

Bradford & District Community Economic VCS Forum

Notes of the meeting Monday 8 February 2020

10.00 to 11.30 am via Zoom

Present: Nasim Qureshi (INCIC) (Co-Chair), Carlton Smith (Bradford Trident), Janet Ford (CNet), Martin Carter (Manningham Project), Rhys North (WYCAS), Kamran Rashid (Impact Hub Bradford), Liz Hemsley (Connexions), John Aitken (Manningham Housing Association), Mary Dowson (BCB Radio), Frances Northrop & Katherine Wyatt (Made in Manningham), Farzana Ghani (Roshni Ghar), Rachael Memmott (Specialist Autism Services),

In attendance: Wendy Collins (CNet) (minutes), Mark Clayton (Bradford Council), Jamie Saunders (Bradford Council), Phil Hunter (Skills for Work, Bradford Council)

Apologies: Ali Ward (Social Enterprise Yorkshire and the Humber)

Item	Details	Action by
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
2.	Declarations of interest	
3.	Minutes of last meeting Accepted as a true and accurate record.	
4.	Current Economic Position in the District – Mark Clayton, Policy Officer, Office of the Chief Executive, Bradford Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark’s presentation was shared with the group. 	
5.	Bradford District Economic Recovery Plan – Mark Clayton, Policy Officer, Office of the Chief Executive, Bradford Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark’s presentation was shared with the group. • Bradford Economic Recovery Board has come to an end now, because the Economic Recovery Plan is complete. The Economic Partnership will now be revived and they will take over the delivery of the plan. 	
6.	Tacking unemployment and enterprise support – Phil Hunter, Skills for Work, Bradford Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effect of Covid-19 has really amplified the underlying disparities in the District. • Youth unemployment has seen the highest increase, doubling since last year. • Learning from past recessions has shown that we are only at the beginning of the impact on the jobs market. • Looking at the question of how to respond to unemployment in Bradford, three strands were identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bradford as a UN learning city, working as a district in partnership to ensure that all people in Bradford are able to develop their careers locally. ○ Supporting people into work. 	

Item	Details	Action by
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supporting people to upskill. ● Looking at what level of investment Bradford needs to close the gap with national employment figures. ● Skills House is still in a mobilisation phase. Wants to be a partnership platform bringing together organisations to help people into work and with career progression. ● Goal over next three years is to support over 24,000 people. ● Having conversations with DWP and the Combined Authority about additional funding into Skills House, investing in a keyworker approach. Wanting to get as many as they can of these additional resources out into the communities and VCS organisations. ● Skills House has succeeded in applying to be a Kickstart Gateway organisation. ● Placements commencing shortly – majority hopefully once we start coming out of lockdown. ● Phil will share a list of VCS organisations who have placements. ● Established a Skills House advisory board – various partners sit on this, including Soo Nevison of Community Action as VCS representative. ● Need to work out how they can build on what CLLD has been doing, to ensure no duplication. Phil has been having conversations with some partners about the possibility of match funding for CLLD. ● Phil will keep us posted about the next round of placements. 	<p>Phil to share list of orgs</p> <p>Phil to inform of next round</p>
7	<p>West Yorkshire Devolution – Jamie Saunders, Policy Officer, Office of the Chief Executive, Bradford Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Devolution agreed in parliament. ● Local elections will be happening in May, including the vote for a West Yorkshire mayor. ● West Yorkshire Combined Authority is now a legally bound combined authority, which means money from the government for West Yorkshire can now be released. ● Mary – BCB are doing work around awareness raising for devolution. ● A special VCS meeting / workshop around devolution in a couple of months would be beneficial. 	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kamran asked what would be the best way for disseminating info from all the boards he sits on, as he feels there is info overload and writing reports isn't always the easiest way. Everyone to think about. Nasim suggested a regular item at this forum to update from the Inclusive Growth Panel. ● Kamran suggested the Forum needs to think about how to make the VCS investment ready. Carlton mentioned Bradford VCS Alliance as a model that is already operating for health and wellbeing. 	<p>All to think about info sharing</p>
9.	<p>Future meeting dates (currently held on Zoom 10.00 to 11.30 am)</p> <p>TBA</p> <p>Meeting closed at 11.30 am</p>	