**NORTH YORKSHIRE VCSE SECTOR HEALTH AND CARE ASSEMBLY STEERING GROUP MINUTES**

 **6 December 2023**

1. **Present**

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| **Name** | **Organisation** |
| Rachel Allen | Citizens Advice North Yorkshire |
| Jane Colthup | Community First Yorkshire |
| Dena Dalton | Community First Yorkshire |
| Francis Elliot | HADCA |
| Leon Fijalkowski | Orb Arts |
| Helen Hunter | AGE UK North Yorkshire and Darlington |
| Liz Lockey | Hambleton Community Action |
| Elizabeth McPherson | Carers Plus Yorkshire |
| Abbie Rhodes | Upper Dales Community Partnership |
| Nick Scott | CoLibra Ltd |

1. **Apologies**

Bryony Boyle.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting**

Other than changing the spelling from Gill to Jill Quinn on page 3, the minutes were accepted as a true and fair record.

1. **Matters Arising**

Jane Colthup and Elizabeth McPherson have now met to discuss a Winter Pressures case study.

1. **Outcomes from the previous vision session**

Dena talked through her presentation summarising discussion which had taken place on closer partnership working and the ‘what, how and why’ of the Assembly. Further broader discussions took place covering:

1. Leon felt that the sector’s voice upwards is key.
2. Dena felt that the sector’s added value, prevention work and cascading information across systems were important.
3. Jane stressed that the key message should be the sector’s role in prevention, prevention, prevention.
4. The need to play into the inverted triangle model which places communities at the top, places underneath and the ICB at the bottom that the – North Yorkshire Place Director,Wendy Balmain highlights.
5. Nick suggested the County Durham Approach to Wellbeing model is worth looking at – a model developed which embeds genuine community engagement in all their public health contracts.
6. Liz reported on Hambleton and Richmondshire LCP’s focus on membership and future priorities. She also questioned if the 5% of TEWVs Mental Health service contracts that were supposed to be for the VCSE had happened.
7. Dena reported how the West Yorkshire ICB gave £1 million in recurrent funding to the VCSE sector to build sustainability, mitigate risks and to stave off potential future issues.
8. Marion Tweed Rycroft is now in post as the Health Connector Coordinator at Community First Yorkshire.
9. Each ICB has had 30% reduction in funding.
10. The need to unpick confusing messages around standardising volunteer recruitment within the NHS, to ensure we all understand the approach. The Task and Finish Group for this which sits within the ICB Workforce Development strand is led by Alison Semmence from York CVS.
11. Frances discussed the £1000 Macmillan Pilots through Stronger Communities.
12. Leon flagged the apparent reluctance in North Yorkshire to hand over power and money when compared to the West Yorkshire model.
13. Jane felt that relationships between the health and care sector were the best they had ever been, but relationships with the VCSE sector need development.
14.

***ACTION: Dena to follow this up re TEWVs allocation going to the VCSE sector.***

***ACTION: Nick to circulate Dena’s PowerPoint presentation.***

***ACTION: Nick to circulate details of County Durham’s Approach to Wellbeing Framework.***

***ACTION: Dena to clarify the position regarding standardising volunteer recruitment.***

1. **Local Care Partnership Updates**
2. Helen reported on the four week notice withdrawing funding for a seconded Social Prescriber into Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington, as part of the cuts.
3. Liz reported on how the third meeting of the Hambleton and Richmondshire LCP attended by Liz, Abbie and Dena had focussed on a funding bid. The local assembly meeting is looking at what will happen post March 2024 when current project funding ends.
4. Elizabeth said the next Community Collective meeting will be in 2024. Funding is a big issue for the sector with questions over winter pressures. She pointed out that in other ICPs in England carers are a priority.
5. Rachel reported increasing debt pressures amongst clients and its impact on mental health. She reported a sense of being valued by those on the ground for their work on welfare rights advice and income maximisation vis a vis mental health, but less so in the upper health and care echelons.
6. Frances reported on the pressure on GP services being discussed at the Chief Officers meeting and how New Beginnings is seeing an increase in traumatised people with more complex cases.
7. Leon reported on Craven Care Partnership’s two tier system: monthly cross sectoral coordinators group and a wider Craven Communities Together Forum and genuine partnership working with Bradford. He raised concerns over developing similar relationships with North Yorkshire Council, the ill fit with Adult and Social Care services and ongoing focus on the Approved Provider Lists (APL).
8. Abbie reported on their focus on legitimising the Upper Dales Community Partnership, embedding their value and role and getting on the APL list.
9. Dena flagged potential funding through the VCSE Collaborative for awareness campaigns around vaccinations to increase uptake amongst certain groups. Covid vaccinations will end in January 2024 and flu vaccinations in March 2024.
10. Jane raised the opportunity for VCSE organisations to host health and care students for a 12 week period.

***ACTION: Nick to circulate the health and care student placement opportunity flyer.***

1. **2024 what it is looking like?**

Rachel (Citizens Advice NY and Law Centre) – Increased demand, welfare benefits support focus almost eclipsing utility bills, housing debt and homelessness.

Leon (Orb Arts) – Seeing a steady increase in mental health referrals into community settings from primary care. Increase in referrals of people with serious mental health conditions into the community because primary care has no capacity left.

Liz (Hambleton Community Action) – Recruitment challenges are a big issue for the sector – not least because of salary levels and short term contracts.

Frances (Harrogate and District Community Action) – Competition for funding, funders spreading money more thinly along with delays in decision making are causing staff to be put on notice.

1. **Any Other Business**

None

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

10.00 am – 12.00 pm, 21st February 2024 – in person meeting in either Harrogate or Knaresborough – venue to be confirmed.