

Minutes of VCSE Strategic Partnership Meeting

Held on Monday 3rd April 2023

At Sanger House

In Attendance:

Tom Beasley (TB) – Active Gloucestershire
Chris Brown (CB) – Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Sally Byng (SB) – Barnwood Trust
Kobe Francis (KF) – The Music Works (via Teams)
Pippa Jones (PJ) – Create Gloucestershire
Matt Lennard (ML) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Vicci Livingstone-Thompson (VL-T) – Inclusion Gloucestershire (via Teams)
William North (WN) – The Long Table
Indigo Redfern (IR) – GL11
Nicola Simpson (NS) – Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Apologies:

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Guests:

Jill Parker (JP/Chair) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Emily Barker (EB) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance

Minutes by:

Karen Matthews – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance

The meeting commenced at 13:36.

52.	Welcome, introductions and apologies	ACTION
	<p>There were no apologies.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed NS to the group.</p>	
53.	Declarations of interest	
	There were no new interests to declare.	
54.	Minutes of Previous Meeting (5 th December 2022)	
	<p>The minutes were accepted as a true account of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p><u>45. JP to add “Key Priorities from the Sector” as a standing agenda item for future meetings</u></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><u>45. JP to request suggestions for organisations to invite to the meeting from the group by e-mail</u></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><u>45. JP to add an agenda item on leadership development to the next agenda</u></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><u>46. JP to update the plan to reflect the amendments suggested by the group.</u></p> <p>Completed.</p>	

	<p><u>47. JP to add “Glos Health & Wellbeing Partnership strategy” to April agenda.</u></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><u>48. JP to add “Community Interest Companies” to the next meeting agenda.</u></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><u>48. SB to discuss the CIC research project with other funders.</u> This had been completed and would be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p><u>49. JP to circulate progress update on actions from previous meetings.</u> Completed. An Action Tracker had been circulated following the previous meeting.</p> <p>The Chair updated the group that the website for the group was now almost complete, with a short bio required from each group member.</p> <p>ACTION: All group members to complete a short bio for the website by Friday 14th April.</p>	ALL
55.	Community Interest Companies (CICs)	
	<p>Following a short discussion at the previous meeting, CB summarised that CICs were increasingly playing a role in the sector and provided a much-needed alternative to registered charities. Much was unknown about CICs, and some concerns raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whether a non-trading CIC was an appropriate model. - Whether a model of good governance existed for CICs, including separation of staff and directors. - The ease with which a CIC could be set up meant that due consideration wasn't being given to whether the model was appropriate, or whether the organisation duplicated the work of another already established organisation. - The unknown nature of CICs meant that there was some reluctance to work with them within the sector. <p>CB noted that he had spoken to GRCC, an organisation which also assisted the sector with formations, and there was concern there about an inappropriate use of CICs too.</p> <p>EB had met with CB & WN and summarised some data around CICs in the Forest of Dean. EB shared a short PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>13:53 SB left the meeting</p> <p>It was noted that the majority of CICs included in the data had been established for under one year, and that only a minority had any employees.</p> <p>13:59 SB re-joined the meeting</p> <p>WN shared a summary of the structure of The Long Table. The Long Table, along with six other CICs, sat under the umbrella of The Grace Network, a Community Benefit Society (CBS). Each CIC had a board, and all boards were members of the Community Benefit Society. Staff employed within the CICs were not also directors.</p>	

