



Minutes

Volunteer Development Network Meeting

Tuesday 18th May 2021 1.30pm- 3.00pm

Online via zoom meeting

Chair for meeting: Keith Harris **Minute taker:** Shahenaz Patel

Attendees: Keith Harris, Helen Tomlinson, Dawn Yates-Obe, Shahenaz Patel, Ben Read, Tracey Wallace, Caroline Hurst, John Hastings, Kerry Bradley, Rebecca Moulton, Samatiben Desai, Jammeh Barkery, Mark Flannery, Thandeka Sibanda, James Walton, Laurent Fernandez – Moreno

Apologies: Margaret Simpson, Steph Stather, Elaine Butt, Lorraine Fairclough

Welcome and Introduction – Agenda items	Lead	Actions
<p>Keith welcomed everyone to the forum, introduced himself to the members, invited members to introduce themselves and also discussed agenda items.</p> <p>Apologies were received for the meeting as above. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a correct record.</p>	Keith	
Introduction and Information	Lead	Actions
<p>Keith encouraged members to discuss any burning issue they may have, effects of this situation on the organisations, volunteers and beneficiaries. Any support would be available, sharing information etc.</p> <p>Members discussed issues such as Barriers and challenges groups facing due to the situation, losing volunteers or required less volunteers due to use of technology and how to retain them, the importance of keeping in touch with volunteers etc. Recycle-it needs volunteers to recycle IT stuff and Bolton Newstalk requires volunteers to record news on smartphone device to cut the cost for USB sticks. It was also suggested that organisations create short term, flexible and virtual volunteering roles for more people to get involved into volunteering and also involve more young people into volunteering..</p> <p>More than 1000 volunteers have been registered as Urgent Response Since December more volunteers have been involved as vaccine support volunteers at various centres. All URVs and organisations have been invited to join Volunteers' Week Celebration.</p>	Keith	All
Best Practice in Volunteer Management - Ben Read University of Bolton	Lead	Actions
<p>Ben from university of Bolton gave a talk on how they recruit, manage and engage young and student volunteers also more young volunteers are more aware of volunteering. He also discussed about key volunteer roles could be promoted, challenges organisations face to retain volunteers</p>	Ben Read	All

<p>in current situation, website help, more virtual volunteering opportunities and time management is very important for young volunteers.</p> <p>Ben also suggested any organisation work with young people to contact him for young volunteers' development, leadership skills, value of volunteering, promoting volunteering etc. Members actively took part in discussion. Bolton CVS would like to work in partnership with university of Bolton. For further information please contact Ben br7ext@bolton.ac.uk</p>		
VCSE Strategy Review	Lead	Actions
<p>Helen from Bolton CVS talked about VCSE strategy 2019-21 was developed by the VCSE Strategy co-design group made up of representatives from the VCSE, Bolton Council, Bolton CCG and housing representatives.</p> <p>The strategy recognised the strong relationship with public services, collaboration in Bolton, partners were clear that a number of priorities needed to be addressed. Helen also talked about why the new strategy is being formed now? e.g. need for more systematic approach in delivering services in Bolton. Due to the challenges to public funding and increasing demands on local services, it is more important to look to new, innovative and collaborative solutions, right conditions for VCSE sector in Bolton and also new way of distributing funding.</p> <p>Members discussed around key challenges the sector facing at the moment are funding, access to right premises/ venues, ability to use technology, digital platforms, social media volunteers, changes in accessing services, impact on delivering services, resources, maintain relationship with existing volunteers, changing face of volunteering, diversity in volunteering, rapid changes to deal with etc.</p> <p>Members also shared their ideas to work in partnership within VCSE sector in Bolton, connecting, sharing skills, keep on developing, create more flexible roles, micro volunteering, being more digital. It has been also suggested that connect with Bolton CVS, build relationship with private sector, create simple platform to post sector's request, create mentoring support for small and grassroots groups.</p> <p>Helen encouraged members to discuss their key priorities to be included in future strategy. Members actively took part in discussion, involving young people into volunteering to improve the life skills, develop a collaborative knowledge, bank of support and skill sharing, a network for those affected as either victims or offenders to be a positive role model, access to funding.</p>	<p>Helen Tomlinson</p>	<p>All</p>

<p>If anyone interested to join VCSE strategy Focus group to share their views and ideas on what should be included in the next Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Strategy for Bolton, on 25th May, 2021 4:30 PM through 6:00, please register</p>		
<p>Volunteer Passport and Volunteer Information Session - Book your volunteers</p>		
<p>Shahenaz from Bolton CVS gave brief info about Volunteer Passport scheme to upskill volunteers to be ready for volunteering and is also suitable for existing volunteers on 8th May at 11am. The Volunteer Information Session will be delivered on 8th June to support potential volunteers who need additional support to get into volunteering. Introduction to Volunteer Management training on 10th and 17th June and</p> <p>Shahenaz also gave information on TGI Friday on 28th May and other training offer for next year on Bolton CVS website. Details of all Bolton CVS Training can be found via this link https://www.boltoncvs.org.uk/training</p>	<p>Shahenaz</p>	<p>Organisations and groups will signpost appropriate individuals to the trainings to register.</p>
<p>Volunteer Week Celebration 2021</p>		
<p>Helen invited members to join Volunteers week Celebration on Thursday 3rd June at 6pm, and also to extend invitation to their volunteers to celebrate amazing work they are doing for Bolton communities in this challenging time.</p> <p>Helen also invited members if they have any inspiring stories to share with the sector please contact info@boltoncvs.org.uk. To join the celebration event please register</p>	<p>Helen</p>	<p>All interested organisations and individuals to register to attend event and training.</p>
<p>Volunteer Development Network – Date and Time</p>		
<p>Next VDN meeting is on Tuesday 27th July 2021 at 1.30pm- 3.00pm.</p>	<p>Keith</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn Yates-Obe introduced her as a new CEO of Bolton CVS and thanked Helen for her support to Bolton CVS and also thanked everyone for providing amazing support to Bolton communities. • Keith thanked members for attending the zoom meeting at Bolton CVS and he encouraged members to engage and get in touch- • John Hastings from recycle-it - https://recycle-it-cic.square.site/ contact John recycle.it.cic@gmail.com 	<p>Lead Keith</p>	<p>Actions</p>

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