



# Notes and action points

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise  
Sector Forum

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025

<b>Chair:</b>	Dee Luckza	<b>Notes:</b>	Farzana Patel
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1. Welcome
<p><b>Present:</b> Dee Luckza, Farzana Patel, Elaine Butt, James Walton, Nick Russell, Karen Arkwright, Vicky Shenton, Kallum Wallbank, Leah Edwards, Hollie English, Tom Mulenge, Elaine Jones, Chris Bank, Alun Morris, Nicola Taylor, David Kenyon, Susan Whittle, Leah Payne, Sahmim Panchbhaya, Maria Palmai, Juice Vamosi, Sharon Bailey, Cindy Kelly, Egeba Duke, Muritala Bakare, Stephen Walker, Carol Burrows, Derek Burrows, Sarah Field, Gary Mangan, Andrew Hughes</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Dave Bagley, Lica Marchant, Susan Whittle, Olwyn Holgate, Lynn Meadowcroft</p> <p>Dee welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>

2. Highlights from the Chair	Lead
<p>Judith Bromley is a Deputy Lieutenant in Greater Manchester and she has mentioned that Bolton is not putting forward many nominations of voluntary/community groups or individuals for a national honour. Based on our population size we should be receiving more awards. The Leader believes this is an issue of groups not being aware of how to recommend and what the process is.</p> <p>This is where Judith Bromley can assist, all she needs is the name of a group or individual who you believe is deserving of recognition. She needs a contact name, email, telephone number and she will do the rest.</p> <p>The Leader asks that you think about those groups and individuals and pass on the details to <a href="mailto:judith.bromley62@gmail.com">judith.bromley62@gmail.com</a></p> <p>The group must be in existence for at least 3 years and whilst they can have paid staff in roles, they must be volunteer led. They will need two letters of support. for private individuals, the nomination must come from someone who knows of their work and the person nominated is not to be approached.</p> <p>Members took a few moments to recognise Steve Sherry, chairman of Bolton LGBT+, who recently passed away. He was a pillar of Bolton's VCSE sector and was a fierce advocate for inclusion and equality. Bolton CVS have worked with Steve and the Bolton LGBT+ team for many years, and his contribution to the community of Bolton and the lives of LGBT+ people living in Bolton cannot be overstated. Steve will be sorely missed, but the legacy of his work, dedication and empathy will live on.</p>	Dee Luckza reported

3. Offer from Bolton College	Lead
<p>Andrew talked about apprenticeship, what it entails and how it is a positive route to upskilling staff.</p> <p>Andrew went through the apprenticeship process and how it works. Bolton College</p>	Presented by Andrew Hughes



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offers 896 apprenticeship courses. Bolton College is part of The University of Greater Manchester Group which means there is access to higher or degree level apprenticeships.

Andrew mentioned that this programme would be ideal to match students to VCSE sector groups.

For more information, contact Andrew on [Andrew.Hughes@boltoncc.ac.uk](mailto:Andrew.Hughes@boltoncc.ac.uk).

The full presentation can be found [here](#).

## 4. Bolton CVS New Members

### Lead

Karen talked about becoming a member of Bolton CVS, the process and benefits of becoming a member. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

The following groups attended who have recently become members:

**Bolton Symphony Orchestra:** The group is a high level amateur orchestra based in the heart of Bolton. We put on six concerts a year. Under 19s can attend our concerts for free. We play a wide range of orchestral music and we collaborate with other local groups on at least one occasion throughout the year.

**Get Up Keep Going CIC:** This group believes staying active is an essential part of keeping people well, mentally and physically, bringing together communities to enjoy the outdoors and staying connected to others.

**Nigerian Community in Bolton:** This group supports the community in all aspects of life; from relocating here, if new to the UK, to support with housing, civil life, young people, as well as supporting inclusion, health and wellbeing.

**Tom Julenge Music CIC:** The group operates to encourage and support people with music ability wherever they are to utilise the power of music to produce positive transformation in their communities.

**Unity Drama Group:** They are a community amateur drama group who perform variety shows and pantomimes amongst other things in the local community of Farnworth, Bolton. They have a cast ranging from 8 years old up to adults.

**The Red Lane Growing Project:** Our aim is sustainable food production for our community from the sowing of seeds through to cooking and eating. We provide a safe space for growing, nature-based activities and family fun and all are welcome, even if it is just for a chat and a cuppa. We run a range of nature/environmental activities throughout the year.

Led by  
Karen  
Arkwright,  
Bolton  
CVS



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5. Bolton Smoking Cessation Programme	Lead
<p>Stephen introduced himself and the work of ABL Health. He talked about the programme set up last year and has relaunched earlier this year.</p> <p>Stephen went on to talk about the incentive for the programme and how it can benefit the VCSE sector.</p> <p>Stephen talked about the effects of smoking, health benefits of quitting smoking and how intervention can help.</p> <p>The full presentation can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>Presented by Stephen Walker, ABL Health</p>

6. Any Other Business	Actions
<p>Kaskosan are holding dance classes, if you are interested contact by e-mail <a href="mailto:kaskosan@gmail.com">kaskosan@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p>Healthwatch Bolton have launched their Living Well with Dementia project. They are gathering insights, stories, and feedback from people affected by dementia to ensure their collective voices are heard and used to shape better services and support in Bolton. The more people they reach, the stronger the impact they hope to make. If you would like to get involved, e-mail Leah Payne on <a href="mailto:Leah@healthwatchbolton.co.uk">Leah@healthwatchbolton.co.uk</a>.</p>	<p>All</p>

Date of next meeting:
<p>Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025, 10.30am – 12.00pm at The Bolton Hub</p>