

CYPN Meeting 23 Feb 2016 - Support for the Sector

Meeting Notes

Name	Organisation
Caroline Haworth	Bath Area Play Project
Roz Lambert	First Steps
Mandy Gardner	Bath Rugby
Julie Poll	Business in the Community
Jilly Edwards	Quartet Community Foundation
Dona Baber	Time2Share
Sue Evans	CYPN
Michael Jakins	Boys Brigade
Claire Tinker	TRC
Dave Joyce	BYFC

Apologies

Derek Smith	Bath Abbey
Jan	Focus Counselling
Lynda Williams	Off The Record
Nikki Cox	Children's Scrapstore
Jamie Luck	Mentoring Plus

B&NES Support Proposal for the VCS

Jilly Edwards gave the background of the recent proposals for sector support. St John's had agreed to contribute £30,000 but it has to be match funded and now the Local Authority have no additional money available due to further cuts from Central Government.

Some work had been done previously on identifying the type of support the sector needed. It was thought that the previous VCS Forum was covered by St John's Breakfast Meetings (this was challenged later in the meeting – although the breakfast meetings are great and good for Networking they are not informational on strategic issues nor is there any mechanism to canvas opinion and feed collectively into local strategy)

Other support needed was identified as support for small organisations just starting out and someone with a co-ordinating role for the VCS.

Local Giving are keen to set up a project in B&NES, working with 70 organisations, training them in efficient use of the Local Giving Platform and developing an online fundraising strategy with the premise that each organisation signing up will raise

£1000 over the year. Funding required to start this project is £80,000. St John's have agreed to contribute half. It may be similar to that proposed here:

<https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/job/local-giving-development-manager-manchester>

Members challenged whether this support would be anything more than promoting their own platform and whether it would be the best use of the potential £40,000 available from St John's for support for the sector.

Members discussed that what we needed was someone at a senior level to represent the interests of the VCS. Last year we had made some progress into identifying a cabinet Member for the VCS but this all changed with the new administration.

Other initiatives:

- The Care Forum have put in a European Funding bid for money to set up a Volunteer Support and Progression Hub aimed at supporting the more vulnerable into volunteering.
- Mike Plows at the Volunteer Centre has been funded by St John's and Quartet to prepare a database of VCS organisations in B&NES. It should be going live this week (w/c 22 Feb) so we are waiting to hear when we can submit our information for inclusion.
- There is potential funding for Social Enterprise from Great Western Regional capital (Members commented that many organisations were not ready to consider the Social Enterprise model).
- Child Poverty Initiative – this is headed by St John's and Ben Howlett (MP for Bath) and is looking to halve child poverty in the area by 2020. St John's has agreed to contribute £100,000 and are looking to raise more by a local campaign to a total £250,000 but money will only be available for organisations that are in collaboration. (Members agreed that the publicity for the VCS work in the area would be good but the local campaign would otherwise just distribute the goodwill of the local population differently making funding harder to achieve if not in collaboration with other charities.) Collaboration is a detailed and time intensive process which not all organisations will have the capacity to engage with.

Members present considered what were the sectors most pressing support needs – apart from funds:

- Good communication avenues with B&NES – who is the right person to talk to, what is going on.
- Someone at high level to represent our interests as sector.

We discussed what support and avenues of communication were available at the moment.

- B&NES Interagency Bulletin – [view latest bulletin and info on meetings here](#).
- B&NES Funding Bulletin [view latest bulletin & info here](#)
- Southdown Interagency Meetings
- Bath City Forum – [information can be found here](#) Data can be found here on the Bath area including population, crime rate. Educational achievement, health etc. broken down into wards. [See this information here](#)
- THRIVE – a training and support programme for the cultural and voluntary sectors in B&NES, funded by the Local Authority and managed and delivered by Mackerel Sky. [More information here](#). (Only two members present had heard of them and they tend to deliver more to the cultural sector.)

Members discussed Connecting Capacity who had a previous commission to work in B&NES and THRIVE who hardly anyone knew was working in B&NES and discussed the fact that significant amounts of money were being spent supporting the sector without us benefitting so who was supposed to ensure commissions addressed sector need. Members decided it would be useful to have a breakdown of what had been commissioned and what funding had been allocated over the last 3 years.

