

**Present:** Kim Shutler (KS) (Chair), Janet Ford (JF) (CNet), Javed Khan (JK) (CNet), Helen Speight (HS) (HWB Forum Co-Chair), Mark Nicholson (MN) (Equalities Forum Co-Chair), Penny Wangari-Jones (PWJ) (Equalities Forum Co-chair), Peter Horner (PH) (Young Lives Forum), Yasmin Khan (YK) (Safer Communities Forum Co-Chair, Helen Davey (HD) (HWB Forum Co-Chair), Soo Nevison (Community Action), Rachel Stanton, Ben Cross (BVCSA), Ben joined at 3:34pm

**In attendance:** Saima Ashfaq (minutes),

**Apologies:** Jon Royle, Tony Dylak, Nasim Qureshi, Vicky Beere, Steve Blackman

Item		Action
1	<p><b>Introductions, and apologies</b></p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. Declarations of interest to be declared against each agenda item as appropriate</i></li> <li><i>ii. Equalities: Discussions/decisions/issues that may have a disproportionate effect on protected characteristics to be raised against each agenda item as appropriate.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>KS welcomed all.</b></p> <p><b>KS suggested Rachel facilitate item 3 on the agenda.</b></p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item 2: Yasmin Khan – Staying Put / Safer Communities - £760m large pot of money from Lottery to be distributed.</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b>Proposed Covid Structures</b></p> <p>Rachel has circulated a paper to all ASG members outlining a proposal for interim post Covid Assembly Activities. Discussion around proposal and questions. Key points:</p>	

- YK asked how information would be managed on a strategic level and how learning would be disseminated in the proposed new structure as currently this is done via the chairs of the forums. Rachel replied that this will be covered in next item in the agenda. KS said that a leadership structure that feeds into other structures would still be needed.
- HD asked if ASG membership would be replaced by new chairs in the new structure or added to? KS replied this was up for discussion.
- PWJ pointed out that the priority areas seemed vague. KS explained that the topics suggested were a starter for ten, pre Covid and during. A level of flexibility is needed for overarching topics. Rachel added that she kept the priorities broad so that sub groups could be added underneath.
- HS said that one of the strengths of HWB forum was that it brings broad groups together and expressed concerns about losing this reach. MHPF would need to be broader not just provider forum. HD agreed that should not lose the current reach that the HWB forum has.
- HS asked what the reach was of different priority areas, how are we going to keep this reach?
- Rachel highlighted that the recommendations from the Infrastructure workshops indicated that “some workshop participants were up for a radical change to the Assembly Forums.”
- JF highlighted that many members of the Assembly Forum Core Groups would have good ideas of how the Assembly could improve and that many of the people attending the workshops did not actually attend forum meetings. JF suggested the solution was more of a transition and finding a solution to what is not working rather than starting a new structure based on minimal intelligence. Current Assembly priorities are mirrored by the proposal and in fact there are further priorities already in place such as social, financial and digital inclusion which may be lost if a completely new structure with broad headings is replaced the Assembly.
- YK said that a key driver behind change is resource, need to focus on key priorities. There are people who will always be negative about work being done but will never actually get involved themselves. Have to recognise that we will always get that feedback. Need to look at what people want to go away with from meetings. Lacking in capacity to make this happen at the moment.
- MN said that it was about planning for the future and once the topics have been clearly identified everyone can see how they can feed in. The T&FG approach will enable more stakeholders to get involved. We can drive forward to try and get stakeholders buy in
- HD emphasised the importance of working with statutory partners going forward.
- JK expressed concern over the influence statutory partners may have on the shaping of key decisions and direction of forums e.g. the Mental Health Providers Forum when initially set up was heavily influenced by commissioners. As a sector we would need to be proactive and set our own priorities rather than responding to statutory agendas. HD agreed that these were real risks

**JF to forward current Forum priorities to Rachel to compare with those proposed**

	<p>however said the opportunities could outweigh the risks if managed well. It can be an opportunity to challenge stakeholders' thinking however it would take careful strategic thinking and planning which is hard work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KS also added that there has been a shift over the last couple of years, particularly over the Covid19 period, where the VCS seems to have been on more equal footing in terms of strategic decision making. There is definitely an appetite for that to continue however will need to 'test and learn'</li> <li>• PH also emphasised that it will need to be framed in a way where the VCS is not dominated</li> <li>• JK highlighted that the Assembly has always used T&amp;FGs, however in order to take them to the next step resource was needed. This is where partners would need to be brought in</li> <li>• HD suggested creating safe spaces in case the VCS voice becomes outweighed</li> <li>• PWJ thanked KS for her response to the BAME paper but pointed out that the issue is not just about race but poverty and deprivation also. Need to look at the multiple issues affecting health inequalities. Ensure that communities that have no other way of being are supported equitably. PWJ emphasised that focused work is still necessary or niche and nuanced needs will become lost.</li> <li>• BC asked whether we are all actually clear on what we want to achieve in terms of outcomes.</li> <li>• JF asked when and how it was agreed to develop a Resilience Network lead by Community Action.</li> </ul> <p>Agreed to add Resilience to next agenda</p> <p>Agreed to arrange another ASG meeting in just over a week.</p>	<p><b>Rachel to look at next steps, thrashing out of themes, priorities and T&amp;FG sitting under themes with chairs</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>ASG membership-engagement of "ASG plus"</b> Item deferred</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Assembly Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KS suggested the conference could be a way to test this thinking with a broader group and that there have been some very successful big online workshops</li> <li>• HS said that we would need to be careful of how this is planned if it goes forward, smaller breakout rooms work well.</li> <li>• HD asked if there was a danger of over consulting</li> <li>• HD highlighted Penny's earlier point of picking up the 'golden threads' in each of the themes so that no one is left behind and questioned if this where the ASG can show leadership?</li> </ul>	

<b>6</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KS: Meeting to be arranged between BVCSA Board, ASG Board and Kamran Rashid to talk about strategic funding. VB to arrange.</li></ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  Thursday 21 May 2020, 4pm via Zoom  Meeting ended at 4.10pm	