

Minutes of VCSE Strategic Partnership Meeting
 Held on Monday 5 August 2024
 at Robinswood Hill Country Park Conservation Centre

In Attendance:
Chris Brown (CB) – Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Pippa Jones (PJ) – Create Gloucestershire
Matt Lennard (ML) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Sally Byng (SB) – Barnwood Trust
Kobe Francis (KF) – The Music Works
Vicci Livingstone-Thompson (VL-T) – Inclusion Gloucestershire
Indigo Redfern (IR) – GL11
Nicola Simpson (NS) – Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Apologies:
Tom Beasley (TB) – Active Gloucestershire

Guests:
Jill Parker (JP/Chair) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance

Minutes by:
Wendy Kewley (WK) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance

The meeting commenced at 2:35pm

148.	Welcome, introductions and apologies	ACTION
	JP welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from TB.	
149.	Reflections on Round Table Events	JP
	JP asked the group for one message that they'd like to share with the group as a whole. Thoughts included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sector relationships are really growing, so need to keep doing this as it's working. • Shock at the escalating violence and hate and how quickly that's being ignited. The VCSE is the backbone of civil society; it feels that being relational is ever more important. • In terms of the round tables, one thing that stood out for me is the importance of valuing us as a sector. • At the last meeting we talked about representation of different views, but I think establishing what our function is and how we best go about that is important. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to celebrate the good in society and we need to ensure that the voluntary sector can continue to operate in the space where we celebrate what we're doing to maintain a strength-based focus. • One of the best things we can do is to share all the fantastic things that happen. What we spotlight is really important. • Collaboration and working together – we all want healthier and happier communities, so we're all trying to achieve the same thing. How do we connect more? • The majority of the conversation I had around the round table was around comms and misunderstanding of what we're doing. Celebrating what we're doing is the right thing to do. Importance of creating our own language about what we do (<i>as opposed to the 'health language' of organisations such as the ICB or the NHS</i>). <p>The group discussed the role of the Strategic Partnership and how best to respond to current rioting and disorder with comments and suggestions including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we all stand together and celebrate diversity and inclusion in Glos, then it's a way of drowning out the hate. • From an organisational perspective it's so important to be objective and recognise patterns. It feels like history repeating itself. • Is there anything we can join that's already happening? • When people come together, they feel stronger - so maybe we need a few events for people to do this. • Explore what culturally diverse communities are doing to see if there's a space for us to stand with them. • Recognise our communality rather than our divisions. • Jamaican community has no plans to celebrate culture as it might be counterproductive. Having communities coming together is not going to inform different viewpoints. • Importance of awareness of identity and its impact in challenging the origins of hate. • Importance of orchestrating very direct conversations about perpetrators of riots. • Opportunity to engage with newly elected MPs • Offering training and resources while delivering key messages about current events. • Funders could resource VCS organisations to do the deep learning and support EDI education. • The Gloucestershire Race Collective (GRC) urges all organisations to stand in solidarity with the affected communities. • The GRC urges organisations to extend their support to diverse ethnic staff, clients, and the community through comprehensive risk assessments, flexibility in work locations, and the provision of safe spaces. • We must all commit to pledges of anti-racism, anti-Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism to ensure a united front against hate. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add multi-language ‘welcome’ signs in premises. <p><i>NS left room at 15.33.</i></p> <p>JP asked the group for the key messages that they would like to share in the next In Partnership newsletter.</p> <p>Thoughts included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being honest about difficulty of grappling with these issues. • What do we need to do in civic society to make our society rich and deep rather than flimsy and thin? • Importance of sharing round table feedback. <p>Main issues arising from the round tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing in the Forest of Dean. • Bringing people together. • Directing attention of local elected reps and MPs to the VCSE sector. <p>Decision</p> <p>Group agreed to discuss hosting an event for sector and MPs which could also be extended to county and district councillors as well. Fridays were identified as a day when MPs are more likely to be in their constituency and therefore able to attend.</p>	All
150.	Next meeting – 2 September	VL-T
	<p>VL-T asked the group for feedback on how they would like to use the September meeting with ILP reps.</p> <p>Decisions</p> <p>There was agreement that the September meeting could be focussed around the two themes below:</p> <p>1 - Sharing the round table feedback with the ILP reps and then asking them for their thoughts from their communities. A list of joint priorities could then be drawn up together.</p> <p>2 - Feedback and learning from the contracts that are going to national organisations in the county as well as Strengthening Local Community grants.</p> <p>Themes for 4 November meeting with ILP reps:</p> <p>1 – AI and how it will be developed to deliver services in the county – is it an opportunity or a threat?</p> <p>2 – Contracting processes.</p>	All

151.	Updates	
	<p>Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Partnership</p> <p>PJ attended on TB's behalf, providing an update on the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Partnership.</p> <p>Councillor Allaway-Martin was reappointed as Chair and Alistair Cunningham was reappointed as Vice-Chair for another term. Gill Morgan was reappointed as chair of the ICB.</p> <p>There was a long discussion on the One Gloucestershire plan with an aim to move from a targeted approach to universality.</p> <p>The family hub ecosystem was discussed with a plan to set up a children's wellbeing coalition in September with three tiers.</p> <p>There were presentations on data-led partnerships and inclusive recruitment. A public health dashboard is planned for community use.</p> <p>Headline takeaway: data performance is good for children in Glos, but not so good for cross sections of people, including those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>Clinical Programmes Board</p> <p>IR updated the group on obesity and weight loss reporting that there will be more services around obesity to prevent the situation becoming more severe in the county.</p> <p>It was reported that a new medication for weight loss is excellent but there is a need to change overall behaviour. From October 2024, everyone with a BMI of over 30 will be eligible to have the medication. This is a third of the population so it could bankrupt the system.</p> <p>EAC&I</p> <p>JP reported that the main discussion point was around providing a framework for tackling health inequalities, which will form a self-assessment process for public sector organisations.</p>	
152.	Minutes of the last meeting	
	<p>The June and July minutes were both approved. The July minutes with an addition to the second paragraph of the second page.</p>	All
153.	Any other business	
	<p>JP asked the group for their thoughts on the approval of the revised Terms of Reference, and it was agreed that this should just involve the ILP reps.</p>	All

	<p>JP requested volunteers to chair Tuesday morning online meetings. Chairs to send out a request for agenda items the day before.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 August meeting – SB to chair. • 20 August – CB to chair. • 27 August – VL-T to chair. <p><i>The meeting concluded at 4:30pm</i></p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Times and dates of next meetings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next full meeting: 2.30pm 2 September 2024 at FVAF, Ow Bist, Dockham Road, Cinderford GL14 2AN, with ILP reps.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday morning online meetings: 9-10am on 13, 20, 27 August.</p>	

Acronym Key	
GRC	Gloucestershire Race Collective
ICB	Integrated Care Board
HWP	One Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Partnership
EAC&I	Enabling Active Communities and Individuals