	<p>WN noted that it was often necessary for CICs to obtain grant funding at start-up, but that the reliance on grants should taper off over time.</p> <p>The group reflected that the model provided support and protection to CICs, enabling the CBS to step in if any of the member organisations came into difficulties.</p> <p>IR hoped to set up some due diligence checks for organisations in Stroud.</p> <p>ACTION: TB to share the Sport England “Code for Sports Governance” with the group.</p> <p>SB informed the group that she had discussed the project with Glos Funders, and all parties were keen on a research project regarding CICs in Glos. SB suggested that a proposal could be submitted to Glos Funders.</p> <p>It was agreed that a working group would be established to conduct further research into CICs, and social enterprises more generally. The working group would consider the possibility of tapping into national funding for a case study on social enterprises, and of sharing knowledge on community benefit societies more widely.</p> <p>ACTION: Group members interested in joining the CIC working party to email JP.</p> <p>14:53 EB left the meeting</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>ALL</p>
56.	ICS Updates	
	<p>TB informed the group that the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and the Health & Wellbeing Board now had the same membership.</p> <p>TB reflected that meetings to date had focussed on the development of the Interim Strategy, which had now been published. The Interim Strategy wasn't entirely what the VCSE had wanted, but had shifted somewhat towards it which was encouraging. The Interim Strategy would remain in place for a year.</p> <p>Meetings had been collaborative, and TB reflected that the VCSE was treated as an equal partner. The meetings provided a useful opportunity to build relationships.</p> <p>ACTION: To discuss inviting Mary Hutton to a future meeting to be added to the next agenda.</p>	<p>JP</p>
57.	Appointments	
	a. Vice Chair	
	<p>Since Amabel Mortimer had left the group (as a result of leaving the sector), the Vice Chair role within the group, and the Enabling Active Communities and Individuals Representative role needed to be filled.</p> <p>The Chair invited nominations for the role of Vice Chair.</p> <p>It was agreed that VL-T would take on the Vice Chair role.</p>	
	b. Enabling Active Communities & Individuals (EACI) Representative	

	<p>It was noted that several group members already attended the meetings, and could report back to the group. It was confirmed that the Terms of Reference for the EACI named a member of the group within its membership. IR is interested in learning more about EACI.</p> <p>It was agreed that ML would be the EACI rep from this meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that IR would attend the next EACI meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: ML to forward the EACI meeting invite to IR.</p>	ML
c. Request from Glos Creative Health Consortium to join the Strategic Partnership		
	<p>The Chair informed the group that a request had been received from Karen Lawton at Mindsong, that since Amabel Mortimer had attended the group as a representative from the Creative Health Consortium, requesting that a member of that group should join the Strategic Partnership as her replacement.</p> <p>It was noted that The Music Works was a member of the Creative Health Consortium.</p> <p>ACTION: KF to discuss feeding into the group from the Creative Health Consortium with Deborah Potts.</p> <p>It was noted that diversity within the group should be considered for future appointments.</p> <p>ACTION JP to circulate a questionnaire to establish the protected characteristics within the group.</p> <p>ACTION: JP to contact the Gloucester Race Equality Action Group about taking a place in the Strategic Partnership.</p>	<p>KF</p> <p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>
d. ILP reps for Gloucester and Cheltenham		
	<p>The Chair noted that no nominations had been received for the Cheltenham ILP vacancy, and one nomination had been received for the Gloucester ILP vacancy. The nomination had been shared with the group in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Sue Cunningham from GL Communities was unanimously appointed as the Gloucester ILP Representative.</p> <p>ACTION: JP to inform nominee of her appointment as Gloucester ILP Rep.</p>	JP
58. Key priorities from the sector		
	<p>It was noted that the inflationary increases being offered to VCSE organisations from public sector partners were well below the increases in costs.</p> <p>It was noted that the MOU included a commitment to full cost recovery.</p> <p>It was agreed that ML should request the item be discussed as an agenda item at the next Integrated Care Partnership meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: ML to request that inflationary increases for VCSE organisations be added to the agenda for the next Integrated Care Partnership meeting, and to report back to the group.</p>	ML
59. Themes for Future Meetings		

	<p>It was noted that the previous meeting item around Leadership Development had been pushed back and would be the focus of the May meeting.</p> <p>Similarly, the plans for the sector event would need to be drafted in the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: Leadership Development & Sector Event to be added to May agenda.</p> <p>It had previously been discussed that the focus for the June meeting should be on “placed for place-based organisations.” It was agreed that some work needed to be done to establish how much of an issue this was, with the themed meeting pushed back until the autumn.</p> <p>ACTION: IR to discuss leases with Hot Spots to establish how much of a concern they are for VCSE organisations.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>IR</p>
60.	Any Other Business	
	<p>There were no items to discuss.</p>	
	<p>The meeting concluded at 15:38.</p> <p>The date and venue of the next meeting is:</p> <p>1:30 – 3:30pm – 2ND May 2023, venue Sanger House</p>	

Acronym Key	
EACI	Enabling Active Communities & Individuals
ICB	Integrated Care Board
ICP	Integrated Care Partnership (also known as the “One Glos Health and Wellbeing Partnership”)
ILP	Integrated Locality Partnerships
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
VCSE	Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise sector