



**Minutes of Daventry Voluntary and Community Sector Forum  
on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016, at New Street Centre, Daventry NN11 4BT**

**Present**

Carella Davies DVC (Chair), Cllr John Amos, David Ward (VIN), Tim Cantwell (DDC), Pam Tomalin (Northamptonshire Dyslexia Association), Dave Berry (Citizens Advice Daventry & District), Phil Houston (DACT), Nemangani Patel (Mayday Trust), Steven Proffitt (Wellbeing Navigators NHS/MIND), Miriama Samiotis (Alzheimer's Society), Simon Daize (Centre for Independent Living), Peter Kay (SSAFA), Cllr Alan Hills, Rachel Cave (NAB), Maureen Harding (Children Come First), Rob Burton (DDC), Sara Sims (Futures Housing), Natalie Bass (First For Wellbeing), Nick King (snvb), Pat Downer, Louise Shaw (Breathing Space - Northants Carers).

**Apologies**

Angelina Farrant (DVC Volunteer co-ordinator), Grahame Every (Lampton Railway), Cllr Chris Millar, Sharon Stringer (NCC), Elaine O'Leary (Northants ACRE), Annette Dunn (NHS Research), Jenny Richardson (NAB), Mike Lewis (Remap), Lisa Sawbridge (Assist), Jane Ford (Daventry Jobcentre), Will Heckford (Northamptonshire Sport), Nicola Toms (DVC- Happy at Home Partnership), Jo Moore (Voiceability), Paul Peccioli (Daventry Fibromyalgia Support group), Karolina Zalewska (Victim Support Voice), Sarah Bakewell (Northampton Women's Aid), Ann Comerford (AimHigher).

**1. Welcome**

Carella welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions followed.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting (16<sup>th</sup> September 2016)**

These were agreed by all to be a true record and were signed by the Chair.

**3. Matters arising**

None

**4. Speakers**

Pat Downer & Louise Shaw from Breathing Space Northamptonshire spoke about their project. Breathing Space is part of a wider research project called Making Waves which aims to help people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) take control of their condition. Many people with COPD slip into a cycle of negativity, depression and isolation and are the second highest cause of NHS emergency admissions. By providing a regular community based support group that addresses the whole person's needs (clinical and social), people with COPD are encouraged and enabled to become more active, do things, build their confidence, and reclaim control of their lives. The project is funded until October 2017 and will be evaluated by Coventry University. Part of the remit is to look at ways of sustaining the project once the funding ends.

A Q&A session followed the presentation. This included:

- Daventry was chosen as a test area owing to high levels of COPD (which could possibly be a legacy of the Timken works).



- Pat was advised to contact DDC to publicise the fortnightly support group meetings and to link in with DDC's rural social isolation project as this might uncover people with COPD that are currently unaware of the project.

**ACTION:** *Pat to contact DDC as suggested.*

## 5. VIN: Countywide Forum and Commsortia updates from David Ward

### Why do we need a countywide forum?

There is also a move to resurrect the countywide VCS forum. David is still seeking reps from across the county that can represent the interests of local groups at strategic meetings.

As a sector we want to influence decision makers, councils, funders, government departments and policies to make improvements for the people and communities the sector works with and to make the voluntary sector itself more sustainable.

Although VIN and other representatives sit on various bodies and boards across the county representing the sector; a wider countywide forum of representatives from different geographical and thematic areas would mean we would:

- Provide a voice for the sector at a strategic level within the county and an effective mechanism for members to discuss key issues.
- Have a greater understanding of the issues affecting our local communities
- Have a single collective voice - which will strengthen our ability to influence
- Enable the sector to be better represented
- Promote opportunities for wider collaborations and partnerships

### The model

The Northamptonshire VCS countywide forum will be made up of:

“geographical” representatives; we know there are lots of people and organisations that work locally and have a huge amount of local knowledge we want to embrace and utilise this knowledge and local networks. We aim to have 7 representatives. 1 from each borough/ district in the county.

