital connectivity and harnessing and sharing the knowledge I had around this subject from other roles I have conducted in Lancashire to aid points of consideration for the district.

Networking opportunities

Networking with other charities.

Meeting other stall holders and facility available in community.

I enjoyed the volunteer and employability workshop.

Engaging with other provider and getting to know the facilities available in the community.

The ability to network and speak with other professionals/organisations.

It really was great to see who does what and build those relationships

I liked that people were being approached about being involved with follow up task sessions so we could make the most of the ideas we gathered on the day. All too often you attend workshops but never see any follow up.

meeting new people and discussing issues with other people

If we could have been in a marquee I think it would have been useful. But obviously places were limited. Also time was limited to look around especially if you wanted to network at lunch

Meeting other employers/organisations

Having other organisations there who we could interact and network with and learning more about the services that could help our service users.

The Community Market Event was great. It was really good to have different organisations in the same room altogether and discuss the issues that are facing us all.

I found some of the talks in the lecture theatre interesting and the whole thing was a good networking opportunity

fact that the topics of the sessions and workshops were clearly defined in advance, so I was able to make the choice that I did.

The workshops were really interactive and it was good to see people discussing barriers/problems and also solutions and ways forward.

The workshop about digital inclusion was wonderful. It was clearly well-planned and facilitated incredibly successfully. It allowed discussions throughout and gave time for exploration into what the sector can be doing to improve the digital inclusion of vulnerable people.

Updates on where we’re at, who is who and the plans for the continued rollout for the Community Network.

The workshops were the most useful

Networking with other services

Networking with other services

Networking with other organisations and the talks.

3.Would you recommend the event to other people?

100%, it was a really worthwhile event.

Yes

Yes, definitely

Yes

I’m not really clear about who it was aimed at so I’m not sure.

100%

Yes

Yes,

Yes.

Yes it really was a good event,

Yes!

Yes, of course.

Yes

Absolutely without a shadow of a doubt

Yes, I would.

Yes, I feel all the attendees enjoyed the event

Yes, very much so for those who wish to aid communities within the District.

Yes, it was good 😊

Yes.

Yes

Yes

I would recommend the event to other people.

Absolutely – great event

I would definitely recommend it

Yes – need more warning so I can keep my diary free for the whole event

yes, I would recommend

I would recommend the actual event in the library but I think the stands would be better inside, or even just concentrate on the presentations

As we didn’t attend the workshops it’s hard to say, however it was good to meet the general public enquire about our college courses at the Community Market place

100%. I think it was a shame that the weather had maybe had a factor in bringing less delegates in but on a better sunny day, the delegates would love this community market.

Yes

I think it is a useful event.

Definitely

I would recommend the event.

Without a shadow of doubt

Yes, I think it should be promoted wider across other Sectors, and the general public.

Yes, I would recommend it.

Yes

Yes

Yes definitely

4.What was least useful about the event?

I can't think of anything that stands out as least useful. I think everything served a purpose and the day was well planned and organised!

Nothing

I think it might be better to have shorter sessions and try to wrap things up before lunch because you could see some fatigue and a drop off of delegates for the afternoon session – in short, I’d do a bit earlier if possible than 10am and scrap the lunch and post-lunch activities

It was difficult balancing the stalls and being able to attend workshops.

Listening to the upfront speakers. The workshop we attended and the networking was much more valuable.

think in the afternoon when people were asking very specific questions of Martin their details should have been taken and the conversation taken outside of the main meeting. All the points they were raising were relevant but it was taking time and some people were switching off.

The council’s deputy leader speech.

N/A

I am not sure how well promoted the marketplace was to the general public as the only comms I saw were to professionals ? the organisation of stands/gazebos etc was chaotic sorry – it wasn’t clear who to contact when I arrived – I got sent to the library and had to leave the stand to then wait for Yasmin (a tick box per organisation would have been better) – I returned back to a stand with everything blowing everywhere and about half an hour later someone came round with a clipboard to ask me to register. You can’t do anything about the weather but you will I’m sure be aware that there just wasn’t space for everyone

Separate comms for those attending the marketplace only would be helpful for future years

Although the afternoon deputy council speech was informative and allowed for questions I think this could have been more concise. It overran by a long way and had a knock-on effect on the afternoon workshops and rest of the event.

