

**Minutes of the VCSF Management Committee
Meeting held on
Tuesday the 3rd February 2009 at 10am
Ashton House**

Present:

John Taylor(JT)	Cheshire Neighbours
Tracey Langston (TL)	CNVA – minute taker
Ray Stafford(RS)	Parkinsons' Society
Andreas Weisner(AW)	Cheshire County Council
Dorothy Flude	Cheshire County Council
Wendy Gjerstad	CNVA

Apologies:

Tina Jones	Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council
Helen Aspden	NSPCC
Peter Speed	YMCA
Val Butler	DRE

	Minutes	Action
1.	Welcome: JT opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were offered by Peter Speed, Tina Jones and Helen Aspden.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes accepted as a true record of the last meeting. Proposed by RS seconded by WG. No new declarations of interest.	
3.	Matters Arising: WG advised that Azhural had left CHWREC and they were presently recruiting a new worker. RS queried the number of representatives on the Congress committee – WG advised that the proposed number had been 12 but this had not yet been set. WG gave an overview of the structure of Congress to Dorothy Flude and raised her concerns about CVS/VA not being allocated a seat on the LSP Executive Committee. RS queried network development – WG reported that at present only the Older People's network and Children & Young People's established. WG reported that there would need to be a considerable amount of development work to identify and develop the networks, she has suggested that the Congress moves forward with representation from the local networks until other networks are established and sustainable.	
4.	Crewe Town Council - Dorothy Flude : Dorothy Flude attended the meeting to give an update on	

Crewe Town Council and the new unitary authority. Within Cheshire East all areas are parished except for Crewe, Macclesfield and Wilmslow. Government Office North West have asked the 12 councillors who represent Crewe Town to have their names read out in parliament. These councillors will then become chartered Trustees. In April these 12 individuals will meet and decide who will be Crewe Town Mayor. The town has a civic function responsibility which must be fulfilled. 4700 names went on a petition for Crewe Town Council. The Town Council of Crewe will be very important as it is recognised that Crewe is the economic generator of Cheshire East. Town Councils and Parish Council will have some delegated budgets so it is important that Crewe has a Town Council.

Dorothy went on to give a very comprehensive overview of the Cheshire East Unitary Authority – including the following key points:

- Some services will remain pan Cheshire – these include Highways (which may be split North and South); payroll, pensions, County Farms, Civil Protection, Occupational Health, County Archives, Youth Offending Team, Special Support Library, Emergency Out of Hours, International Unit, Waste disposal, Extra care housing etc
- 640 staff from Cheshire County Council will be transferred to Crewe and will be based in Delamere House
- Each of the new unitarys' will receive 11 million from County Council, there will also be 18 million in grants to the East and an estimation of the buildings in the West will be made and a paper transfer will occur to the East of half the value
- Cheshire East will be the third largest Unitary in the North West with a population of 360700 people
- 154 schools
- 25% of all households will be pensioners and that figure is set to rise
- Still no set figures for the budget
- Crewe council tax will have to increase by 1.14%, Macclesfield will stay the same, Congleton down by 1% in the new Unitary.
- The council make up is 59 conservatives, 6 labour, 4 independents and 12 libs

John thanked Dorothy Flude for attending the meeting and

	giving such an extensive overview.	
5.	Over arching Cheshire East network group: Concerns about how Congress will move forward were raised in the sub group meeting – no business case has been submitted to Nuala yet. The sub group meets again prior to the Congress meeting on 10.02.09.	
6.	Spring Forum: TL advised 15 people so far (this number increased to 22 by end of 04.02.09) – TL to email invitation to other CVS and Learning Together. May need to do a ring around next week.	TL
7.	Action Plan: TL circulated a draft for 09/10 and asked group members to review and feedback. It was agreed that a summary list of the action plan would be done and would be sent out for input from the sector.	TL
8.	Any other business: WG expressed concern about Congress – a debate took place about the need for CVS/VA in the East to be recognised as a strategic partner and the organisation best placed to support and develop Congress.	
9.	Date of next meeting: 3 rd March – Tuesday – 10am	All