



Notes and action points

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

Thursday 25th January 2024

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| Chair: | Dee Luczka | Notes: | Farzana Patel |
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| 1. Welcome | Lead |
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| <p>Present: Farzana Patel, Dee Luczka, Leah Edwards, Abraham Halliwell, Helen Carter, Billy Darrock, Drissia Ahmed, Alun Morris, Grant Robbins, Nick Russell, Munera Umarjee, Nazmin Ahmed, Elanor Gordon, Ibrahim Abdi, Mohamed Olowodowa, Sandra Crompton, James Haigh, Peter Firth, Aline Lusamba, Chancelle Mputu, Charlie Barrett, Mark Brocklehurst, Carlton Milenkovic, Lisa Forrest, Gareth Pike, Keith Harris, Ruth Lowe, Pamela Eaton, Janet Lythgoe, Mandy Worsley, Michelle Jiva, Marie-Anne Eckdersall, Deborah Gregory, Zahid Patel, Diana Khasa, Dawn Yates-Obe</p> <p>Apologies: Dave Bagley, Lynn Meadowcroft, Carol Hardman, Olwyn Holgate, Gareth Price, Sylvia Dobinson, Jackie Hallen</p> <p>Dee welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> | |

| 2. Highlights from the Chair | Lead |
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| <p>Dee reported the partnership between Bolton CVS and Youth Leads – Bolton CVS are committing to training up and appointing a minimum of one young person to sit on each funding panel going forward. Together with Youth Leads, they want young people to be involved in decisions that impact the people and place of Bolton, understanding their perspectives and priorities that will benefit all as they continue to develop the VCSE sector in Bolton.</p> <p>There is the recruitment of the 2 new Environmental Peer Navigators; Gareth Pike, Volunteer Co-ordinator within Bolton Council and Nicola Taylor fully on board with Bolton CVS, there has a focus and dedicated capacity to support community activity and environmental volunteers.</p> <p>This is a priority for us all and we would really encourage groups and people out there doing brilliant work across our neighbourhoods and communities to get in touch and collaborate where possible.</p> <p>Bolton CVS are aware of statutory services coming under increasing pressure around finances and budgets – this undoubtedly will have ripple effect for us all. Bolton CVS are creating spaces such as the Funding Collaborate, to bring VCSE organisations and partner organisations together to ready themselves for opportunities to leverage more money into the borough, or make the Bolton pound go further in more sustainable ways.</p> <p>There will be more to come on this in due course but we always welcome the conversations with members about how we can do this better, more collaboratively and more sustainably.</p> | Dee Luczka reported |

| 3. Bolton Talking Therapies | Lead |
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| <p>Ruth introduced herself and talked about Bolton NHS Talking Therapies provides free, confidential talking therapies for adults aged 16yrs and over.</p> <p>Ruth mentioned around 40% of people with depression and anxiety have Long Term Health Conditions (LTC). Ruth talked about how LTC is left untreated, mental health problems can have a significant impact on the person's physical health.</p> <p>Ruth talked about the stages within Bolton NHS Talking Therapies. Ruth gave an insight in the roles of Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners (PWPs) and PWP sessions.</p> <p>Ruth mentioned SilverCloud, offering clients a choice of different programmes on its platform, with the option for PWP's to add additional modules (e.g. sleep hygiene) as the client works through the programme.</p> <p>Ruth informed about Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and how Bolton NHS Talking Therapies works in partnership with 1 point who offer counselling to Bolton residents. Referrals are received via the Single Point of Access (SPOA), and if counselling is more appropriate we will pass the referral to 1point.</p> <p>Ruth went through the referral process and expressed that Bolton NHS Talking Therapy Service is not an emergency service. If a client discloses suicidal thoughts or thoughts of self-harm then advise them to speak to their GP who can make a referral to the most appropriate service.</p> <p>Ruth explained Single Point of Access (SPOA) service and what it entails, then went on to explaining about the initial triage assessment, it will usually be completed by a PWP. They aim to complete this within 6 weeks of receiving a referral.</p> <p>More information can be found on their website: https://www.gmmh.nhs.uk/referral-services or by calling 01204 483101.</p> <p>The full presentation can be found here.</p> | <p>Presented by Ruth Lowe, Senior Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner</p> |

