

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), Peter Horner (PH) (Young Lives Forum), Yasmin Khan (YK) (Safer Communities Forum Co-Chair, Nasim Qureshi (NQ) (CEF Forum Co-Chair), Helen Davey (HD) (HWB Forum Co-Chair), Ben Cross (BVCSA), Soo Nevison (Community Action)

In attendance: Saima Ashfaq (minutes), Rachel Stanton

Apologies: Jon Royle, Tony Dylak

| Item | | Action |
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| 1 | <p>Introductions, and apologies</p> <p>Note:</p> <p><i>i. Declarations of interest to be declared against each agenda item as appropriate</i></p> <p><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></p> <p>Rachel Stanton chaired the meeting.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Member Updates on Covid19</p> <p>Helen Davey – role around MH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an operational plan for the mental health response to Covid which involves 23 diff projects • Providers have been focusing on keeping existing clients well and out of hospital, part of HD’s role has been to ensure providers can do this as a team. • Recent focus has been on bereavement support. Working with a counselling collective to pull together pathways and training around this. | <p>HD to circulate MH Operational plan</p> |

- Conducting a piece of work on acute care which can provide a single point of contact from which people can then be directed to any VCS organisation
- In response to recent focus on BME and Covid, work is ongoing looking at a potential BME Health Network.
- HD emphasised the importance of trying to join up the different ongoing research around MH.

Peter Horner – Young Lives

- Providing generic support on volunteering database and surveys
- Particular concern around a drop in referrals to Social Services – Jayne Booth is taking this very seriously. It is also a national issue, as children are not in schools teachers are not able to pick up as much. Numbers have picked up now as schools have been reminded that they still have a safeguarding responsibility.

Mark Nicholson – Poverty

- Looked at referral processes in terms of Welfare Advice. Making offer more accessible, working heavily with protected characteristics, making sure message goes out.
- Looking at wellbeing aspect, digital and non-digital and looking at how can link in with district strategies.
- Working with Credit Union to offer financial support with universal credit
- Most of MN's time has been spent setting up processes to deliver and reassurances

Javed Khan – Assembly / CNet

- Janet has been supporting Bradford West Hub as the volunteer coordinator. There are 350 volunteers on the database; Wendy and Sanaa are supporting Janet to allocate volunteers to roles that assist the community during the pandemic. Not many requests from the Council for volunteers but there have been requests from organisations The volunteers who are able to remain on the database will be called on after Covid19 for other work e.g. befriending requests and help at foodbanks.
- CNet staff are providing support around communications (Facebook and social media) for the Central VCSE Comms group headed by Victoria Simmons. Each week there is a different push in messages
- Big Local have given additional money to support Covid initiatives in the area – a lot of food projects, hygiene packs, potential IT project, trying to link in with existing projects
- Roma Engagement – a letter was sent to the Leaders office about support to the Roma Community during the pandemic. CNet is currently commissioned to develop a Roma Strategy,

and has already engaged with stakeholders about concerns, and what special measures are in place to mitigate the issues raised. KS asked if there is anything to take forward to raise at command structures on this topic. JK replied that engaging with this community is difficult and did not want this community or any other to be stigmatised.

• **Ben Cross – BVCSA**

- Looking at venues, solving problems and signposting with Soo
- RIC's work taking up most time, 4 projects currently live. Biggest challenge is how account for staff using funding - unpicking finances. There is a rumour that CCG will pay funding upfront, however not same for everyone, CCG are releasing a statement soon on this.
- Funding bids for asylum refugees micro grants – linking in with the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Network suggested by Rachel
- Health Inequalities funding from WY and Harrogate – BC spoke to them yesterday - they actually want multiple bids - currently have 85 people booked in conference call on Thursday. The key thing is that this has to be a joint bid and a submission from the NHS and VCS
- MH contract started
- Put in proposal for ABCD for MH wellbeing – liaising with HD on how to go about this
- Rachel asked for an update on CP's and their role. BC replied that these have mostly been paused; however, one or two have been active during the pandemic. The Anchors are also quite mixed; some are very busy others not so.
- NQ added that there is to be a review of 5 large anchors in Bradford to see what role they can play, if they are resilient, the impact of Covid and what role can play post Covid. From Bradford Council Economic Department.

