



**South Northamptonshire VCS Forum**  
**12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at South Northamptonshire Volunteer Bureau (snvb)**

6 people attended the meeting (see attachment).

**Apologies**

Sue Carverhill Arts Development Officer and Edward Frape Community Development Partner – Young People South Northamptonshire Council (SNC), Cllr Karen Cooper SNC, Mandy Lowe East Midlands Ambulance Service.

**1 Welcome and Introductions**

Roger Bradford (Chair) welcomed everyone to the Forum.

**2 Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire – Carolyn Howe**

Carolyn gave an overview (see attached copy presentation for full details) of the new Countywide Forum (CWF), explaining the first CWF ended approximately three years ago. In essence it is key for the county's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to build capacity and create one central contact point, staffed by experienced and or knowledgeable personnel whether paid or voluntary who are able to engage with e.g. statutory partners, the private sector and relevant strategic Boards in relation to key matters which relate to and or impact on the VCS. The benefit is that the partners would only have one door to knock on rather than several different VCS organisations.

By way of background VIN has consulted with the VCS and two task and finish group (T&FG) meetings were hosted by VIN last summer, attended by over 20 organisations, to shape the CWF model. The task and finish group meetings decided upon the aims and objectives of the Forum, which may change/evolve over time. Additionally, the aforementioned T&FG decided that there should be seven geographic representatives, as important to have local knowledge, for each county district and also eight countywide thematic representatives e.g. Arts, culture and heritage and health and wellbeing.

Following the presentation there was a general discussion regarding the proposed model and how both the geographical and thematic representations process would work in practice. Sharon Stringer endorsed the principal of a CWF adding that important given discussions on a unitary Northants council on the horizon. Jean Morgan added that a CWF may be able to measure the funding brought into the county through the VCS successfully working with statutory & private sectors and individuals which in turn may attract further funding/investment into the sector. Roger Bradford suggested key that the CWF engage with Parish Councils.

There were a couple of proposals made by Jean Morgan regarding the proposed CWF model, which Carolyn from VIN will be considering, as follows:-

- That a CWF representative is only able to stand for a maximum of 'x' many terms

- The ability for the initial representatives to stand for e.g. 1, 2 or 3 years to encourage a greater take up of the roles and to reduce the risk of all the board representatives standing down at the same time and creating a resourcing problem.
- A named 'reserve' person in case the nominated person is unable to attend a meeting
- The representative is not political or faith based.

Questions followed:-

**Q: Is there a Job Description for the representative role?**

**A: There is a framework of expectations which will be circulated with the minutes. Carolyn has received some expressions of interest and encouraged the attendees to raise awareness of the CWF to colleagues etc.**

**Q: Were there any success stories from the previous CWF which could be used in promotional material?**

**A: Given the old CWF was some 3 years ago and before Carolyn's involvement she would have to check with a colleague involved with the former CWF.**

### **3 Information Exchange**

Kevin Larnar – SNC Community Infrastructure Officer

Kevin explained that he is responsible for various partnerships including the Voluntary and Community sector. He is responsible for the districts Health & Wellbeing Forum, the Armed Forces Covenant and Community Facility assets.

Sharon Stringer – NCC Community Projects Officer

Sharon explained that her remit includes Community Safety, E Safety, Honor Based Violence, Domestic Abuse, FMG, Modern Slavery/Human trafficking the VCS and the Coroner's office.

Jean Morgan – Home-Start Daventry and South Northants

Jean is the volunteer Chair for Home-Start, which provides practical and emotional help and support for families with young children who are experiencing difficulties.

Mel Bignell – snvb

Mel stated that snvb in partnership with SNC, Daventry District Council and Daventry Volunteer Centre, will be hosting another Funding Fair at Towcester Racecourse on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017, following the success of last year's event. There will be further details issued in due course.

Meeting closed 15.50 pm.

Mel Bignell SNVB (Minutes)