

Minutes of Harrow Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Forum
Ordinary Meeting held on 28th September 2017, 6pm – 8pm
The Lodge, 64 Pinner Road, Harrow, HA1 4HZ

Attendance:				
Attendee	abbreviation in minutes	Organisation	abbreviation in minutes	Forum Role
Carol Foyle	CF	Kids Can Achieve	KCA	Forum Chair
Gerry Devine	GD	Harrow Community Transport	HCT	Forum Vice-Chair
Thanuja Pereira	TP	South Harrow Christian Fellowship	SHCF	VCS Representative
Bill Phillips	BP	Harrow Association of Disabled	HAD	VCS Representative
Varsha Dodhia	VD	Harrow Interfaith	HI	VCS Representative
Alex Buckmire	AB	Voluntary Action Harrow Co-operative	VAHC	Minute Taker
Linda Robinson	LR	38 Degrees (Harrow Local Group)	38D	
Glenys Tolley	GT	Young Harrow Foundation	YHF	
Vish Alavani	VA	Harrow Community Enterprise	HCE	
Jenny Stephany	JS	Positive Connections	PC	
Jan Irwin	JI	Harrow Domestic and Sexual Violence Forum	HDSVF	
Julian Maw	JM	Hatch End Association	HEA	
Phil Bryson	PB	Harrow Green Drinks	HGD	
Jane Galbraith	JG	Harrow Parks Forum	HPF	
Kathy Westhead	KW	Harrow University of Third Age	HU3A	
Trevor Walker	TW	Prostate Cancer UK	PCU	
Pamela Swain	PS	Harrow Friends Of The Earth	HFOTE	
Ray Barber	RB	St Alban's Church North Harrow	SACNH	
Mary Free	MF	Harrow Lets	HL	

Apologies:				
David Griffiths		Bereavement Care		
Katharine Harrison		Wealdstone Methodist Church		
Avani Modasia		Age UK Harrow		
Shona Duncan	SD	The Westminster Society		Vice-Chair
Deborah Schofield		Harrow Women's Centre		VCS Representative
Beverley Duguid		West London Vision		

Item	Minutes	Action by whom	Action by when
1.	<p>Welcome, Introductions, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>1.1 CF welcomed all. Everyone introduced themselves. Apologies had been received as listed above. No Conflicts of Interest were declared in relation to the agenda topics. CF asked participants to make it known if they wished anything that was said to be omitted from the minutes. AB informed the meeting would be recorded for accuracy of his minute-taking. The recording would be destroyed once the minutes had been endorsed.</p>		
2.	<p>Agenda Review</p> <p>2.1 CF established that all were happy with the agenda's content and sequence.</p>		
3.	<p>Children & Young People</p> <p>3.1 Following on from the Forum's AGM held on 6th June 2017, there have been two working group meetings of the Children, Young People & Families Subgroup; both attended by TP, SD and GT. TP explained that the holistic ethos of the group was to bring organisations together and avoid duplication. Links have already been made with Harrow's Parents Forum and HDSVF.</p> <p>3.2 GT explained that AB had produced a spreadsheet showing which organisations are members of Harrow Community Action (HCA), YHF and the Forum. 141 organisations are members of at least one of the three organisations. HCA has 39 members, YHF has 79 members and the Forum has 70 members. 9 organisations are members of all three.</p> <p>3.3 The group have identified some themes already; recruitment, funding and skills. Initial thoughts are to run a recruitment fair at KCA, however they are still gathering data on themes and plan on running a survey.</p> <p>3.4 TW asked if they had identified any duplication in services. GT mentioned YHF had identified some groups that do similar things and have brought groups together.</p>		

