

Chair:	Dave Bagley	Notes:	Nicola Taylor
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1. Welcome
Present: Dave Bagley, Leah Edwards, Karen Arkwright, Elaine Butt, Vicky Shenton, Nicola Taylor, Debbie Ryder, Jen Clarkson, Hava Yacoobali, Samatiban(Sue) Desai MBE, Joan Manville, Ayaz Bhuta MBE, Carla Woods, Dawn Yates-Obe, Rachel Gregory, Katy Malkin, Douglas Oxe, Gwyneth Bailey, Diana Potora, Kirsty Borritt, Shelley Brennan, Shamim Panchbhaya, Helen Yeldon, Pat Dickson. Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Highlights from the Chair	Lead
Standing Tall is a UK charity that believes no one should have to face life on the streets. Their approach combines a safe home, a stable job, and one-to-one support to help people rebuild their lives. A year on, 4 out of 5 participants are in work and thriving. They are currently looking for: • Hosts – people with a spare room (six months' rent available) and be part of someone's fresh start. • VCFSE partners – organisations with permanent, entry-level job vacancies. Find out more at www.standingtall.org.uk. Scruffy Monkey are offering free online digital advice and support for voluntary and community groups, the drop in sessions take place every Friday, 11am – 1pm, for more details contact 01204 214228.	Dave Bagley

3. Bolton Boccia Group	Lead
Carla introduced herself and gave some background information on Boccia Club, it is an inclusive sport for people with physical and visual impairment and the blind. Carla explained how the game is played and the different ways it can be played. The main objectives of Bolton Boccia Club are to provide an all-inclusive sport for those living with a disability, which is recognised as a Paralympic sport. Carla is looking to attract more footfall to the group and promote it's sessions, and raise awareness of the fun which can be had at Boccia. At the moment, the sessions are for people aged over 18 years. The sessions run in Horwich Leisure Centre on Fridays from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, as advertised on their website. Find out more how to book on to their sessions. You Tube video: https://youtu.be/i-qwcwpgnOk	Carla Woods, Bolton Boccia Club

4. Bolton CVS New Members	Lead
Karen discussed becoming a member of Bolton CVS, including the process and the benefits of membership. The full presentation can be found here. New Bolton CVS members who were welcomed: Potra Empowered Journey CIC: supports Individuals in building confidence, achieving financial independence and improving mental wellbeing. This is done through education and mentorship, building skills within food entrepreneurship, hospitality and healthy living. Supporting people to return to work or start their own business journey. Sisterhood Champions: Bringing women together from local households to support each other and build a stronger connection with the community. Who offers educational talks and workshops on health topics like menopause, cancer, and diabetes. The Parenting Collective CIC: Supports the Manchester community through the sling library sessions, baby wearing dance classes, delivers consultations and workshops and provides support to new and vulnerable families. They collaborate with local authorities and local community groups. The group is currently delivering in the Family Hubs in Salford and are looking for a community space in the Bolton area. The Vegan Society. The Vegan Society aims to make veganism mainstream by providing information and guidance on all aspects of vegan living. They promote veganism and support individuals to live well and offer organisations vegan options through recipes and catering packs.	Led by Karen Arkwright, Bolton CVS
5. All About Read Easy	Lead
Pat started the presentation by saying that, in 6 in 10 people are unable to read in Bolton. Locally, Bolton College can provide have basic education, but the people are struggling to make the first steps. The purpose of Read Easy is to work with adults who cannot or have little ability to read. They have networking sessions in Bolton Library. There are 90 groups all around the UK. Pat mentioned, Read Easy in Bolton are looking to recruit volunteer readers and committee members to support the cause and work with other organisations for them to refer into the service. If you are interested, contact Pat by e-mail on bodinetworker@readeasy.org.uk and further information can be found on their website: https://readeasy.org.uk/	Pat Dickson, Bolton & District Read Easy



Notes and action points

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise
Sector Forum

Thursday 18th September 2025

6. Bolton CVS Development Team Update	Lead
Elaine wanted to give members an overview of what supported is provided by the development team at Bolton CVS. The Volunteer Centre will help you to safely recruit, retain and manage volunteers. The Volunteer Charter - A pledge to show an organisations commitment to developing and upholding good practice in all aspect of volunteering. The Volunteer Development Network is an opportunity to network, learn and share knowledge. Organisational support is given to strengthen services and help you to do the best you can. The Bolton Mark is an opportunity to demonstrate that your organisation has achieved a set of universally recognised best practice standards for organisations working in the voluntary, community, charity and social enterprise sector. Family Hubs offer a range of activities and support services for families, from anti natal and post-natal appointment to stay and play sessions, support for parents with debt advice, digital skills. Elaine explained types of training Bolton CVS delivers. For more information, visit the Bolton CVS website: www.boltoncvs.org.uk The full presentation can be found here.	Elaine Butt, Development Manager

7. Any Other Business	Actions
None.	All

Date of next meeting:
Thursday 12th November 2025, 10.30 am – 12.00 pm at The Bolton Hub