Members discussed the fact that, if the St John's £40,000 was available it might be worth us looking at putting in some money ourselves for proper support. An amount in line with each organisations funds but that this would then be independent of B&NES. There was support for this idea but some members felt they already had to pay to national bodies out of limited resources and this would be another potential drain on funds. Also, to be of any real value the support would need to be ongoing over at least 3 years, so where would the continued funding come from? It was suggested that B&NES ought to put up some funding too as they are expecting the sector to take on a lot of the work they no longer have funds for and, at the same time, are imposing a lot of additional red tape.

Where do we go with this next?

Julie Poll – B&NES Business Connector

Julie is employed by Business in the Community and Seconded from the Civil Service for one year. She has a background mentoring and supporting young people, a volunteer guide leader for 20 years, has done a lot of charity fundraising and is a charity trustee.

Julie's remit is to work with local charities, voluntary and community groups to form partnerships with local businesses to deliver positive change around themes of enterprise, employability, education and social cohesion.

She hopes to create mutually beneficial partnerships between the sector and local business throughout the B&NES area. If you are interested contact Julie on 07876476129 or julie.poll@bitcconnect.org | [@JuliePConnects](https://www.instagram.com/JuliePConnects) |

14 – 25 Draft Strategy

No one was available to come and update us on this but we looked at the draft strategy with a view to feeding comments to the next stage of its' development. Here is a [link to the draft strategy document](#).

Members did not think the strapline adopted Employment is Everybody's Business' matched what our aspirations for our young people should be.

It was agreed that this strapline made a bit more sense in terms of the strategy being aimed at SEND young people and aiding their access to employment but, even then there should be a broader interpretation of hopes for these young people than just to get jobs.

It was agreed that some young people would be unlikely to gain employment because of levels of complex need. Also some young people may elect to be full time parents. There should be some acknowledgement of different types of aspiration.

There was no mention of mental health and wellbeing in the document.

The developed strategy needs to reflect the realities of life generally for 14-25 year olds not just link in to strategy and objectives determined nationally.

There was no mention of negatives i.e prevention measures against drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, etc.

Members are invited to put forward any other comments which will be fed back to B&NES ahead of the next strategy meeting (date to be confirmed so get your comments in as soon as possible to sue@bapp.org.uk)

Sue mentioned workstreams that had been identified in the development of the strategy. If members have a particular interest in forming part of the working group on any workstream they can put their names forward. Please let me know.

A list of the current workstreams can be found in the meeting notes for the first Stakeholder meeting in December (issued by B&NES) – others are still to be identified. [See meeting notes on this link](#).

Reps Reports.

LSCB – Roz Lambert. A huge amount of documentation , strategy, policy has come from LSCB recently. It is all on their website – have a look at what is applicable for

your organisation: <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/child-protection/local-safeguarding-children-board>

Children's Trust Board – Caroline Haworth. In September the CTB will become a subgroup of the Health & Wellbeing Board. This will ensure that, within our ageing population, the work of the Health & Wellbeing Board looks at the needs of children & young people as well as adults. The focus of the CTB will still be driven by the Children & Young People's Plan and Caroline will continue to sit on this board as our rep.

Other information

Quartet Community Foundation Funding open now:

- Healthy Lives Healthy People – open until 11 March up to £2000 supporting preventative health in the broadest terms.
- Supporting Communities – open until 11 March – up to £1,500 for work on Mental Health issues

Both these funds tend to be undersubscribed so apply now:

<http://quartetcf.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

- Express Grants – always open
- Mall Fountain Fund – open until 24 March up to £1000 can support a very broad area of work – in B&NES we fall within the local area for this grant.
- Comic Relief Local Communities Grant – not available to existing recipients of Comic Relief funding – open to 22 March.

Visit: <http://quartetcf.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

Other Grants & Resources identified by Julie Poll:

Santander Community Plus. Community Plus grants of up to £5,000 are available for local charities or local projects of national charities with funding available to cover salaries, equipment or materials. Grants must directly help disadvantaged people in your local area. We want to fund an entire element rather than make a contribution to a larger budget. Visit: <http://www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/community-plus.aspx>

Greggs Community Foundation – Up to £2000 closes 11 March.

<http://www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/grants/local-community-projects-fund> If applying for this contact Julie as she has the local contact details you will need for your form.

07876476129 or julie.poll@bitconnect.org | [@JuliePConnects](https://twitter.com/JuliePConnects) |

McMillan HR Toolkit for Supporting Employees Affected by Cancer. [Information on the McMillan website.](#)

Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair at Bath College 23 March. Visit: <https://www.bathcollege.ac.uk/event/futures-apprenticeships-and-jobs-fair>

Date of Next Meeting TBC