	<p>3.5 TP mentioned that the idea of sharing youth-workers among organisations as a possible solution, enabling more pooling of resources and serving a wider need. CF asked how practical this was. GT explained how there might be different models of making it work. TW agreed the principle of working together was very positive.</p> <p>3.6 VD described how the communities she works with would not want to engage with joint working as they would not get anything out of it. TP explained how her church has positively benefiting from involvement with the local VCS and how one of the ideas of the subgroup was to include more of these groups so they feel less isolated and understand the benefits. JI was keen to explore innovative ways of working together and applying for bids together.</p> <p>3.7 JG asked if YHF was putting in a funding application for activities in parks for families. GT confirmed that YHF has brought groups together to bid for a Sports England bid. They are waiting to hear back from the funders on the outcome of the bid. JG queried where the equipment might be stored. GT explained how they had proposed to put pods in the parks for people to use. CF talked about how one group has developed a proposal for a specialist playground behind KCA.</p> <p>Action: Email TP (shcf@talk21.com) and SD (sduncan@wspld.org) to join the subgroup.</p>	All interested	Soonest
4.	<p>Environment & Sustainability</p> <p>4.1 The Environment & Sustainability (E&S) Subgroup has not met since their first meeting in June, but hope to have a meeting in October. GD explained how there had been difficulties contacting Cllr Graham Henson (Harrow Council Environment Portfolio Holder), however there has been a positive news from the Leader of the Council who welcomed the initiative.</p> <p>4.2 LR remarked how Cllr Graham Henson hadn't understood how the VCS is involved in environment and sustainability. GD suggested this will be a problem that the subgroup can overcome by communicating at all levels within the Council.</p> <p>4.3 PB announced that at a local Green Drinks meeting it was said that bats had been found at Byron Park which might halt plans to build on the site. JG thought it would not stop them in their tracks but could mean buildings might not be demolished. TW described that in Hillingdon someone had looked at the archives of a park and been able to stop building work on that site because it had been given to the people. JG has the deed of Byron Park, which states the park was bought by the Council. The park has general protection which only allows buildings that are going to service the park, however this could be overruled.</p> <p>4.4 JG described how she was looking into getting the Council to agree a deed that all parks would not be built upon. GD explained how this had worked in other boroughs and would be something the subgroup supports.</p> <p>4.5 Concerns were raised about the number of new developments and their effects on the sewage system. Two years ago, Harrow Council did a survey and everything was found to be ok, however it was not believed to take into account the increase of dwellings.</p>		

	<p>4.6 The re-development plans for Harrow View East have been put out for consultation. GD thought the plans seem competent, however they don't take into account the surrounding areas which are saturated with traffic. Cyclist provision has been included with 1,100 secure parking spaces. It was thought Harrow Council need to rethink their re-development approach as it would put a strain on services.</p> <p>4.7 LR gave an update of changes to the Harrow Recycling Centre which is going to require residents to bring ID from November 2017. She also made aware that the positioning of electric vehicle charging was out for consultation, and that Harrow Council are introducing an extra 2000 litter bins.</p>		
<p>5.</p>	<p>Health & Wellbeing (Prostate Cancer UK)</p> <p>5.1 TW described how all families can be affected by prostate cancer. The prostate is a walnut-sized gland located between the bladder and the penis. It is responsible for activating the sperm and is a very important gland.</p> <p>5.2 Awareness is improving, however men tend to ignore the symptoms - putting it down to old age. Each year, 47,000 people are diagnosed in the UK, with 11,000 people dying from the cancer. The most vulnerable group are the over 50's, however people can get it in their 30's or 40's. A higher proportion of black men will get the cancer, and at a younger age. The cancer is more aggressive at a younger age because of the testosterone in the body.</p> <p>5.3 TW explained how a healthy lifestyle can help to prevent prostate cancer. It is also on the increase because men are living longer which increases the chance of getting the cancer. The people most at risk are those in their 50's and those whose immediate family members have had the cancer.</p> <p>5.4 The symptoms include change in urination habits, the prostate getting bigger, blood in urine or semen, and an ache in the pelvic region. However, the symptoms are sometimes misconstrued as they are similar to other diseases or infections. TW explained how a prostate-specific antigen blood test seems to be the best method of detection, and it is important to have regular check-ups. It is possible for re-occurrence, so frequent check-ups are recommended.</p> <p>Action: Email TW (Trevorewalker@aol.com) to book a talk at your group.</p>	<p>All interested</p>	<p>Soonest</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Break</p>		
<p>7.</p>	<p>Health & Wellbeing Subgroup Update</p> <p>7.1 At the last Health & Wellbeing Board meeting it was announced that Harrow Council's Public Health department would be shrinking from 17 full-time equivalent employees to 4.5. VD stated this would have serious implications on what could be done locally. CF confirmed that joint strategic needs assessments would no longer be done. Public Health will continuously review and will only carry out statutory obligated work. JM notified that Harrow Council will no longer share Public Health departments with Barnet Council, meaning Harrow will only have a part-time Director.</p>		