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Soo Nevison – Community Action

- Community Action are carrying on but working from home
- 9 staff furloughed from Central Hall
- Mainly troubleshooting and setting up deliveries
- Currently conducting national work with NVCA on recovery

Nasim Qureshi – Inspired Neighbourhoods

- Still conducting MH services via telephone, Zoom, google classrooms, Microsoft Teams
- Social inclusion numbers have increased – people seem to be generally managing emergency mode however anticipating an increased demand on services once the emergency phase is over
- Young Peoples programme was in 18 Schools - some schools continuing online

- An increase in calls on welfare housing and debt, most of staff time has been spent on this.
- Provision of domiciliary care has been ongoing, over 30 staff going into homes, providing care, and social inclusion, however running low on PPE. SN advised to ring contract manager.
- Getting calls for food, household goods which are signposted
- A lot of good conversation going on which hopefully we can capture and carry on
- Biggest hit was the loss of a couple of tenants however Guardian House can commission in 4-6 weeks' time
- Rachel asked about CEF – NQ reported no involvement CEF related activity.

Yasmin Khan – Staying Put / Safer Communities

- Now steady ship, have PPE, 80% of staff working remotely, all accommodation staff now back delivering face to face work
- In Touch still delivering food parcels to residents, trauma and MH of residents with complex needs. Misbah is working to build capacity to meet expected surge after lockdown.
- £760m has been given to the Lottery to be distributed. so advised for everyone to look out for this.
- Some of funding for last weekend announced for Domestic Violence seems to be existing money that was already announced. National Helpline received money as increase of 25%; however, no referrals have been received from the National Helpline. Challenging where referrals are going this nationally - hoping to get some answers.
- Been proactive in funds, Barclays foundation is also giving 100 charities £100k each
- Biggest piece of work is trying to arrange units to move people out of crisis as all refuges are full
- Have a couple of staff displaying Covid Symptoms
- Moving from crisis to much more planned way

Vicky Beere – Project 6, Keighley

- Project 6 carrying on delivering services
- Delivering food parcels
- Working with Keighley Response Team - looking at bring together all community leaders together, setting up specific group around young people
- Concern about alcohol – in a review of people, over half are struggling
- Leaflet from Public Health is being distributed in areas that have been identified as having the most need for this information
- Talking to West Yorkshire ICS about prevention workstreams and models
- YK expressed thanks to KS on her piece of work around the BAME community

VB to circulate information from the Kings Fund

Kim Shutler – ASG Cellar Trust

- Refer to all updates sent out previously on ASG Yahoo groups
- KS added that Cellar Trust have a policy of employing people who have experience mental health problems and is happy to share learning around this area. Good occupational health is essential especially in terms of building resilience of the sector.

Rachel summarised key themes from the member updates

- Devise and a short term, medium terms and long term plan for sector and ASG
- A whole new tranche of people have supported the sector and want on work on the theme
- VCS are not currently working in partnership with a whole host of bodies
- 1-3 month plan to start looking at Assembly Structures and how Covid has brought learning that could benefit the VCS in the future
- Medium term – supporting orgs for new norm, building sector resilience
- Long term – completing Infrastructure Review and resilience building new norm, Covid fall out and policy changes
- Rachel suggested a piece of work around learning from Covid for VCS
- KS: Small window of opportunity to maintain momentum and create future change
- Mental Health Wellbeing Forum becoming partnership forum rather than just a VCS forum – good opportunity to build on this

Discussion took place. Key points:

- Think about widening representation
- Define the role and compare with Covid experience
- VCS orgs not as strong after Covid – need to recover
- What do we need to do to strengthen the VCS
- 1% of Health and social care budget for Airedale Wharfedale and Craven id £1 billion, if this could be invested in the VCS... need to ask how make this happen
- If ASG are offering themselves, their staff and service, what are the terms?
- Being involved in partnerships, important to be at right meetings
- Shared strategic narrative – how do we coordinate and communicate better
- Look at shared leadership
- SN working with NAVCA on surveying the sector – asked for ideas
- Plan for recovery, clear roadmap around what that is, different sections – recovery focus

VB to forward three good questions for collaboration and change to Rachel

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| | <p>Rachel suggested that themed meetings around MH, Young People, Safer/Stronger Communities, Poverty and Welfare, and Health inequalities including BAME, VCS resilience recovery in support, learning and development capacity. Inviting partners, drawing in new people, widening representation.</p> <p>Agreed to pause some of current work and produce a Covid recovery plan which may feed in to new ASG structure</p> <p>Vicky suggested a statement on VCS position before lockdown is lifted</p> <p>Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 13th of May, 2:30pm via Zoom</p> | <p>Rachel to liaise with Janet and send out documentation before next ASG meeting</p> <p>Rachel to share outcomes from Infrastructure Workshops to ASG</p> |
| 8. | AOB None | |