People not sharing the tables in the Marquees – the weather was dreadful and they just would not move

N/A

There was nothing that I can think of.

Table had been booked but due to space shortage, we agreed to share our table which did impact on our presence slightly.

The weather – but that is something none of us can control!!!

I attended last year’s events, it was useful to hear about board updates etc, but i was expecting to be notified of board opportunities and to share these amongst our network of local women, but notice of these opportunities never reached us .

I feel the event should not have run in Volunteers Week especially as CVS did not have a Gazebo promoting ourselves.

Not applicable.

I got a bit confused with the time slots for a couple of the meetings/presentations and seemed to come late for them. Maybe I didn’t read the instructions properly but it wasn’t just me

The after-lunch talk: ‘Prosperity – leaving no one behind’ – it’s a shame the original speaker couldn’t attend due to Purdah. The talk focussed on capital investment and didn’t resonate with the other event themes.

Not applicable

Least useful- The rain 🤦‍♂️

Had the weather been better it would have been great to be outside so we were visible to the public

I agree with Zainab with being in gazebo’s maybe some people may have been put off coming in due to confidence. Fully appreciate with the weather in the UK very difficult to do anything else.

I’m not one for long introductions. I like to get stuck in. so the pre-workshop stuff could have been condensed?

The lunch was poorly organised it should have better monitored i,e someone making sure people only queued the correct way and only had one of each piece. People went away with massive plates full of food

the rain

The workshops weren’t relevant for us as we are from the apprenticeship team, and this would have suited a course leader/manager to attend those.

It did at some point feel a little crammed inside the gazebo, it seemed at one point we had to make gaps between the tables to get out. Also we lent some chairs from Care Network to some stalls as some were struggling to stand. So maybe some seats would have been a good idea.

I was a bit disappointed with the stalls as although we requested a gazebo we were placed outside and our location was not good as we were stuck right behind a bin and a plant pot. Without being in a gazebo and due to the weather, we had to pack up our stall early as we were not protected by the rain.

N/A

Hard to comment as I only attended a bit. The “prosperity” workshop I attended did maybe drift a bit into how to deal with the damage inflicted by deprivation rather than concentrate on how to achieve economic improvement – but it showed that practitioners are more focussed on the immediate issues than interested in strategic speculation that is bound to drift towards the abstract when there is really very little control over any resource that might help.

Martin’s speech. I didn’t think it fit well with what we were trying to achieve.

The council segment of the event became quite unruly. The session devolved into a heated exchange between the council member and the audience, with questions that were not relevant to the event's agenda and should have been addressed separately. The council member disclosed that he was asked to present at the last minute due to the general election, which made it challenging for him to handle the off-topic inquiries.

A member of the event team could have intervened to restore order and control the session. Unfortunately, this did not happen, resulting in a significant overrun of the session and reducing the final workshops to only 25 minutes. This was regrettable for the workshop leads, who had put considerable effort into their planning. Consequently, the rushed format impacted the quality and success of the final workshop I attended

I think stronger chairing of audience participation was needed, and more defined discussion topics… for example, the workshop for Prosperity, very quickly declined into Crisis Management. The Facilitator should have directed the audience more. Same for the BwD BC (Martin Kelly) presentation. I didn’t feel comfortable at all, allowing some audience members to verbally attack and embarrass him, asking questions not relevant to the presentation.

Least useful was the time management and no plates

When I arrived I couldn't find any staff around to help with the stand.

N/A

The stalls outside, because it felt too far from the conference. Maybe if the stalls were in the library workshop rooms and had a designated networking hour.

5.Have you any other comments?

Just a massive thank you for organising, hosting and allowing our service to be a part of the day. Really appreciated the refreshments and the lunch was delicious - thank you for catering to different dietary requirements too. I really enjoyed the workshop I was a part of and the facilitators of the group were amazing at ensuring we focused on action points as opposed to just reflections. I think having the services under the gazebo was a fantastic idea and sheltered us from the rain - my only comment would be if there were some chairs for stall holders.

No keep up the great work

Great first experience for me and I look forward to future ones. Great job organising Donna & team

Overall the event went really well, did we see how many attendees we had.

It would have been useful to have a reminder of the events we had booked into on the day.

