

Notes of Chester's Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Network Forum meeting held on Tuesday 9 December 2014 at Chester Quaker Meeting House

1	<p>43 attendees 8 apologies were received.</p>
2	<p>Notes of Network Forum meeting held on 16 Sept 2014 Notes were approved.</p>
3.	<p>BIG Lottery Fund: Overview of Funding Programmes and support available Ceri McGhee, Local Funding Officer Presentation is attached. Key points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure good governance and financial procedures in place 2. Show evidence of need 3. Involve beneficiaries at every stage 4. Work in partnership 5. Do not duplicate another project in same area 6. Strong outcomes 7. Appoint a "critical friend" for example Chester Voluntary Action <p>Reaching Communities/Awards for All clinics will be held on Wed 28 January 2015. Bookings via Chester Voluntary Action – more details to follow – email enquires@chesterva.org.uk</p>
4.	<p>Vulnerable People: Paul Hickson, CWaC Senior Locality Officer Postponed until future meeting</p>
5.	<p>Restorative Justice & Mediation Hub Julie Blaylock, Specialist Services Manager Presentation is attached. Based at Ellesmere Port Police Station. PCC funded project.</p> <p>Restorative justice is between victim and offender. Victim focussed. Enables victim to get closure. For an illustrative example, see You Tube video "The Woolf Within"</p> <p>Mediation service is open to anyone seeking to end disputes, for example, neighbours can be referred by their landlord; families with troubled teenagers etc.</p>
6.	<p>Partnership News and Strategic Updates Carol Berry, Chief Officer CVA</p> <p>LEP/BIG Lottery: multiple barriers and complex needs - £11.2 million Looking for partnerships rather than Lead and sub-contractor model – with shared responsibilities Target beneficiaries are aged 15+ Projects must be scalable and replicable Overall aim is to support disadvantaged groups to ensure social inclusion and overcome poverty</p> <p>Brightlife project: 5 years lottery funding (see attached poster for more details) £5 million to reduce social isolation amongst people over the age of 50. Lead organization is Age UK Cheshire. Test and learn approach – will look to see what works well with a national evaluation taking place at the end of the project. Carol Berry (CVA) is on the steering group and will keep members informed.</p>

7.	<p>Reports and News from Voluntary & Community Groups</p> <p>Michael Hemmerdinger: unanimously voted by show of hands to continue as Third Sector Representative in his role as Deputy Chair of Governors at Countess of Chester Hospital. MH urged groups to pass on message to beneficiaries and service users to think twice before going to A&E and consider alternatives first such as local pharmacy/GP.</p> <p>Emily Allen, Diocese of Chester: new role as Church Buildings Officer with remit to balance heritage with social action. A second new post is that of Projects Officer in Transforming Lives by reducing poverty.</p> <p>DIAL West Cheshire is a hate crime reporting centre. Open to anyone experiencing hate crime whatever the cause. Debbie Fletcher is Hate Crime Champion – 01244 345655.</p> <p>Pat Daniels, Chester Child Birth Appeal: Bishop of Chester will unveil plaque on the £67,000 children’s playground on Mon 9 February 2015 at the Comfort Zone Café. If anyone would like to attend, please contact chester.childbirth@nhs.net</p> <p>David Woods, Cheshire West Voluntary Arts Network: announced Voluntary Arts Awards to take place in May 2015. Watch this space!</p> <p>Alan Murphy, Vintage Blacon working with Healthwatch CW on a task and finish group to look into reducing isolation and loneliness in older people. Planning an event with Avenue Services on 4 February 2015.</p> <p>Alison Tansey, Cheshire Community Foundation: deadline for next round of general funding is 15 January 2015. The Comic Relief Community Fund re-opens on 5 January with deadline of Friday 27th February 2015. For more details go to: http://www.cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk/comic_relief_local_communities_2014.aspx</p> <p>Linda Jenyon, Street Pastors working with Night Church and University of Chester to run a pilot project to provide extra support to students.</p> <p>Simone Airey, P3 Community Hub (1 York St, Chester) offering arts, skills for life, fishing, creative writing. Hub is open to anyone not just P3 service users.</p> <p>Ngozi Ikoku, Countess of Chester Hospital thanked everyone who voted for the Lloyds Bank Community Fund. COCH were successful in winning £3000 for baby massage.</p> <p>Cllr Alex Black, Hoole Community Development Trust thanked everyone who voted for HCDDT in the ITV People’s Millions. Successful in receiving £50,000 for a community café.</p> <p>Elsie Ever After – a charitable organisation providing free bereavement packs to families. For more information contact elsieeverafter@hotmail.com Follow on Twitter @elsieeverafter or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ElsieEverAfter</p> <p>Chester Voluntary Action health & wellbeing grant for small grassroots groups apply now http://www.chesterva.org.uk/chester-health-and-wellbeing-small-grants-now-open/ or contact Joanne Stanton for more details joanne.stanton@chesterva.org.uk</p> <p>CVA Membership reminder – if you have not yet done so, please join or renew your membership now via the website http://www.chesterva.org.uk/membership/</p>
8.	<p>Next Forum Meeting: Thurs 15 March 2015 (10.00 - 12.00 pm) at Chester Quaker Meeting House</p>