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Meeting of: Voluntary Sector Partnership
Date: Thursday 14th November 2019
Time: 10.00 am.
Venue: Training and Conference Suite, First Floor,
Number One Riverside, Smith Street,
Rochdale, OL16 1XU

| Item No. | AGENDA | Page No |
|----------|--|---------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence To receive any apologies for absence. | |
| 2 | Minutes To consider the minutes of the meetings of the Voluntary Sector Partnership held on 11 th July 2019 and 19 th September 2019. | 3 - 7 |
| 3 | Matters Arising To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meetings of the Voluntary Sector Partnership held on 11 th July 2019 and 19 th September 2019. | |
| 4 | STAR Procurement (Elizabeth McKenna and Lynda Brookes) To receive a presentation on STAR Procurement. | |
| 5 | Repairs and Leases at Community Centres in the Borough (Peter Gregory) To consider matters relating to repairs and leases at community centres in the Borough. | |
| 6 | Voluntary Sector Funding (Dianne Gardner) To consider matters relating to Voluntary Sector Funding. | |

7 Any Other Business

To consider any further matters of business.

8 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Voluntary Sector Partnership is scheduled to be held on 20th February 2020 at 10am in the Training and Conference Suite, Number One Riverside.

For more information about this meeting, please contact
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Agenda Item 2

VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday 11th July 2019

PRESENT: Councillor Janet Emsley, Councillor Ashley Dearnley, Councillor Linda Robinson, Alistair Sheldrick, Kathy Thomas, Mary Burke, Sheila Acton, Emma Salloway, Kerry Bertram, Pat Colclough and Sohail Ahmad

OFFICERS: Alison James (Resources Directorate)

84 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP FOR 2019/2020

It was **agreed** that Councillor Janet Emsley be appointed Chair of the Voluntary Sector Partnership for 2019/2020.

(Councillor Emsley in the Chair)

85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Heakin, Bev Place, Lorraine Fairclough, Khadija Tily, Ann Stott, Marenka Vossen, Molly Brown and Kerry Edwards.

86 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2019 were considered.

It was commented that matters relating to funding for those community centres that had closed or were due to close had not been included in the minutes and that an answer to this question was still being sought.

It was **agreed** that subject to the inclusion of the matters relating to community centre funding as detailed above, that the minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary Sector Partnership held on 9th April 2019 be approved as a correct record.

87 EXPERIENCES OF ASYLUM AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN NORTH WEST ENGLAND - UPDATE (ALISTAIR SHELDRIK)

Alistair Sheldrick provided an update on the project he was managing relating to experiences of asylum and social welfare services in North West England.

The project aimed to:

- Record everyday impacts of Government policy on asylum management and benefits/welfare in Rochdale;
- Record service users, service providers, and policy-makers experiences/perspectives;
- Develop an evidence-base - highlighting issues, innovations, and value of local services.

In 2017-2018, this was based in two local drop-in support centres – Petrus and Nestac and consisted of observations and interviews with staff, volunteers, and service users.

Issues had been identified around move on and Universal Credit and new asylum housing contracts due to be introduced in September 2019. Serco had been awarded the 10-year contract in the North West.

Local issues/ areas for improvement had been identified as:-

- Location of asylum-seeker/refugee population across borough neighbourhoods;
- Serco now attending meetings, but the location of asylum housing in the borough not shared;
- Education and health access;
- Clear promotion of services for referrals and signposting pathways;
- Orientation on arrival for all Refugees/Asylum-seekers
- Awareness and support for destitution (initial and final negative decisions);
- 'Move on period' (following positive decision) and Universal Credit;
- Better promotion and awareness of services for signposting/referrals;
- Greater engagement/co-operation with Serco (Asylum housing provider).

It was **agreed** that the presentation be noted.

88 DIPPY ON TOUR (COUNCILLOR EMSLEY)

Councillor Emsley provided an update on Dippy on Tour.

Dippy was due to be in Rochdale from 10th February 2020 to 28th June 2020 with activities and events taking place at both Number One Riverside and Touchstones.

The current position was:

- Heritage Lottery Fund monies had been secured to support delivery of Dippy on Tour across both venues;
- Sponsorship in kind (including publicity) or in real terms towards the costs from a number of sources had been secured including TFGM and Manchester Airport;
- The project plan, including layouts at Number 1 Riverside and Touchstones was being finalised;
- Lots of partners have and will be involved, including the community;
- It will be one of the biggest things to happen to the borough and is a fantastic opportunity to create a legacy;
- There will be massive media interest as this is the only council building to host Dippy and not seen as a traditional 'venue';
- Everyone was encouraged to get involved.