| 4. Proper Good Programme | Lead |
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| <p>Lisa explained the Proper Good Programme is a joint funding programme established by Access and Big Society Capital that aims to support the development of stronger, more resilient and sustainable social economies by helping social enterprises to develop and thrive.</p> <p>The programme exists in 6 localities across the country, and has a different name in each! In Greater Manchester we are called Proper Good, and the funding is split across four areas; Bolton, Oldham, Wigan, Stockport.</p> <p>In 2022 Greater Manchester was awarded just over £8,200,000 for social enterprise support and blended finance. There are two pots of investment</p> | <p>Presented by Lisa Forrest, Bolton CVS</p> |

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| <p>available: Early Stage - for organisations in the early stages of their journey in terms of trading and Buildings Fund - for organisations with an interest in, purchasing, building, renovating, refurbishing.</p> <p>Lisa talked about the team of Proper Good and went on to explain what support is available through the Programme.</p> <p>Lisa spoke about what is a social enterprise and how groups can identify themselves as a social enterprise.</p> <p>Visit Bolton CVS website for more information or e-mail propergood@boltoncvs.org.uk.</p> <p>The full presentation can be found here.</p> | |
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| 5. Funding Update | Lead |
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| <p>Zahid 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>Zahid talked about the eligibility, priorities and deadlines for each grant level of the Bolton's Fund.</p> <p>Zahid went on to speak about the priorities of the Bolton's Fund and how to apply from the Bolton CVS website.</p> <p>Zahid informed of the next Bolton's Fund Roadshow taking place at Brazley Community Centre on 15th February, 5.30pm – 7.30pm.</p> <p>Zahid mentioned other grants that are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Home customers. • Provincial Walsh Trust Bolton - applications welcome from children and young people's groups, elderly peoples groups, health and care related, education and training etc, focus on target groups and areas in need. The deadline for the next round will be 14th March 2024, e-mail secretary@pwtb.co.uk for further information. • Sir James and Lady Scott Trust - the aim of this Trust is to support projects which help disadvantaged people or communities in Bolton, or provide for the relief of poverty. Grants of between £250 and £3,000 are available. <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> | <p>Presented by Zahid Patel, Bolton CVS</p> |

| 6. The Circle of Inspiration Calm CIC | Actions |
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| <p>The group consists of Mandy, Debbie and Michelle, who has 30 years of experience working in NHS, private wellbeing, charity and event planning.</p> <p>The group was set up in 2023 as a CIC aiming to support local people to find calm through mindfulness and creativity.</p> <p>They talked about receiving 2 grants and the impact it has had on their members. They demonstrated a small floral activity showcasing the kind of workshops they put in place for their members. They showed photos of their activities.</p> <p>The full presentation can be found here.</p> | <p>Presented by Mandy Worsley, Deborah Gregory and Michelle Jiva</p> |

| 7. Any Other Business | Actions |
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| <p>Dee mentioned after the success of last year's campaign 'Don't Dis My Ability' Sapphire Partnership are running another campaign this year called 'GIVE MORE IN 2024'. They want to achieve 100 hours of people donating their time to us within 2024. Find out more about the campaign.</p> <p>You can apply for Provincial Walsh Trust Bolton funding, applications welcome from children and young people's groups, elderly peoples groups, health and care related, education and training etc. the focus will be on target groups and areas in need. The deadline for the next application will be 14th March 2024. E-mail for more details: secretary@pwtb.co.uk</p> <p>Carlton informed everyone about the mini Visual Impairment Awareness Training (VIAT), delivered by Henshaws, taking place on 27th March at The Bolton Hub. This is a practical and engaging training session, aimed at helping people understand the barriers faced by people with a visual impairment. Book your place: https://www.boltoncvs.org.uk/services/training-and-events/</p> <p>Elanor talked about Little Bats Learning CIC are holding Stay and Play sessions for 1-5 year olds, for more information visit their website: https://littlebatslearning.org/</p> | <p>All</p> |

| Date of next meeting: |
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| <p>Thursday 28th March 2024, 10.30am – 12.00pm at The Bolton Hub</p> |