

Minutes of VCSE Strategic Partnership Meeting

Held on Tuesday 14th January

Via Teams

In Attendance:

Tom Beasley (TB) – Active Gloucestershire

Matt Lennard (ML) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance

Lucy Moriarty (LM) – Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Vicci Livingstone-Thompson (VL-T) – Inclusion Gloucestershire

Chris Brown (CB) – Forest Voluntary Action Forum (final 5 mins of meeting only)

Apologies:

Kobe Francis (KF) – The Music Works

Sally Byng (SB) – Barnwood Trust

Pippa Jones (PJ) – Create Gloucestershire

Indigo Redfern (IR) – GL11

Guests:

Jill Parker (JP/Chair) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance

Minutes by:

Jen Smith (JS) – Gloucestershire VCS Alliance

The meeting commenced at 14:05pm

168.	Welcome, introductions and apologies	ACTION
	<p>JP welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that the original January meeting was rescheduled to this shorter online meeting due to member illness.</p> <p>Apologies were received from PJ, SB, KF and IR.</p> <p>The group noted that the meeting was not quorate. As there were no decision items, it was agreed to continue with discussions in the meeting.</p>	
169.	MP meeting	ALL
	<p>No MPs were able to make the meeting on Friday 24th January so it was agreed to cancel it. JS would do this and cancel the room booking at Barnwood Trust.</p> <p>The group discussed next steps to engage MPs in the county, it was agreed there was a huge benefit for both sides to meet. It was noted that most MPs were keen to meet the Strategic Partnership, but that there had been a series of private members' bills on a Friday. The group discussed whether to tie the meeting into an event such as Volunteers Week in June, and whether this might coincide with MPs summer break.</p>	

	<p>It was agreed next steps would be for JP to contact the PA's of MPs to see if they could suggest a good way forward. VLT suggested setting out in the email what was happening in the sector and how they could work together.</p> <p>Actions JS – Cancel MP meeting on 24th Jan and room booking. JP – Contact the PA's of MPs to see if they could suggest a way forward for a meeting, highlighting the mutual benefits of meeting.</p>	<p>JS JP</p>
<p>170.</p>	<p>EDI</p>	<p>ALL</p>
	<p>The group felt this was not about complete representation, rather ensuring that there was equity in the process which would then mean the best talent came through, while reflecting, learning and continually improving the process. Barriers to inclusion needed to be reduced/removed.</p> <p>There was a discussion about spread across size of organisation and whether it felt right to categorise organisations as small/user led, medium sized and large. A query was raised on whether this left out much larger national organisations who provided services Gloucestershire? JP clarified that they were not previously left out.</p> <p>The group then discussed how to make the election process more equitable. If applications were anonymous it may remove bias but it was also felt that experience and reputation needed to be considered too.</p> <p>JP queried what could reasonably be done now ahead of the elections in the summer. Suggestions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop EDI action plan and publish it • Include a couple of sentences around EDI in a simple Code of Conduct to set expectations • Offer the role info in different formats, offer video applications or over the phone applications with someone completing the forms for them • Clarity on the process was key <p>JP confirmed that after elections, meetings scheduled for the rest of the year would be agreed so they aligned with the availability of new members of the partnership.</p> <p>LM suggested that before people nominated themselves, an open meeting with a more informal agenda was a nice way to engage people and to give them an understanding of the role of the group and the types of discussions. It was agreed this was a good idea and that this would work well in the April meeting.</p> <p>JP raised stepping down as Chair of the group later in the year, and asked the group to start to factor this into their thinking.</p>	

	<p>In reference to publishing monitoring information, it was agreed this should be collected on an annual basis and that because of the size of the group being so small and therefore identifiable, detailed results should not be published; instead place a statement explaining why it's not being published on the In Partnership website. The Race Equality Code had good guidance in this area. It was felt to be ok to share an overview of the data within the Strategic Partnership, but not detail.</p> <p>JP would look into the Race Equality Code and come with some proposals at the February meeting.</p> <p>Actions JP – Come to the February SP meeting with some proposals on EDI with input from today's discussion, including looking into the Race Equality Code.</p>	JP
171.	AOB	
	<p>It was suggested that the local government restructure should be a standing agenda item possibly inviting people in to discuss changes. It was agreed to start the conversation within the group and TB would put something together for the February meeting for the group to discuss what it meant for the sector and what the partnership wanted to do about it.</p> <p>CB joined the meeting at 14.55</p> <p>VLT asked the group to complete a short survey as Inclusion Gloucestershire were coproducing its next strategy.</p> <p>Actions TB – Host and talk to the local government restructure in the February SP meeting.</p>	TB
	<p>Times and dates of next meetings</p> <p>Next full meeting: 2.30pm 3 February 2025 Ow Bist – Forest Community Space, Dockham Road, Cinderford, GL14 2AN</p> <p>Tuesday morning online meeting: 9-10am on 18 February.</p>	

Acronym Key	
ICB	Integrated Care Board
EAC&I	Enabling Active Communities and Individuals

ICP	Integrated Care Partnership
CQC	Care Quality Commission