Community Volunteers

- Working with Action Together and others to recruit 100+ volunteers to support Dippy's stay;
- Will work alongside Council and Link4Life staff and staff volunteers as our Dippyplomats over 20 weeks;
- Assisting to create an exceptional visitor experience;

Volunteer Roles:

- Help Desk and Reception
 - Retail
 - School Engagement
 - Visitor Engagement
-
- Recruitment from Rochdale community from September through Link4Life;
 - Training and support provided, including carbon literacy training;
 - Signposting to other volunteering opportunities;
 - Volunteers needed commit to minimum 4 hours per week.

It was **agreed** that the presentation be noted.

89 ACTION TOGETHER UPDATE (KERRY BERTRAM)

Kerry Bertram, Strategic Locality Lead for Rochdale, from Action Together introduced the work that Action Together was currently involved in and plans for future areas of work.

Action Together aimed to provide infrastructure and assist with funding, training and promoting and developing the value of the community and voluntary sector.

There were in excess of 1500 voluntary and community groups in the Borough and Action Together was looking to build its membership.

Action Together was based at the Offices in Drake Street formerly occupied by the CAB.

A workshop was taking place with representatives from Community Centres following this meeting of the Voluntary Sector Partnership.

It was **agreed** that the presentation be noted.

90 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meetings of the Voluntary Sector Partnership would take place as follows:-

- 19th September 2019 at 10am
- 14th November 2019 at 10am
- 20th February 2019 at 10am

VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday 19th September 2019

PRESENT: Councillor Emsley (in the Chair); Councillor Heakin (Rochdale Borough Council), Sheila Acton, Ann Stott, Khadija Tily, Kerry Edwards, Pat Colclough, Leanne Chorlton, Todd Barker and Bev Place

OFFICERS: Peter Thompson (Resources Directorate)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brett, Councillor Dearnley, Molly Brown, Emma Salloway and Mark Wynn.

2 COMMUNITY CENTRES

The Chair, Councillor Emsley, updated the meeting on the current situation regarding community centres in the Borough.

The Chair was asked to confirm the Council's 'long term vision' for community centres in the Borough and what meaningful information can be presented to members of the Voluntary Sector Partnership?

The meeting discussed issues relating to repairs and leases at community centres and it was suggested that the Senior Property Manager (Estates and Asset Management) be requested to attend the next meeting to discuss these matters.

The Chair advised that the Council was committed to maintaining as many community centres as possible in the Borough, for as long as possible.

In response to a query, the Chair reported upon the Transition Fund, from which allocations were made based on established criteria. All unallocated funds had been brought back into the Council's Base Budget.

The Chair was asked to confirm the situation with regard to Meadowfields Community Centre. This establishment had ceased to exist as a community centre but may have continued to receive grant funding. The Chair undertook to investigate this matter.

After a detailed discussion by the Partnership it was **agreed** that:

1. The Senior Property Manager (Estates and Asset Management) be requested to attend the next meeting of the Voluntary Sector Partnership to report on issues relating to repairs and leases at community centres in the Borough
2. The Neighbourhood Cohesion and Community Centres Engagement Officer be requested to review the information on community centre activities, so as to make the information more meaningful for attendees at future meetings of the Voluntary Sector Partnership.

3. The Chair be requested to review the situation relating to grants that have been awarded to the former community centre at Meadowfields,

3 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

The Voluntary Sector Partnership considered items for a work programme that would inform the agendas of future meetings. It was suggested that Helen Chicot, the 'Place Lead' be invited to attend a future meeting of the partnership to discuss the Place Based Scheme that has successfully operated in the Council's Balderstone and Kirkholt and Spotland and Falinge Wards and which was to be rolled out to the Heywood and Middleton Townships.

It was **agreed** that the next scheduled meeting on 14th November shall include a presentation from the Senior Property Manager (Estates and Asset Management) (see above) and an update on voluntary sector finance from Mr. R. Staniland (Contracts and Quality Monitoring Officer).

The following scheduled meeting of the Partnership that is due to be on 20th February 2020 to include a presentation on the Place Base Scheme and a presentation that details the Council's Early Help offer (to be delivered by the Early Help Locality Strategic Coordinator in Children's Services).

The Partnership also considered ways in which future meetings can be made both more efficient and meaningful. In this regard it was **agreed** that:

- a. The Partnership's distribution list be reviewed and. If necessary, updated.
- b. The clerk to the Voluntary Partnership be added to the 'Action Together' distribution list and where necessary channel information between Action Together and the Partnership.
- c. Chair's agenda briefing meetings be reinstated ahead of future meetings of the Partnership to involve the Chair, the clerk to the Partnership, relevant reporting officers and representatives of the voluntary sector.

4 FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the next two meetings of the Voluntary Sector Partnership will be held on Thursday, 14th November 2019 and Thursday, 20th February 2020 both to be held in the Council Offices, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale commencing at 9.30am.