

Chair:	Dave Bagley	Notes:	Farzana Patel
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1. Welcome	Lead
<p>Present: Dave Bagley, Farzana Patel, Dee Luczka, Leah Edwards, Abraham Halliwell, Sharon Bolus, Christopher Holden, Neil Hart, Liz McNabb, Samim Vali, Robert Moores, Ram Parmar, Douglas Oxer, Derek Burrows, Khalda Ali, Champak Mistry, Chris Holden, Hayley Darrock, Helen Carter, Reida Dawa, Billy Darrock, Peter Lemi, Getrude Cele, James Obale, Richard Hall, Eddy Kavanagh, Beryl Monaghan, Steph Dermott, Natacha Kisela, Kim Wild, Elaine Edwards, Ruth Malkin, Carol Hardman, Nick Holden, Drissia Ahmed, Christine Holden, Sharon Bolus, Alun Morris, Abraham Halliwell</p> <p>Apologies: Elaine Butt, Dave Bevitt, Olwyn Holgate, Gareth Price, Sylvia Dobinson, Jackie Hallen</p> <p>Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	

2. Highlights from the Chair	Lead
<p>Dave reported that Bolton CVS has 2 job vacancies:</p> <p>Executive Personal Assistant – this role will entail directly supporting our Senior Leadership Team; predominately our Chief Executive Officer (CEO). By efficiently managing diaries, communications, and projects, you will contribute to the seamless operation of our dynamic team, ensuring that our commitment to positively evolving our internal culture remains at the forefront.</p> <p>Funding and Grants Development Officer – this role involves providing support to the Bolton CVS grants and investments function, provide assistance, support and guidance to groups to help them effectively manage, monitor and report on their grant-funded projects and provide the VCSE sector with funding opportunities.</p> <p>Bolton CVS are hosting Local Charities Day on Thursday 14th December, 1.30pm – 3.00pm. Local Charities Day is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the work of small, local charities and community groups in Bolton. Come along to the event to celebrate some of those amazing groups and volunteers who do a wonderful job on doing what they do for the community in Bolton.</p>	<p>Dave Bagley reported</p>

3. Community Digital Inclusion Project	Lead
<p>Chris introduced himself as part of the Community Digital Inclusion Project. This project will create a network of digital support for the local community through a series of digital drop-in sessions; access to data via</p>	<p>Presented by Chris Holden, Digital, Employment &</p>

<p>free sim cards, and the development and utilisation of a "digital lending library" of devices.</p> <p>The core goals of the project is to engage at 10 venues across Bolton to accommodate publicly accessible, digital drop-ins; support 20 voluntary and community organisations or charities to develop, improve and deliver their digital offer; help 800 residents of Bolton to access key digital skills, technology and connectivity.</p> <p>Chris talked about how the project has been developed 'community focused' and the delivery will support the local community.</p> <p>Chris spoke how the project will be delivered by digital volunteers and they will be given full training, enabling anyone to deliver essential digital skills support to residents in Bolton.</p> <p>Chris mentioned a key part of the project will be working in collaboration with local partners to deliver a coordinated network of skills provision. This will include the recruitment and training of dedicated, passionate volunteers to deliver digital sessions in a range of locations as well as venues committing to be part of the Bolton Digital Inclusion Activity Network.</p> <p>Chris informed, as a part of the project delivery, grant funding has been made available, determined via a needs assessment on a case-by-case basis, to facilitate the set-up, provision and logistics of the digital provision. Organisations wishing to apply for funding, will need to demonstrate their commitment to a set of agreed standards.</p> <p>For more information, you can e-mail Chris on christopher.holden@bolton.gov.uk</p> <p>The full presentation can be found here.</p>	<p>Skills Team (DES) Bolton Library and Museum Services</p>
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4. Funding Update	Lead
<p>Liz talked about the Bolton's Fund grants programme, supporting the VCSE sector in Bolton to do carry out activities/projects helping to grow and thrive.</p> <p>Liz talked about the eligibility, priorities and deadlines for each grant level of the Bolton's Fund.</p> <p>Liz mentioned other grants that are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolton's Fund: Hate Crime Awareness Grants - to support projects across the Borough that promote an understanding and an awareness of the definition of a hate crime and how to report them. • Bolton Community Homes Grants - charities, community groups, organisations and individuals are invited to apply for grants to help support projects that will benefit Bolton Community 	<p>Presented by Liz McNabb, Bolton CVS</p>

<p>Home customers.</p> <p>Liz informed of the Bolton's Fund Roadshows that are taking place around Bolton, the first one will be taking place at High Street Library on 9th December.</p> <p>Liz went through the process of how to create an account before applying for funding.</p> <p>Visit Bolton CVS website for more information or e-mail liz@boltoncvs.org.uk.</p> <p>The full presentation can be found here.</p>	
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5. Town Centre Active Travel Activation Project	Actions
<p>Neil started his presentation talking about the current infrastructure and then showed a map of the proposed plans for the Bolton's Town Centre. On the map, the work indicated in phase A has already started and work indicated in phase B will be starting soon.</p> <p>Neil talked about the aims of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the number of people choosing active travel for travel into town centre • increase active travel modes as a proportion of the town centre area • increase the amount of high-quality active travel infrastructure/public realm within the town centre • enhance accessibility to the town centre • improve actual and perceived safety and security of cyclists and pedestrians in the scheme area <p>Neil showed images of areas that need to be changed in the town centre and what the action plan is.</p> <p>Neil mentioned with whom his team have liaised with and collected insight, sharing some feedback.</p> <p>Neil talked about the future plans, starting by creating a steering group. If you are interested in being part of the group or would like further information, e-mail Neil on neil.hart@bolton.gov.uk.</p> <p>The full presentation can be found here.</p>	<p>Presented by Neil Hart, Bolton Council</p>

6. Bolton CVS New Member: Arising Futures CIO	Actions
<p>Khalda is the founder of Arising Futures CIO and talked briefly about the group. The group aims to working with ethnic minority women to increase confidence, reduce isolation, improve health and increase</p>	<p>Khalda Ali</p>



Notes and action points

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum
Thursday 30th November 2023

employment. Khalda was presented with a membership certificate. If you are interested in becoming a member of Bolton CVS, contact Diana Khasa on diana@boltoncvs.org.uk	
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7. Any Other Business	Actions
None.	All

Date of next meeting:
Thursday 25 th January 2024, 10.30am – 12.00pm at The Bolton Hub