

## ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE VCS RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT GROUP (RMG) MEETING

**MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 11.00AM TO 12.00PM**

**MEETING ROOM 101, MARGARET McMILLAN TOWER**

CBMDC		Bradford District Assembly Steering Group	
Name	Department	Name	Assembly Steering Group (ASG)
Cllr Abdul Jabar (Cllr AJ)	Chair and Executive Portfolio Holder	Sam Keighley (SK)	Health & Well Being Board representative
Alison Milner (AM)	Office of the Chief Executive	Helen Speight (HS)	Health & Well-Being Forum
Ian Day (ID)	Department of Place	Tony Dylak (TD)	Regeneration & Prosperity Forum
Martin Stubbs (MS)	Corporate Services	Javed Khan (JK)	CNet
Heather Wilson (HW)	Children's Services	Peter Horner (PH)	Young Lives
Mark Anslow (MA)	Children's Services	Dave Forrest (DF)	Volunteering Bradford
Sarah Possingham (SP)	Health and Wellbeing		
Nazrul Meah (NM)	Office of the Chief Executive		

### APOLOGIES

Jenny Cryer (JC)	Children's Services	Soo Nevison (SN)	CABAD
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### Item 1: Update on the Issues Discussed at the last VCS RMG meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

It was previously agreed that the VCS would write to the relevant Strategic Director requesting that ASG members are invited to the appropriate DMT/ Outcome Board Meetings. The purpose being that members thought that it would be useful to be able to input into particular areas where budget commitments are being developed into deliverable actions.

It was felt that unfortunately this arrangement has not worked as envisaged as the Outcome Board agendas and discussions focus on the Council Plan outcome areas which is an internal agenda (as opposed to the District Plan for example). The offer was still welcome but there was a need to identify a way forward.

It was suggested and agreed that there would be an initial conversation between the Transformation and Business Change Manager and the Assistant Director Finance & Procurement to propose a way forward.

There is a need to identify areas for collaboration (Early Help is an example) and getting involved before the Budget is set. There is no fixed thinking of how the budget will be set, however, there will be certain proposals where these have already been agreed therefore not open to proposals.

**Action:** OCX to liaise with Transformation and Business Change Manager and the Assistant Director Finance & Procurement to identify how best to accommodate VCS input into budget commitments.

### Item 2: VCS Transformation Programme

This item showcased a good example of joint good co-design and collaborative working between the Council and the VCS.

The purpose of the programme is to provide a 'health check' facility that can identify and deliver a range of interventions that strengthens the long term viability and provides guidance and support to voluntary sector organisations where there are challenges to organisational sustainability.

It was agreed that this was a great process and has achieved good outcomes by way of working together and investing in specialist support and is a good model/ template to consider.

### ITEM 3: The Big Think

The idea of the 'Big Think' was conceived by Kersten England, Sam Keighley and Helen Hirst. The initial thinking focussed on the strategic direction of travel for health and social care to see a 'left shift' in resources to enable better demand management by managing more care and support in local communities. This would improve outcomes through a focus on prevention and early intervention and to facilitate individuals to take greater responsibility for their own health, wellbeing and utilisation of services to support them to do so.

A workshop took place on 1st November 2017 to develop ideas and Action Plans. This will be a focal part of the VCS Annual Conference to take place on 13th March where the idea is to design and challenge.

It was mentioned that through the Integration and Change Board (ICB) groups of organisations from provider communities were working together collaboratively to develop a core set of principles. It was agreed that there is a need to keep connecting and working together to manage the capacity of the workforce to deliver and that supporting the most vulnerable is both intensive financially and from a resource perspective. It is useful that the VCS are embedded in the communities.

### ITEM 4: Universal Credit

There will be a lot of pressure for VCS organisations when Universal Credit (UC) 'Full Service' is introduced in Bradford on 20th June 2018.

UC is the last of the changes coming in as part of the Government's overall Welfare Reform programme. The different provisions already put into place were briefly highlighted and the mention of further forthcoming government funding.

There is VCS representation at the Anti-Poverty Co-ordination Group (APCG) but this will need to be reconsidered by the sector as the previous representative from the VCS has moved on. There is Faith Sector representation on the group.

An important provision which needs to be considered in detail is that of digital support and where support is available (as UC applications will need to be completed online). Work is on-going between the Council's Customer Service team, Manningham Housing Association, Incommunities and the Citizens Advice Bureau as well as with private landlords. It is a challenge trying to 'map' all organisations where this available and there is a need to work with libraries and community organisations to see where there is need for additional support. It needs to be ensured that some type of support is available in all the major centres to provide immediate support – initially, the Council's key access points would be the minimum support available.

The VCS are aware of where many of these organisations are (with IT available) it would be very useful to share this information and also other ideas of how best to identify access points around the district.

It is very difficult at the moment to envisage what the demand will be but it is estimated that approximately 30,000 case loads will be converting to UC but it will not be until 2022 until everyone has converted.

There is some updated training available for Advice Workers in April/ May.

**Action:** VCS to send any ideas they may have for identifying where digital access is available.

**Action:** VCS to share the dates of the forthcoming UC training.