

**Minutes of the VCSF Management Committee
Meeting held on
Tuesday the 3rd March 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
Wendy Gjerstad	CNVA
Tina Jones (TJ)	CNBC
Val Butler (VB)	DRE
Claire Robinson (CR)	Homestart
Jane Whetnall(JW)	Cheshire Academy

Apologies:

Helen Aspden	NSPCC
Peter Speed	YMCA
Bill Gregory	Samaritans

	Minutes	Action
1.	Welcome: JT opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were accepted. CR was co-opted as a member of the group.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes accepted as a true record of the last meeting.	
3.	Matters Arising: WG advised that she had met with the new worker from CHWREC – seemed very proficient and had hit the ground running. The new worker, Helen Martin, has extensive knowledge of tendering and contracts and has offered to run training for the Voluntary Sector through CNVA. AW asked if an update was known on the Crewe Town Council – no update known. Cheshire East Authority budget set at £264 million.	
4.	Congress Steering Group Structure: Meeting of Congress held on 02.03.09 at Congleton District Voluntary Action. WG fed back on discussions of the group. The draft governing document is out for consultation until 06.03.09. The steering group representation has finally been sorted – 4 reps from each local network – 1 rep to be the network chair, one to be the CVS rep and 2 from the network. It was suggested that the 4 reps should try to cover a range of communities of interest. PS has agreed to support the business plan but he is very busy with the rebuild at the YMCA. He has therefore had to	

	<p>withdraw from the Forum Management Committee and Congress Steering Group whilst the work at the YMCA is ongoing.</p> <p>After much discussion it was agreed that the reps for Crewe & Nantwich would be as follows: CVS – Wendy Gjerstad Forum Chair – John Taylor (representing Older People) Helen Aspden (representing Children & Young People) Jane Whetnall (representing disability/health)</p> <p>Reserve reps would be Clare Robinson (representing Children and Young People) and Val Butler (representing Disability and Health).</p> <p>It was agreed that all 6 representatives would receive Congress papers in advance of meetings.</p> <p>The next Congress meeting (to be attended by the newly established Steering group of 12) is 23rd March 2009 at 1.30pm. Location Congleton Voluntary Action – Hope Street – Sandbach.</p>	
5.	<p>Forum 09.03.09 update: TJ advised that she and Maureen Groppe would not be able to attend. TL advised bookings now at 45+ - all arrangements made and the event is ready to go – TL just has some background work to finalise. WG feels confident that she has secured £500 towards the event – if this is the case agendas will need to show the Change Up Capacity Builders logo. With regard to the April event (23rd) Funding Forum – bookings are coming in all the time – we are hoping to see about 100+ people present. The agenda has been set and a draft will accompany these minutes.</p>	<p>TL</p> <p>TL/WG</p> <p>TL</p>
6.	<p>VCSF action plan: TL circulated the action plan – AW suggested the other areas adopt the action plan format – it was agreed that this was a possibility for the future. TJ suggested target numbers be added so we can measure effectiveness of work and whether actions have been achieved. TL asked all to forward comments relating to the plan by 31st March – if none are received TL will start to use this action plan in April 09.</p>	<p>TL</p> <p>All TL</p>
7.	<p>Any other business:</p>	

	<p>AW advised that the New Leaf partnership is working with the extra care development (at the bottom of Frank Webb Ave) it is expected that 50 entry level jobs will be available when the work finishes. There is a New Leaf event on 1st May 09 – Sam Wilkinson has taken the lead for the VCS and will promote volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Wendy Crowther, New Leaf, is currently trying to negotiate to see if there is any training available to make people who are interested in the entry level jobs, work ready.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>JW advised that new laws were coming into effect with regard to CRB checking. It was going to cost £50 per person to have details entered onto a special database. JW suggested it might be useful to cascade this important legal change through the Forum. WG advised that she would contact Volunteering England and ask for their input on this matter.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>TJ advised a low carbon community's event on 19th March at 10am at Marshfield Community Centre. Quite a few exhibitions there – lunch and an opportunity to network also included. TJ will forward this to WG.</p> <p>Transition Towns event (looking at climate change) – probably on 23rd March 2009 – but the date needs to be confirmed – TJ will advise.</p> <p>At the close of the Crewe Nantwich LSP 150 people attended the event – lots of positive feedback – lots of initiatives in this district that people want to carry forward.</p> <p>LSP Exec have met twice – next meeting on 16th March 2009 – probably be 5 thematic groups but this needs to be confirmed – groups may include: CDRP, Children's, Health & Wellbeing, Environment.</p> <p>Local Area Partnerships have been agreed – 7 areas.</p> <p>Tatton Park open day 28th March 2009 – this is free to enter for the day in celebration of the time that Cheshire County Council have owned and run the site.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>VB advised that hopefully as of 1st April 2009 the DRE would be moving to unit 10 of the Brierly Centre.</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>WG</p> <p>TJ</p>
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	CR advised that Homestart would be having a charity quiz at Legends on 30 th April at 7.30pm.	
8.	Date of next meeting: 5 th May 2009 – Tuesday 10am	All