	<p>7.2 Relationships between the Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Council seem to be fraught. CF announced that Harrow Council has less money than they thought for the Better Care Fund, due to Harrow CCG's financial situation. Healthwatch Harrow are proposing a more innovative way forward.</p> <p>7.3 VD explained that Harrow CCG have a deficit, so proposals are to bring the North-West London CCG's together under a shared Accountable Officer, Finance Officer and Chair. This would cover Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Brent, Harrow, Ealing, Hounslow and Hillingdon. JM remarked that there was still a long way to go for this to be formalised.</p> <p>7.4 VD confirmed that the function of Public Health was to administer programmes such as the Harrow Health walks. AB announced Harrow Council had approached VAHC to take over co-ordination of Harrow Health Walks, and if any groups were interested to contact him. The co-ordination comes with no funding attached.</p> <p>7.5 JS was concerned about the level of cuts and the lack of noise about them. BP remarked there had been concerns raised but these were not picked up by the local media.</p> <p>7.6 JG questioned if raising council tax for the wealthiest would help. VD explained one of the issues is that Harrow Council has no big businesses. BP thought it was likely that people would start sourcing private health.</p>		
8.	<p>Management Board Update</p> <p>8.1 At the Leaders Meeting with Harrow Council the Forum's Management Board passed on feedback about the VCS Review. Currently Rocket Science are producing a challenge document from their interviews and meetings. This will be shared with the VCS Review Steering Group.</p>		
9.	<p>Forum VCS Representative Nominations</p> <p>9.1 No nominations had been received for the one remaining vacancy.</p>		
10.	<p>Membership Applications</p> <p>10.1 AB gave details of two Forum membership applications received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrow Parents 4 Disabled Children <i>represented by</i> Olivia King-Boateng • Mariposa Primary School <i>represented by</i> Tracey Francis <p>Agreed: New members accepted.</p>		
11.	<p>Forum Members' Offers and Wants</p> <p>11.1 PB brought attention to the dying horse chestnut trees and wondered if a letter could be sent to Kew Gardens to see if we can do anything about it. LR suggested we ask Harrow Council's Tree Officer.</p> <p>Action: PB to write to Kew Gardens Action: Environment & Sustainability Subgroup to write to Harrow Council's Tree Officer.</p>	<p>PB E&S Subgroup</p>	<p>Soonest Soonest</p>

	<p>11.2 JM announced that Cultura has gone into liquidation and those who donated to the charity are not likely to be reimbursed. Harrow Council are refusing to make a decision about Harrow Arts Centre until the local elections. It was unsure if this news will affect Harrow Heritage Museum. JG reported that Harrow Council was putting in a funding application for Headstone Manor Recreation Ground, which includes waterworks for cleaning the moat.</p> <p>11.3 JM asked if anyone knows of any stiles on walking paths in Hatch End needing renewing to get in contact with him.</p> <p>11.4 GD mentioned a HCT horse racing fundraising event on 14th October at 7.30pm at Home Guard Club, North Harrow Car Park, off Pinner Road, HA2 7TA.</p> <p>11.5 VD drew attention to HIF's Faith, Health and Healing event on 3rd October from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Harrow Quaker Meeting House, 456 Rayners Lane, Pinner, HA5 5DT.</p>		
12.	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting</p> <p>12.1 Accuracy – On page 1 under 'Invited guests in attendance' first row name should have been John Gillespie. With this correction the minutes were approved.</p>		
13.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>13.1 All had been covered.</p>		
14.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>14.1 AB raised awareness of the VCS At The Heart of Harrow event on 11th October from 4.15pm to 6.30pm at The Lodge, 64 Pinner Road, Harrow, HA1 4HZ.</p> <p>14.2 PS distributed letters about the Harrow View West site and encouraged people to send comments in to Harrow Council.</p> <p>14.3 LR asked about what was happening with the Equality & Diversity Forum. AB answered that VAHC was changing tactic due to low sign-up to the forums.</p>		
15.	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>15.1 Thursday 14 December, 10am to 12pm – Location TBC Tuesday 23 January 2018, 10am to 12pm – Location TBC Wednesday 28 March 2018, 6pm to 8pm – Location TBC Tuesday 05 June 2018, 10.30am to 1.30pm (AGM) - Location TBC Wednesday 25 July 2018, 10am to 12pm – Location TBC Tuesday 25 September 2018, 1pm to 3pm - Location TBC Thursday 29 November 2018, 6pm to 8pm – Location TBC</p>		
<p>Meeting closed at 8.03pm</p>			