

STRONGER COMMUNITIES NETWORK
Minutes of meeting held at 9.30am on Thursday May 7th 2009
at Function Room, Old Masonic Hall, Mansfield

Members Present		Organisation
GG	Cllr Glynn Gilfoyle	Nottinghamshire County Council (Chair)
RC	Rachael Clark	Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations
PC	Peter Clarke	NCC Communities
SC	Sarah Collinson	NCC (minute taker)
RC	Rob Crowder	RCAN (Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire)
PE	Pete Elderton	NCC Communities
GF	Gill Francis	National Probation Service Nottinghamshire
CG	Cheryl George	Bassetlaw PCT (representing Penny Spring)
JH	Jeanne Hannah	Rushcliffe Borough Council
AMH	Ann Marie Hawkins	NCC Communities Department
PJ	Paula Jezewski	NCC Adult Social Care and Health
RL	Richard Lea	Broxtowe Borough Council
DM	David McCoulough	Diocese of Southwell
AP	Andy Peacock	NCC Communities Department
SP	Sarah Pearson	Bassetlaw District Council
JR	Jeremy Regan	Mansfield District Council
FS	Fiona Simpson	Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations
SS	Simon Starr	Sport Nottinghamshire
DW	Deborah Widdowson	Ashfield Partnership
HW	Helen Whitney	East Midlands Empowerment Partnership
PW	Pam Wisher	Gedling Community Voluntary Service
KW	Keith Wood	Newark and Sherwood District Council
WY	Wendy Young	NCC Adult Social Care and Health

Item	Issue	Action
1.0	Apologies	
	Ian Bradford Colin Handley Phil Lyons Michael Rimmington Patrick Candler Penny Spring Ged Greaves Richard Wilding	Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service Nottinghamshire Police Authority Mansfield Area Strategic Partnership East Midlands Ambulance Service NCC Communities Notts Primary Care Trust Newark and Sherwood District Council SCN Ashfield
2.0	Previous minutes and matters arising	
	The minutes of the meeting held on March 13 th 2009 were agreed as written.	

<p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Working Event</p> <p>RC informed the group that the event that was initially scheduled for July 2nd 2009 at 9.30am is likely to be put back to September 2009. If there is not the uptake needed by Senior Officers, members of the group highlighted that the event should only take place if there was a high level of commitment.</p> <p>Tim Thornby, an Associate Director of SGW will be talking about the national context of Neighbourhood Working and Professor Peter Tyler is to discuss the economics of Neighbourhood Working. There will also be presentations from the Police and the PCT. Marketing will be going out in the next couple of weeks. Invitations will be sent out via email and post to specific people, as it is not a practitioner's conference but about altering people's perceptions, Chief Executives and leads should be present.</p>	<p>INFO</p>
<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p>'Yos Reparation Work'</p> <p>Tony Jackson, Remedi Victim Advocacy Co-ordinator, was absent from the meeting and subsequently provided the information in 3.2.</p> <p>TJ has worked in mediation in South Yorkshire for the past 14 years and Remedi have just won a reparation contract with YOS. Victims are offered direct reparation, but if this is declined, offenders undertake community service. TJ is looking for any basic work for 12-17 year olds (supervisors are provided). He has made good links with Parish Councils. His contact details are: tony.jackson@nottscc.gov.uk 01623 520087/0779 8620502</p> <p>GF suggested circulating the "Nottinghamshire Reducing Reoffending Unpaid Work" flyer to the group, which is part of the Community Payback Scheme. Please see flyer attached.</p>	<p>INFO</p>
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p>Volunteering Stretch Target</p> <p>Evaluation Report See attached for presentation, which was delivered by PW.</p> <p>PW advised that the report circulated with the agenda, due to resource and capacity issues, is not a full evaluation. It is an interim piece of work and it is to be discussed whether a more detailed evaluation is necessary. GG asked if there was any evidence that volunteers were from hard to reach groups. PW stated that that kind of information is not shown in the report. GG added that there are gaps in evidence and it needs to be discussed whether the group would commission a further survey and needs to be considered how much this would help with future development.</p>	

