

Minutes of Harrow Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Forum
Third Annual General Meeting held on 5th June 2018, 10:00am – 1:00pm
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
Shona Duncan	SD	North Harrow Community Library	NHCL	Forum Vice-Chair
Varsha Dodhia	VD	Harrow Interfaith	HI	Forum Representative
Bill Phillips	BP	Harrow Association of Disabled People	HAD	Forum Representative
Alex Buckmire	AB	Voluntary Action Harrow Co-operative	VAHC	Minute Taker
Deven Pillay	DP	Harrow Mencap	HM	
Julian Maw	JM	Hatch End Association	HEA	
Pushpa Hargovan-Laloo	PHL	Harrow Shopmobility	HS	
Ray Barber	RB	St Alban's Parish Church	SAPC	
Aurora Silva	AS	Need To Talk	NTT	
Jan Irwin	JI	Harrow Domestic and Sexual Violence Forum	HDSVF	
Jane Galbraith	JG	Harrow Parks Forum	HPF	
Linda Robinson	LR	38 Degrees, Local Harrow Group	38D	
Nadir Fazal	NF	Need To Talk	NTT	
Cabdul Mohamed	CM	Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations	HASVO	
Marilyn Devine	MD	Headstone Neighbours	HN	
Katherine Harrison	KH	Wealdstone Methodist Church	WMC	

Invited Guests				
Cllr Krishna Kaur	KK	Harrow Council		
Cllr Sue Anderson	SA	Harrow Council		
Ch Supt Simon Rose	SR	Metropolitan Police		

Apologies:				
Gloria Stoll		Norwood		
Sumantra Desai		Asian Foundation for Help		
Jane Skelly		Harrow Friends Of The Earth		
Pamela Swain		Harrow Friends Of The Earth		
Nicky Jayson		10 th Pinner Brownies		
Jack Lynes		Bereavement Care		
David Griffiths		Bereavement Care		
Phil Bryson		Harrow Green Drinks		
Thanuja Pereira	TP	South Harrow Christian Fellowship		
Tajinder Nijjar		Citizens Advice Harrow		
Deborah Schofield		Harrow Women's Centre		
Swan Kazia		Harrow Parks Forum		
Glenys Tolley	GT	Young Harrow Foundation		

Item	Minutes	Action by whom	Action by when
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>1.1 SD welcomed all. No conflicts of interest were declared in relation to the agenda topics. SD established that all were happy with the agenda's content and sequence. AB informed the meeting would be recorded for the accuracy of minutes but that the recording would be destroyed once the minutes had been formally signed off and agreed.</p>		
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>2.1 Apologies had been received as listed above.</p>		

3.	<p>Annual Review</p> <p>3.1 SD stated it had been a positive year with a lot of work and progress. Regular meetings have been held with the leaders of the Council, and the Management Board are building relationships with key stakeholders to further the local VCS agenda and communication flow.</p> <p>3.2 The planning, facilitation, launch, and implementation of the Harrow VCS Review was seen to be a vital tool in strengthening relationships with the Council moving forward. GD felt it had been beneficial in the case of progressing communications for NHCL.</p> <p>3.3 Health & Wellbeing Subgroup – Focus has been around the integrated care agenda. Harrow CCG is making savings, which means cuts in commissioning. Special thanks were given to VD for her work on the subgroup.</p> <p>3.4 Environmental & Sustainability Subgroup – A number of discussions have taken place surrounding travel, air quality, parks, and waste collection. LR encouraged those wishing to attend events where there are external speakers to send questions before the meeting to ensure smooth co-ordination. They are following up, and chasing up, with relevant agencies where they have queries. Special thanks were given to LR for her co-ordination of the subgroup. The topic of the next meeting will be recycling. All were welcomed.</p> <p>3.5 Children, Young People & Families Subgroup – SD, GT and TP were working on setting up the subgroup with Young Harrow Foundation.</p> <p>3.6 DP stated the progress with subgroups was to be commended and could be further strengthened with the creation of stances and statements on issues that affect the community. SD and GD agreed, stating this should come hand in hand with the recruitment of the VCS Cabinet Advisor Role.</p>		
4.	<p>Finance Review</p> <p>4.1 The Forum has a bank account in an effort to become more financially sustainable.</p>		
5.	<p>Membership Update</p> <p>5.1 AB had received three new applications for Forum membership since the last Forum meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignite Trust – Linda Dunleavy • Harrow Public Transport Users Association – Anthony Wood • #Fixit Harrow Network – Caren Louise Duhig <p>AB confirmed that all of these met the criteria for membership.</p> <p>Agreed: All three members to be accepted.</p> <p>5.2 Eight members did not renew their membership.</p>		
6.	<p>Minutes of the last AGM of 6th June 2017 – Accuracy & Matters Arising</p> <p>6.1 The previous AGM minutes were reviewed and agreed as a true record.</p> <p>6.2 All matters had been dealt with as expected.</p>		

