

Notes of Chester's Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Network Forum meeting held on Thursday 10 September 2015 at Chester Quaker Meeting House

1	<p>50 attendees 23 apologies were received.</p>
2.	<p>Notes of Network Forum meeting held on 11 June 2015 Notes were approved.</p>
3.	<p>Brightlife Commissioning: Adele Gatley, Commissioning and Contracts Manager A copy of Adele's presentation is available to view on CVA's website here: http://www.chesterva.org.uk/networks/vcfs/ Points covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to get commissioned • The expectations of Brightlife for commissioned project • The support available to providers <p>Funding available for new projects only.</p> <p>Organisations can submit PPQ's up until the end of October.</p> <p>Successful organisations will join 'Brightlife Bank' of potential provides. Older people will decide which organisations to commission.</p> <p>Tenders will be advertised end of October/early November 2015.</p> <p>'Bright Ideas' is to be launched early next year.</p> <p>For additional information and enquiries please contact Adele direct on: Mobile: 07467045492 Email: adele.gatley@brightlifecheshire.org.uk</p> <p>The new Brightlife website goes live on 21 September www.brightlifecheshire.org.uk</p>
4	<p>Big Lottery Update: Natalie Brandon, Funding Officer Natalie is the new Funding Officer for the North West Region. Support and guidance is available to organisations applying to the Awards for All or Reaching Communities fund at pre-application stage and throughout the process. Feedback can also be requested if unsuccessful: Natalie.Brandon@biglotteryfund.org.uk / 07837 258986</p>
5.	<p>Community Energy: Emma Polak, Energy and Carbon Reduction Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council A copy of Emma's presentation is available to view on CVA's website here: http://www.chesterva.org.uk/networks/vcfs/</p> <p>Community Energy Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively promote community energy and the benefits of such projects • Support willing communities to establish community energy schemes • Celebrate local community energy successes and share knowledge <p>Support, tools and resources available from CWaC.</p> <p>Community Energy Fortnight: 5th – 20th September.</p> <p>West Cheshire Community Energy Conference: 14th November 2015 Official launch of the support package. Full day session. Venue TBC</p>

	<p>Contact details: Emma.Polak@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</p>
6.	<p>Partnership News and Strategic Updates Carol Berry, Chief Officer, Chester Voluntary Action CVA's current contract with CWaC, along with consortium members - Ellesmere Port and Neston Association of Voluntary & Community Organisations (EPNAVCO), Cheshire Community Action (CCA) and Cheshire and Warrington Social Enterprise Partnership (CWSEP), ends in March 2016 and will be put out to tender. The Council has asked the consortium to undertake a consultation with local front-line voluntary and community groups and this will form part of the tendering process. CVA will soon be seeking the support of members to take part in a questionnaire and a range of focus groups to gather information about what services groups will require in the future and how they would like them delivered.</p>
7.	<p>Reports and News from Voluntary and Community Groups</p> <p>[Kerry Richardson] Chester Constabulary is reviewing the Equality Objectives that were set out in 2014 to see if they are suitable or should be changed. The work will inform the decision makers within the Constabulary and will help to shape and improve the objectives to be set in 2016. An online survey can be accessed here (closes 21 September) http://www.cheshire.police.uk/contact/consultations/equality-objectives-survey Contact: Kerry.Richardson@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</p> <p>[Alan Murphy] Vintage Blacon is interested to hear from groups who would be willing to work together and employ the services of 3PS to deliver training sessions to members of the community. More details to follow soon. http://www.vintageblacon.org/</p> <p>[Rita Lewis] Debt Advice Network recently celebrated the launch of the new Community Hub in Ellesmere Port – now based here with EPNAVCO. The hub has two training rooms available to hire and hot desking opportunities available. Counselling sessions are also provided –open to all http://www.thedebtadvicenetwork.org/</p> <p>[Kate Oakes] Women's Housing Action Group provides 8 individual units for women and children fleeing domestic violence. Support groups delivered in Chester, Ellesmere Port and soon to be in Winsford http://www.whag.info/</p> <p>[Rosaleen Winterburn] Alzheimer's Society's Chester office has now moved to Northwich – no change to services delivered.</p> <p>[Shantele Janes] Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre's AGM is to be held on Wednesday 30th September at the Unity Centre - open to all from 7.15 p.m. The Unity Centre is also a collection point for the donations appeal to support refugees across Europe see here for list/details https://www.facebook.com/chawrec</p> <p>[Sandra Hewitt] Avenue Services, Blacon – the new Parade Enterprise Centre opened 7 September and is delivering a number of workshops and activities. A Jobs Fair is to be held at the Centre on 22 October – further details to follow http://www.avenueservices.org/</p> <p>[Simon Sandford] Healthbox CIC – clients can be referred to the Vale Royal Stop Smoking Service for free support – appointments available evening and weekends and home visits are also offered http://www.healthboxcic.co.uk/</p> <p>[Jane Colville] OPAL is recruiting for a part time administrative assistant http://www.opalservices.org.uk/. 'Go Online' service aimed at supporting older people living in rural areas to access the internet is doing extremely well and is hoping to expand.</p> <p>[Pat Daniels] Chester Child Birth Appeal - a Classical Music Concert is being held at St</p>

	<p>Mary's Centre on Sat 17 October in aid of the Child Birth Appeal and Wirral and North Cheshire Prostate Cancer Support Group. Doors open at 7pm - for tickets please email chester.childbirth@nhs.net</p> <p>[Joanne Stanton] Chester Voluntary Action is working in partnership with Cheshire and Warrington Carers Trust to deliver support to carers in employment through a project called Rallyround. Carers can securely post requests for help with household tasks onto the Rallyround website for friends, family or volunteers to respond to. Volunteer recruitment drive is currently underway – please contact joanne@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk for details.</p> <p>[Chris Fox] Harthill Hub will soon be launching a new Green Care Programme. For upcoming developments visit http://www.harthillhub.org.uk/ and https://www.facebook.com/harthillhub</p> <p>[Carolyn Shepherd] Art Works Studio, Northwich is holding an evening exhibition on 24 September from 7 p.m. - free of charge and all welcome. Dementia Friends Arts Club – offers a relaxing environment & peer support. Available to undertake community projects – please contact for more details http://www.artworkstudios.co.uk/</p>
8.	<p>Next Forum Meeting: Fri 18 Dec 2015 (10.00 - 12.00 pm) at Chester Quaker Meeting House Plus mince pies</p>