“Thematic” representatives; we recognise that many organisations work across districts and wider, often with a specific target audience.

**Full information about representatives to the countywide forum are on the VIN website at:**

**<http://www.voluntaryimpact.org.uk/news/2016/countywide-vcs-forum/>**

David Ward explained that **Commsortia** is a collective of 37 VCSOs that have come together to bid for and deliver health & wellbeing and other contracts. This will enable the sector to win contracts that might otherwise have gone to the private sector. Commsortia has already won an EU funded contract called Building Better Opportunities (BBO) which aims to bring people furthest away from the job market closer to



it. Various members of Commsortia will now receive funding to deliver locally based projects. Commsortia has also bid for the countywide wellbeing contract that is being commissioned by First for Wellbeing (formerly a part of NCC). This is still being decided.

A Q & A session followed the presentation. This included:

- The impact of VIN's Director (Jane Carr) leaving the organisation has been absorbed by other managers, although they are currently looking for a replacement.
- The potential conflict of interest arising from Jane's appointment to First for Wellbeing was overcome as Jane was removed from all VIN's dealings with First for Wellbeing once it was known she had the new job.

## 6. Round table updates (including good news stories)

### Children Come First

Maureen reported that they were getting booted out of the Abbey and were seeking new premises.

**ACTION:** *Tim to forward DDC's directory of community facilities.*

**ACTION:** *Carella to see if Children Come First can be accommodated at the New Street Centre.*

### Northamptonshire Centre for Independent Living

Simon reported that they had secured EU funding to offer free employability courses for people with disabilities. They are hoping to get referrals from JC Plus.

### Breathing Space

Louise reported that one of their clients might lose benefits under Universal Credit.

**Paul Peccioli** from the Daventry Fibromyalgia group has offered to help with appeals. His email contact details are: **fmdaventry@outlook.com**.

### Mayday Trust

Hemg reported that they had received funding from Wetherspoons to further their good work.

### DDC

Cllr Amos reported that the popular 'Chef of the Year' is being relaunched at Danetre Learning Village.

Cllr Hills reported that DDC's success at attracting inward investment (eg. Amazon, Hi-Force) was helping to keep unemployment at historic low levels – currently just 1%. Cllr Hills also reported that the Daventry District Sports Awards was now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year and now has 15 categories of award.

Tim reported that a report will go to February's Strategy group recommending approval for a community lottery. This comes after a positive response to the public survey.

### Citizens Advice Daventry

Dave reported that they have an energy champion that can help people switch energy suppliers and save over £400 per year.



### **First for Wellbeing**

Natalie reported that an online health assessment tool is now available.

### **NAB**

Rachael reported that one of their young female clients had recently overcome a debilitating lack of confidence and was now engaging with other children and activities.

### **SSAFA**

Peter reported that their divisional secretary was retiring.

### **DVC**

Carella reported that Cummins Engineering had awarded a grant of £29,000 to refurbish the New Street Centre over the next two years.

### **Northamptonshire Dyslexia Association**

Pam reminded all forum members to fill out the member information form.

**ACTION:** Carella to include the information template with the minutes.

### **snbv**

Nick reported that their hi-technology outreach bus was available for hire. Also that it would be used to do mobile flu jabs across the rural areas.

### **Futures Housing**

Sarah reported that a new community grant worth £500 was available for community groups. Deadline for applications is 27th January 2017. More information and the application process can be found at: <http://futureshg.co.uk/get-involved/futures-fund/>

All present agreed to award the box of chocolates for the best news story to Rachel Cave for the parents of the girl that had overcome her debilitating lack of confidence.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Owing to logistical issues Carella proposed moving all future meetings forward half an hour, ie. 1.00pm – 2.30pm. This was agreed.

## **8. Dates of Future Meetings in 2017 – All on Friday afternoons at 1.00pm to 2.30pm at the New Street Centre NN11 4BT:**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

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