The food was great and went down a treat. Was also a great time to network

As the weather was quite wet, an alternate plan for those under the gazebo would have been appreciated.

The workshops are to be made more interactive with people working in small groups, talking as opposed to a member of the team leading a discussion

Microphones would have helped in the theatre spaces.

More interactive workshops, instead of people just venting their frustrations. Audience participation, people in small groups engaging and then bringing their findings together. Having forthright confident people to lead the workshops and also having a knowledge of the discussions, so that people don’t feel out of their depth.

The workshops were great, it would be really useful to work in a 10-minute networking period at the end of each workshop so those who want to connect professionally have the opportunity to do so from the back of conversations explored during the workshop.

Myself and Suzanne really enjoyed the day, we were sorry that we could only attend for the morning. We would love to be invited to this event in the future.

There was not enough space inside the tents for all the organisations and it was raining cats and dogs.

Really well thought out and such a mix of people, keep up the good work – looking forward to the next one

Our organisation has been active for a while providing services, however we never seem to be aware of the local opportunities to bid for grants. For example - we provide counselling and advocacy services of a high quality but we have never been connected with funders so that we can attract funds in, instead we rely on our own fundraising efforts. It would be useful to be alerted to such opportunities.

I feel it would be best to involve CVS staff in the planning of this event in the future. I also feel that it would have been beneficial to have known about facilitating workshops weeks in advance so we could plan for it. I like to be prepared and I feel we got out rota and questions last minute.

I would like to be included within any further events and follow up meetings relating to the creation of Digital Community Hubs please, thank you.

It was good to see many public sector colleagues there

Thank you for organising this event – for me, it was a really useful introduction to Blackburn’s VCFSE sector. I appreciate the time and effort involved in coordinating these events.

Well Planned Event

Thank you for the invite and allowing Visiting Angels the opportunity to attend.

Great event and thank you to everyone who helped put it on.

Just great to see the event so well attended.

Despite the good old British weather, lots of people turned up and it really was a great event, cannot wait for the next one

The workshops were not very clear couldn't work out where I was meant to be for some sessions. Microphones needed.

Just that I think it would be better to concentrate on the workshops and presentations. What about having a table (or tables) in the corridor of the library where attendees could leave their leaflets? Then everyone could have a browse. If attendees had badges on saying which service they were from, if anyone had any questions about that service after looking at the leaflets they could approach someone to chat about it? This is just something off the top of my head.

I know it is really difficult, but booking on the workshops in advance didn't really work either, maybe have people put their name under the workshop they would like to attend when they arrive? On a large cardboard sheet on the wall? if you have numbered spaces then it's first come first served. People should still book with you for attendance though, so you know how many are coming for food etc. I enjoyed the workshops that I went to but couldn't stay until the end unfortunately.

Thank you for having us and arranging the event

Can I just say, the buffet was incredible, it was a perfect end to great event! (I only did half day!)

I would suggest having stalls reserved for people that have asked for specific things may be a good idea

I thought the workshop that I attend was brilliant – it allowed me to speak to people about the same issues and it sounded like things would be taken forwards which is brilliant.

People can be quick to criticise events as being “just a talking-shop”. I think that there is a place for “talking-shops” – we are a “talking-shop” species, with communications and networks as key adaptations. We should not measure such events by whether or not we can point to any specific “positive actions” coming out of them. If there are such, though, it can build the confidence of those who are more impressed by specific examples – so mentioning them in any post-publicity can be useful.

If I wasn’t part of CVS, I thought it was a well-planned, successful event. As a staff member, there are things which could have been better. I am all for a task group/focus group for more hands on deck in the lead up to next year’s event

Overall, I found the event very interesting, informative and educational as well as being a prime opportunity to find out what the rest of the sector has been up to in the last 12 months. The venue was ideal and every member of the CVS team was welcoming and friendly throughout the day. Your conference was a huge success and I would certainly attend next year.

I think the food could have been served in a different room… it was chaos at the back of the lecture theatre, and eating off your knee is very difficult in those chairs

Thank you for your efforts

Thank you for the invite!

Spoke to some Council staff who were unaware of the event and just called in while on lunch

Really enjoyed the event and appreciate the effort CVS puts into organising them.