

Minutes of VCSE Strategic Partnership Meeting

Held on Monday 4th December 2023

At Overton House

In Attendance:
Chris Brown (CB) – Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Pippa Jones (PJ) – Create Gloucestershire (via Teams)
Matt Lennard (ML) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
Indigo Redfern (IR) – GL11
Sally Byng (SB) – Barnwood Trust
Vicci Livingstone-Thompson (VL-T) – Inclusion Gloucestershire
Tom Beasley (TB) – Active Gloucestershire (via Teams for 2 nd half of meeting)

Apologies:
Kobe Francis (KF) – The Music Works
Nicola Simpson (NS) – Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Guests:
Jill Parker (JP/Chair) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance (via Teams)
Anira Khokhar (AK) – Director of Gloucestershire Race Collective.

Minutes by:
Jen Smith (JS) – Freelance EA

The meeting commenced at 13:30

112. Welcome, introductions and apologies	ACTION
<p>Apologies had been received from NS and KF, TB would join the meeting later.</p> <p>AK was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.</p>	
113. Declarations of interest	
<p>There were no new interests declared.</p>	
114. Introduction to Gloucestershire Race Collective	
<p>AK gave the group a thorough introduction to Gloucestershire Race Collective, including the what – aiming to bridge gaps and dismantle racial disparities, and the how – working with communities, supporting the system to be anti-racist in practice etc. AK also talked through the logo, brand strategy and the huge amount of work that had taken place so far to get the collective to where it was.</p> <p>CB joined the meeting at 13:49.</p> <p>AK advised the group that the plan was to launch in January 2024 and talked through the organisation’s aim, objectives and target audience. AK highlighted the importance of working through terminology as it varied greatly. AK also talked through the vision, principles and values, and acknowledged this was a huge and continual piece of work.</p> <p>VCS Alliance were currently hosting Gloucestershire Race Collective while work was happening to identify the best governance structure for the organisation.</p> <p>It was important that there was ownership from the community for this work; so many historic racial justice organisations in the county had been and gone with little to no change, and the work needed to continue without AK leading it all.</p> <p>For the next 6 months it was key to build relationships both in communities and the system.</p>	

	<p>The group were excited to see the work take shape and wanted to offer support.</p> <p>There was a suggestion to bring out the celebration of differences more in the strategy and a further discussion about language with the suggestion of ‘people with lived experience, and passionate allies’.</p> <p>AK was encouraged to take time in building relationships and trust and to not feel pressured into immediately taking action.</p> <p>Funding from the county council and NHS was up until September 2024 and it was hoped that this thorough and well thought through strategy that was beneficial to both communities and the system would enable further funding.</p> <p>The group thanked AK for her time and work.</p> <p>AK left at 2.35pm.</p>	
115.	<p>Reflections on ‘How to Lead when you’re not in charge’</p>	
	<p>Reflections were generally positive about the event. Following the event, members of the VCSE Strategic Partnership met with the ILP reps and it had been agreed that more alignment of work was needed. The Partnership agreed to work towards a shared purpose as a first step and for a joint session in early 2024.</p> <p>TB joined the meeting at 2.40pm.</p> <p>JP flagged that the volume of meetings was increasing and to alleviate some of the burden it was agreed to hold a 1 hour meeting on 8th Jan to discuss the infrastructure work ahead of the bigger meeting with ICB on 31st Jan (to which VLT and CB could not attend) – the 8th Jan meeting would be held online and would be primarily for people unable to attend on 31st.</p> <p>The ILP reps would be invited to the February in person meeting to work on a shared purpose. As this session was so soon after 31st Jan meeting, JP would send out a doodle poll to try and find a date later in the month.</p> <p>The group agreed it would work better if the meetings were pushed back slightly to 2.30pm – 4.30pm. JP would check this worked for those who were not present at the meeting.</p> <p>Actions: JP – Rearrange the January in person meeting to be online for an hour (8th Jan) to start discussions on infrastructure of the sector. JP – Send out a doodle poll and rearrange 5th Feb in person meeting to a few days later that week, inviting ILP reps too. JP – Check with NS and KF that they could attend in person meetings 2.30pm – 4.30pm.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>
116.	<p>Representation:</p>	
	<p>Clinical Programmes Board No meeting had taken place since the last strategic partnership meeting, the next was 18th Jan.</p> <p>Glos Health and Care Partnership Although there were definitely improvements to be made still, it felt like things were moving towards a more equitable relationship which was positive.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the Director of Public Health’s report on alcohol being brought to the group. ML would check whether engagement and support was needed from the group or whether it was simply to share the report findings.</p>	<p>ML</p>

	<p>Representation on the ICS Health & Wellbeing working group There was a discussion on the multiple working groups and having representation from the strategic partnership on them, with a query raised on what the purpose of the group’s membership was.</p> <p>Actions ML – Find out the level of engagement required of the group on the Director of Public Health’s report on alcohol.</p>	
117.	Minutes of the last meeting (6th November 2023) and matters arising	
	<p>The minutes were approved as an accurate recording of the meeting.</p> <p>TB was still to connect CB to Resonance.</p> <p>To support IR with the Stroud Community Hubs on secure leases, SB would ask Glos Funders to provide a few notes about how difficult it was for them to fund an organisation without a secure lease.</p> <p>The group had a discussion about the annual report, all thought it was a good idea but lacked the time to complete it. It was agreed only a few simple, light touch lines were needed for each section of the report. JP would draft the content and asked that everyone reviewed it.</p> <p>The group agreed with the updates to the ToR to reflect the previous suggestion about identifying opportunities for the sector.</p> <p>TB – Connect CB to Resonance. SB – Provide a statement to IR from Glos Funders about the difficulty they experience with being able to fund organisations without a secure lease. JP – Draft light touch content for the annual report and share with the Board to review.</p>	
118.	Any Other Business	
	There was no other business	
	<p>The meeting concluded at 15:30</p> <p>The date and venue of the next meeting is:</p> <p>8th January 1.30-2.30pm – infrastructure of sector discussion for those people who can’t attend on 31st.</p>	

Acronym Key	
ICP	Integrated Care Partnership (also known as the “One Glos Health and Wellbeing Partnership”)
VCSE	Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise sector