<p>4.3</p>	<p>WY stated that to monitor what happens to County Council money, follow up regarding volunteers has started being collected, for example how they found their placement and whether they went on to other jobs. Statistics are now being captured which breakdown gender/race/age. WY to write a short report and circulate. CG added that capturing softer outcomes from individual agencies would be useful.</p> <p>RC stated that there is a danger that volunteering can get marginalised and suggested it should be in the main partnership. Volunteers are bringing in real work and improvement to the County. It was agreed that this area of work should be picked up by the Thriving Third Sector Group and recommendations brought up at the next SCN meeting.</p> <p>WY advised that if investment is to be brought in, the educational value of volunteering has to be quantified. JR stated that the majority of people now volunteer because they want to, meaning that this could be unrepresentative. WY added that in response to the economic downturn volunteering organisations have reported a huge increase, but the motivation is for skills development.</p> <p>Performance Reward Grant Survey</p> <p>The report was circulated with the agenda. AMH concluded with the recommendation that based on this evidence a second survey should not be undertaken. All agreed to endorse the recommendation.</p> <p>5.0 Performance Management</p> <p>5.1 AMH informed the group that a meeting was held with Lead LAA Target officers to look at putting systems for performance management in place. The notes from the meeting were circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>5.2 AMH suggested at the meeting that three key priorities should be established by each lead officer and that the SCN should focus on ensuring that these priorities are delivered. AMH advised that at the next SCN meeting this should be formalised. The next steps are to develop a template for reporting back to the SCN, identifying the three priorities and the lead officers coming together in-between SCN meetings. The SCN Board meetings will be moved to quarterly. The next meeting, scheduled for June 10th 2009 was cancelled. CG added that the SCN are good at delivering but not at recording what has been done. Progress and outcomes are lost along the way.</p>	<p>INFO</p> <p>WY</p> <p>INFO</p>
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5.3	AMH informed that the County Council are appointing a Safer and Stronger Communications Officer who will be able to work with the network and officers. GF suggested that Communications be an item on the September agenda.	PJ
6.0	Community Empowerment Network	
6.1	See attached presentation delivered by Helen Whitney.	
6.2	<p>HW advised that projects can self-register to the online directory. She added that they have secured funding from the Regional Improvement Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) to set up eight kite marks, but these can be expensive. Instead, they are considering examples of good practise to acknowledge.</p> <p>PW said that the Charity Evaluation services produced quality frameworks that can be externally assessed. HW added that the goal is to inspire people to their best. JR suggested there should be a new group proposed to set up to work around the provision of 'the fishing rod' – informing, consulting and involving. RC stated that this is the focus of the Neighbourhood Working conference. By throwing funding at a project you can create dependence. CG advised that social norms need to be changed. The emphasis needs to be on individuals in the community. HW stated that there can be a chronic lack of self esteem and a sense of impotence, but a doing, not a done to community needs to be created.</p> <p>HW added that a form can be emailed to be filled in for anyone interested in becoming a case study.</p>	
7.0	Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)	
7.1	<p>See attached presentation, which was delivered by Pete Elderton.</p> <p>PW stated that the voluntary sector receive funds from the statutory body in order to enhance delivery of services. There is no mention of that engagement with the voluntary and community sector. A decision needs to be made as to whether the voluntary sector is a partner or not. If it is a partner, this needs to be reflected in the document and involved in the reference group. PE said that the relationship we are managing with the inspectors is with the whole partnership. The CAA is cross-cutting and concerned with what happens in the area, not who provides it. There is scope for any partners to be involved in the reference group. It was narrowed down to enable a tighter group for more of a dialogue at meetings. GG requested a voluntary sector representative be on the reference group and suggested that the voluntary sector should be mentioned in the material put forward.</p> <p>PE agreed to take back the message.</p>	

