

Terms of Reference

1. Role of the Network

Improve engagement between Bradford Districts Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), the Community Safety Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Provide an arena for discussion and debate and have voice and influence at all levels.

Developing and maintain services to support prevention and intervention.

Raise the profile of the VCS and highlight areas of expertise and provision.

Members and representatives will bring knowledge, skills and expertise to the Network gained through working with the Voluntary and Community Sector and the diverse range of communities within it.

Bring together VCS organisations, groups and interested individuals in the District with an interest in the following areas:

- Domestic and sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Safer neighbourhoods
- Criminal justice
- Strong, Cohesive Communities

2. Aims and objectives

The network will:

Develop and improve effective channels of communication between the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and statutory agencies

Provide an arena within the VCS for information exchange, meaningful consultation and participation opportunities

Raise the profile of the VCS and highlight areas of expertise and provision.

Link current VCS representatives with the network, identify gaps in representation and aim for collective third sector voice and influence in local decision making.

3. Membership

Membership is open to any group or organisation, statutory or non-statutory working in the Bradford District

Each group or organisation is entitled to one vote in decision making and elections

Membership should as much as possible include a balance of representation in terms of diversity. Where voting is required each member organisation will have one vote.

Quorum: 3 member votes - any decision can be carried by a rule of majority.

4. Structure

i. Forum Steering Group

The group will be responsible for the development and activities of the forum. The group will consist of member organisations, elected officers and community representatives.

ii. Forum Sub-Groups

Members with an interest in particular areas can form specialist task groups subject to approval from the Forum Steering Group.

The wider membership of the Forum and external partners will be invited to participate in themed meetings and briefings. The membership will have access to regular feedback from Forum representatives and the minutes of forum meetings.

5. S/election of Officers

Elected Officers will serve for a term of 3 years from the date of Election.

6. Protocols

The Forum will implement the CLG's (**C**ommunities and **L**ocal **G**overnment) Principles of Representation outlined below;

1. **Accountability** – clearly defined responsibilities for all decisions and actions
2. **Equality** – place equality, diversity and inclusiveness at the core of what you do
3. **Openness** – be as open as possible in all your dealings and relationships
4. **Purpose** – be clear about the local sector's objectives and support them with a strong evidence base
5. **Sustainability** – ensuring the continuation of the collective voice
6. **Values** – identify and build on the values of the local sector

7. Declaration of Interest

Network members may occasionally have a specific interest in the matters under discussion. When these matters involve financial gain and/or interest, a full declaration of interest must be made and no participation in any vote, decision-making or endorsement of proposals on the matter will be allowed.