

**Minutes of the VCSF Management Committee
Meeting held on 22nd July 2009 at 10am
At Ashton House**

Present:

John Taylor(JT)	Cheshire Neighbours
Tracey Langston (TL)	CNVA – minute taker
Ray Stafford(RS)	Parkinsons' Society
Andreas Weisner(AW)	Cheshire East
Wendy Gjerstad (WG)	CNVA
Helen Aspden (HA)	NSPCC
Peter Speed (PS)	YMCA
Tina Jones	CNBC

Apologies:

Bill Gregory	Samaritans
Jane Whetnall	Cheshire Academy

	Minutes	Action
1.	Welcome: JT opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were accepted	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes accepted as a true record of the last meeting. Proposed RS accepted PS	
3.	Matters Arising: RS advised that Yvonne Partridge had passed away in St Luke's Hospice on Tuesday. Marshfield is celebrating 10 years this year, Yvonne's son has taken over and he has a good number of volunteers behind him.	
4.	July Forum: TL advised the event was attended by 27 representatives of 20 VCS organisations. There were a good balance of groups in attendance – feedback was given about the L.A.P's and Congress. All who attended agreed that the workshops had been very fruitful- the information gathered at the workshops has been forwarded to the Congress committee and a copy was also circulated to members of this meeting. PS suggested that TL summarise the findings in the newsletter rather than list as they had come out of the meeting – all agreed this was a good idea. TL agreed to include in the newsletter to ensure members were aware of the activity of the Forum and Congress. TJ advised that the partnership team hadn't been aware of the Forums in Macclesfield and Congleton – they had been aware of the Crewe & Nantwich meeting. PS advised that he had received emails from attendees	

	<p>about suggestions for the vision of Crewe. The meeting had been positive but this is an area that needs continual attention to ensure all are aware of what is happening.</p> <p>WG advised that the evaluation sheets had been positive – the Congress and LAP presentations had been useful – but she felt the Congress feedback more so. There needs to be more promotion about what Congress can do for the VCS. WG expressed concern that there might still be a view that Congress was something like a CVS – another organisation who could present a threat in terms of funding and resources. This was something for the Congress Steering group to tackle and look for ways to promote Congress effectively.</p> <p>PS agreed that Congress needed to be given better definition and focus about what the purpose of the network was. TJ suggested that flow charts might show the links and relationship more clearly between Congress and CVS.</p> <p>HA stated that it was difficult as funding has not been in place to support the development of Congress, so all the work has been done on the goodwill of those involved. AW stated that people don't understand the difference between personal, organisational and strategic decisions- people lack knowledge to be able to engage at a strategic level. HA replied that strategic work will be delivered by Congress – but there is a need to define the role of Congress as strategic where as CNVA is very focussed on capacity building and representation.</p> <p>TJ advised the group that she was presently working on a newsletter for the partnership team – there appears to be very mixed understanding about what the L.A.P's do.</p> <p>PS commented that some things are about time, we can see how it will all fit together when we get there, but it will take time to embed this. Needs to be a constant feature of the next few forums to ensure that this area is kept on the top of the agenda.</p> <p>TJ advised all Local Area Partnerships up and running but no Managers in place yet.</p> <p>WG – the work of the L.A.P. will be district specific – TJ commented that there will be common themes across all L.A.P's but each area will define its own priorities.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Autumn Forum: This would be held on 19th October 2009 at the Municipal Buildings Crewe. There was still ongoing discussion with possible workshop leaders but suggestions included Sustranz, Groundwork and Keith Boughy from Cheshire East. TL had contacted Sustranz, Peter Foster, who was</p>	

	<p>happy to lead a workshop – but the group asked TL to go back to Peter to see if he could target the energy use element of the work shop towards groups rather than individuals.</p> <p>TL to contact Jane Stayley at Groundwork as Jane will be setting up the Environmental Theme group for Cheshire East, TL to ask Jane if she could lead a workshop or deliver a presentation on the theme group and relevance to the sector.</p> <p>TJ to contact Tania Sayer to see if she might be available to speak at the Forum from the local perspective and if so what she might talk about.</p> <p>WG and PS also stressed the need for the next Forum to include LAP and Congress updates, TL added that the next Forum would be the AGM – so would need to include Business of the Forum. TL to include all on agenda.</p>	<p>TL</p> <p>TL</p> <p>TJ</p> <p>TL</p>
6.	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>RS commented that he found the feedback from workshops useful.</p> <p>PS added that the event had been successful and the forums were consistently well attended.</p> <p>TL summarised future events being planned as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding Network – first meeting set as 24.08.09 • Contract training – Jan Mellor – 6th November 2009 (£20 per delegate) • Meet the Funder – Date to be confirmed • European Funding Awareness Training – Date to be confirmed • Large Funding Forum – Civic Hall, Nantwich – 22nd April 2010 	
7.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Tuesday 15th September 2009 10am – location t.b.c.</p>	All