9.0	Report from Networks	
9.1	<p>Sport</p> <p>SS stated that the NI8 target is a 4% increase in adult participation in sport over the 3 years of the LAA, which equates to a 1.3% increase year on year. The baseline figure is 21.2% for Nottinghamshire. The target achieved was 1.2% increase, so participation level in Nottinghamshire is now 22.4%. This is slightly behind the target, but moving in the right direction. The caveat is that neither the county nor district figures are statistically significant due to the sample size of 500 per district in the 2007/08 survey compared to 1000 per district in 2005/06. Rushcliffe are now the 3rd most active district in England and the City of Nottingham achieved a 3.6% increase (7% for women). These figures are statistically significant and City and County figures combined make Nottinghamshire CSP the 2nd most improved in England. The biggest health gains come from reducing the sedentary population. There was an estimated 3% drop in sedentary population (Rushcliffe 10.5%, Bassetlaw 5.3% and Mansfield 4.2% drop).</p>	
9.2	<p>Culture</p> <p>SW stated that, as highlighted by Patrick Candler at the previous SCN meeting, cultural enrichment contributes to a range of LAA priorities. Data collection to populate the baseline and targets of the Local Cultural Enrichment Indicator set is being co-ordinated by Sarah Dawes of Newark and Sherwood DC. This is nearly complete. Nottinghamshire Local Authorities Delivery Partnership is meeting in mid-June to shape the delivery plan and would appreciate having plan and reporting templates to work with. SW added that their initial ideas on key priorities for the next couple of years include Community Engagement as one of the top three.</p>	
9.3	<p>Engagement and Decision Making</p> <p>PC circulated a report proposing the establishment of a new Community Engagement group.</p> <p>PC stated that now action plans have been produced, the first meeting of the 'monitoring group' is planned to meet on Wednesday 10th June, 9.30am at Newstead Miners' Welfare. All partners are asked to forward names of representatives to sit on this group.</p>	
9.4	<p>Community Cohesion</p> <p>AP stated that he has been leading a review to establish what partners identify as a Community Cohesion issue and how performance is monitored. A Community Cohesion strategy for children and young people is going through the Children and Young Persons partnership board. A bid has been put in for a share of the</p>	

9.5	<p>Migration Impact Fund (£3million). The nature of the process and timescale means that the bid went in on May 1st 2009 and the result will be revealed shortly.</p> <p>Volunteering/ Thriving Third Sector</p> <p>RC stated that the group is meeting monthly with additional meetings for specific working groups such as those around delivery planning and local survey development. The group is made up of various VCS representatives including CVSs and infrastructure organisations, county and borough council officers and other public sector partners such as the PCT, EMAS, DAAT.</p> <p>A local survey has been devised by the Thriving Third Sector group and will be sent out at the beginning of next month, giving organisations a month to respond. The online survey to be sent out via the CVSs and infrastructure organisations and they will choose a random sample from their own membership. The questions asked reflect some of those raised in the national survey. Some analysis is needed to support from NCC once results start coming in. The Compact sign off is underway and so far we have received sign up from Mansfield CVS, Hostels Liaison Group, Retford Action Centre and Bassetlaw CVS. Sign up is very slow and the group is requesting that partners are reminded about their commitment to the Compact. A 'Celebrating Sign Off' event and photo opportunity/launch is being planned for the summer so it is imperative that all sign up as soon as possible. Further activities will be undertaken for Compact Week later in the year.</p> <p>Four task groups are being established within the Thriving Third Sector Group. These will be addressing issues concerned with Communication and Engagement, Funding for the Voluntary & Community Sector, Monitoring Dispute Resolution and Improving the Capacity of the Voluntary & Community Sector. Leads are in the process of being established for each of these groups and will be able to feedback progress from each theme.</p>	
10 10.1	<p>AOB</p> <p>PC informed the group that West Notts college can deliver NVQs in Community Development Work, assessing people on NVQ 2, 3 and 4 for £800.</p> <p>Full details can be found in the NVQ Info Pack attached.</p>	
11	<p>Dates, times and locations of future meetings</p> <p>(Wednesday, June 10th 2009 meeting cancelled.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, September 17th 2009, 9.30-12.30pm – Old Masonic Hall, NG18 4AE 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday, December 17th 2009, 9.30-12.30pm - South Forest Leisure Complex, NG21 9JF• Thursday, March 18th 2010, 9.30-12.30pm, South Forest Leisure Complex, NG21 9JF	
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