7.	<p>Minutes of the last Forum meeting of 28th March 2018 – Accuracy & Matters Arising</p> <p>7.1 The previous minutes were reviewed by Chair and agreed as a true record.</p> <p>7.2 All matters were seen to have been dealt with as expected.</p>		
8.	<p>Elections to the Management Board</p> <p>8.1 CF stepped down as Chair. Everyone expressed their thanks for her contribution to the Forum and the VCS Sector.</p> <p>8.2 Chair – VD and BP appointed as Co-Chairs. VD stated that a focus would be on engagement with members.</p> <p>8.2 Vice-Chair – GD and SD appointed as Vice-Chairs.</p> <p>8.3 There had been no nominations for Secretary or Treasurer.</p> <p>Action: Role descriptions to be created and shared for the Secretary and Treasurer roles.</p> <p>8.4 VS Cabinet Advisor Role – The Harrow VCS Forum Management Board had received an application from John Higgins. They have met with him and are proposing to the Council that he takes up the role. He has experience of collaboration, statutory sector, and relevant expertise. Clarity was given that the Cabinet Advisor would not be advising on behalf of single VCS organisations. The new Council Leader (Cllr Graham Henson) is very supportive of the Advisory Role, so there should be no veto to his appointment.</p>	Forum Management Board	Next Meeting
9.	<p>Future Meeting Venues</p> <p>9.1 AB asked if anyone wants to host future Forum meetings to contact him via email alexbuckmire@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk.</p>		
10.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>10.1 No other business was raised.</p>		
11.	<p>Discussion – Combating Crime</p> <p>11.1 SR is the Borough Commander for Harrow, Barnet and Brent. He explained the amalgamation to a tri-borough police force mainly brought together back-office operations and removed levels of senior management. He did not envisage this having an effect on the number of street police officers. The merger has meant that there is a bigger pool of resources to use in tri-borough strategy.</p> <p>11.2 There has been a surge in violent crime in Harrow, with South Harrow and Wealdstone being highlighted as key areas. Comparatively, Harrow is still one of the lowest crime boroughs in London with a knife crime increase of 8% compared to Brent where it has increased by 56%. The pattern of knife crime isn't similar in Harrow, as it is not gang but drug-related. The police were taking an enforcement approach, carrying out more weapon sweeps.</p>		

	<p>11.3 Problems have been identified with teenagers as young as thirteen to fourteen; in particular, those with troubled families and from foreign countries. The police were doing more with the justice system and schools to find early prevention strategies which would break the cycle of criminal activity. SR welcomed the VCS help in this.</p> <p>11.4 JI described the huge impact the loss of local police relationships was having at a community level. VD went on to say more needs to be done to reassure residents, as fear of crime has increased. SR explained how the provision is not decreasing, and average response times will remain low. Local Designated Ward Officers would remain to be the local presence, with the creation of a Partnership Tasking Team where Officers set priorities on a bi-weekly basis. Information on where to find contact details of Officers is on the Metropolitan Police Website. If it is a sensitive or strategic matter, you can approach the Safer Neighbourhood Inspectors.</p> <p>11.5 The communication channels are multi-lingual, with many leaflets and social media accounts in different languages. The police have good relationships with <i>Harrow Times</i> to ensure effective communications are sent out regularly.</p> <p>11.6 If anyone is vulnerable, crime provision visits can be arranged to follow up any concerns of individuals. SR described how sometimes the best strategies for crime prevention are not to overload streets with Police Officers but to take a measured approach which is more targeted.</p> <p>11.7 Prevention of anti-social behaviour is being integrated within services. For example, partnerships are being created where shopping centres can notify schools when one of their pupils has behaved inappropriately. This allows the school to follow up with the student, helping to drive behavioural change. Relationships have also been built with Transport for London, meaning if Oyster card holders receive more than one warning for their behaviour, their Oyster cards could be taken from them.</p>		
<p>12.</p>	<p>Discussion – VCS Sector</p> <p>12.1 SA’s role title has changed to Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement and Accessibility. Council leadership are very keen for VCS engagement at all levels. SA thought that it was important to have a good relationship with your Ward Councillors who can be found on the Harrow Council website.</p>		
<p>13.</p>	<p>Dates of Future Forum meetings</p> <p>13.1 To be confirmed.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 12.52pm</p>		