



**Minutes of Daventry Voluntary and Community Sector Forum
on Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 12.00 noon at DDC Offices, Lodge Road ,Daventry NN11 4FP**

Present: Carella Davies DVC (Chair), James Yates (NAYC), Pauline Woodhouse (BMESRP Ltd), Ubah Ahmed (Bromford), Sarah Sims, Jo Miller (DDH), Cllr John Amos, Rob Kinning (DACT), Tim Cantwell (DDC), Grahame Every (Lampton Railway), Cllr Alan Hills, Jenny Goadby (Homestart), Mary Doyle (MIND), Rachel Cave (NAB), Peter Kay (SSAFA), Carolyn Howe, David Ward (VIN), Jo Moore (Voiceability).

Apologies: Nicola Toms (DVC- Happy at Home Partnership), Angelina Farrant (DVC Volunteer co-ordinator), Bernie Pridgeon (Aquarius), Anna Lapworth (CAB), Mike Lewis (Remap), Dave Austin (Job Centre), Jenny Richardson (NAB), Pam Tomalin (Northamptonshire Dyslexia Association), Rachel McGrath (NCF), Jane Bridges (Unity), Maureen Harding (Children Come First), Cllr Wendy Randall, Rob Dunkley (Hollowell Sailing Club), Liz Cullinan (Northamptonshire Carers)

Welcome: Carella welcomed everyone to the meeting, and especially welcomed members attending for the first time. A round of introductions followed.

Minutes of the last meeting (16th December 2015): These were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising : none

DEVELOPMENT DAY WORKSHOPS:

David Ward VIN: Preparing for Commissioning: David delivered the workshop using a power point presentation (to be circulated with the minutes). David also has a summary of John Sneddens publication "Saving money by doing the right thing" (also to be circulated). It is important that there are more local community led contracts for commissioning for public services, so that local services remain "local by default", funding is re-invested locally, and community organisations become more robust. In Northamptonshire there are a number of consortia partnerships that have been set up to enable VCS organisations to bid for bigger and more complex commissioning contracts e.g. Commsortia, Carers Partnership, Mental Health Consortium Northants. However this leads to some confusion as VCS groups are unsure which consortium to join – this may be dictated by the geographical area or a thematic grouping. VIN will help with advice on membership. We need to persuade commissioners to "Buy Local" by demonstrating what we do using Social Impact Measurements which show local value and by translating our message into something deliverable. NCC are currently creating a Data Dump for VCS groups to use in 2016 as a shared data/impact measurement tool. Questions were raised about the amount of information that had been given through consultations with the VCS to the First for Wellbeing CIC, and whether this could be used in some way to support future commissioning.

Comment [CD1]: Carella

Carolyn Howe VIN: Voice of the Sector: Carolyn circulated handouts of here presentation, looking at new ways of ensuring the VCS have a voice now that the Countywide Forum is no longer funded. Daventry VCS Forum were asked to consider the best way forward for Daventry. A discussion followed about why representation was needed, how information would be passed between meetings, and different methods that had been used in the past e.g. membership of Thematic Partnerships. Strategic meetings want to hear a single voice from each district and want to know exactly where to go to access that voice. It was agreed that the Daventry VCS forum had worked well with 2 representatives attending key strategic meetings with information from the Daventry area, followed by a report back to the Daventry Forum by the Representatives. It was agreed that Daventry would select their own representatives from a group of Thematic Representatives and a General Representatives who would be called upon depending on the skills and expertise required for the strategic meeting. In this way the responsibility for attending additional meetings could be shared across a number of organisations. It was agreed that this should be trailed for a period (to be agreed) and impact measured to ensure resources are being used effectively. Carella will invite interested groups to attend a meeting to identify and select representatives.

Comment [CD2]: Carella

Carella thanked David and Carolyn for facilitating the workshops, and to VIN for funding the lunch.

Information from Tim Cantwell DDC Community Development Officer: The CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding has started and will be going to Parish Councils. Tim is liaising with Parish Councils to ensure the CIL funding is well spent. Also liaising with parishes with no councils to ensure the CIL portion retained on their behalf by DDC is identified and appropriately spent. Changes will be made to community grant allocation (this is the one-off community event grant) to allow active groups to apply for more than one event. A limited funding pot from April 2016 will be available for VCS groups. DDC are promoting



energy efficiency for community buildings – free surveys are available and solar panel purchase support. DDC are also promoting hard to let properties to Charities at reduced rents. The Vineyard Church have storage space available to VCS groups.

News from VCS Organisations (and Good News Stories) :

Northampton and Lamport Railway: Grahame informed us that the group own all the trains and tracks that have been supported by volunteer engineers and labour over a number of years. They currently have 50 working members with around 20 volunteers helping each week with the trains, the café and the shop. Contact Grahame for more information about how to get involved at: grahameevery@hotmail.com.

DACT: DACT days out for isolated people are becoming a very popular way for people to make friends and remain active. People are buying trips as birthday presents for elderly relatives. Volunteer drivers are used to drive the minibuses. For more information contact Rob at: info@dact.uk.com.

DDC: Tim informed the meeting that DDC have agreed that they will fund £85,000 to community groups during 2016/17. DDC, DVC, snvb and South Northants Council are putting on a joint Funding Fair at Towcester Racecourse on Tuesday 10th May 2016 with lots of funders attending and workshops available for groups to help with their funding applications. Carella is sending invitations out by email and it is hoped that all groups will be able to attend. For more information contact Carella at: Carella@daventryvolunteers.org.uk.

Daventry District Housing: Jo explained DDH have been running a work/skills academy for unemployed people living in DDH property, helping them to do a variety of basic skills training including grounds and general property maintenance and gardening, and has included employment preparation training and English and maths tuition. Jo's contact: joanne.miller@ddh.org.uk.

NAB: Rachel talked about the work with younger blind clients and how NAB have been trying to find ways of putting on events that they will attend. The Facebook page for aged 16 and under has worked really well (over 200 members) because the clients are able to talk online to each other first and discuss arrangements and find out who will be going along. Contact Rachel at: rachel@nab.org.uk.

Daventry Volunteer Centre: DVC have a new project in partnership with DDC. The environmental project - "Clean and Green" – will operate 1 day a week on Saturdays to support volunteers already working to keep their local public areas clean, recruit more volunteers to cover additional areas across the district, and to promote environmental issues. Contact Angelina Farrant for more information at: Info@daventryvolunteers.org.uk.

Best Good News Prize: Following a show of hands the prize was awarded to Rob at DACT for his good news story about DACT Days Out.

Any Other Business: Please note that the next Daventry VCS Forum will be held at The Abbey as the DDC room is not available.

Thank you to Tim Cantwell and DDC for providing the venue for the Forum.

Thank you to VIN for providing the lunch today.

Date of Next meeting: 29th June at The Abbey, St Johns Square Daventry NN11 4XG.

Future meeting dates: 14th September and 14th December 2016.

Please phone Carella on 01327 300614 or email Carella@daventryvolunteers.org.uk to book a place with a free lunch and confirm attendance or give apologies.