

2 September

Voices Board Meeting

4 September

Interviewed for Changing Futures Review

Wychavon CALC (County Association of Local Councils) meeting

Briefed on the background and aims of Voices; the web portal and the Virtual Forum. They were very interested in the Forum as a different approach to two way communication. They thought there would be good reasons to develop links with Voices – although Parish Councils are statutory bodies they are made up of volunteers and are at the centre of their communities. As we develop community links they could be part of our approach. I provided copies of our flier.

10 September

Onside Annual Meeting

12 September

Forum Subgroup Meeting

Meet Suzy James

Updated Suzy on our plans to take forward Volunteering; the Council have new Cabinet member with responsibility for localism and communities – Lucy Hodgson. Suzy is arranging for 'Slivers in Time' to come to brief the Senior Management Team and offered to arrange for them to brief Voices on the same day. I accepted.

ASH directorate under Richard Harling has relaunched its VCS Reference Group with new wider brief – to develop two way exchange of information and working relationships with VCS including the public health aspect. Voices Board to select people with a strategic perspective.

18 September

Meet Kay Bromley - Volunteering in Malvern

Arranged to meet to find out about how volunteering is operating in Malvern. The CVS stopped volunteer support some time ago and Kay recognised there was still a need and volunteers (through the CAB) to provide some support. Discussed the highlights of our research.

24 September

Worcestershire Partnership Executive Group

Joint Property Proposal – Update on work by statutory bodies (WCC, Police, Fire, Health and Care Trust, Redditch and Worcester Councils) exploring options and likely savings of several £million per year.

Joined Up Working – Putting local citizens at centre; based around Housing; Redditch underway and plan to extend to Bromsgrove AHN.

Reorganisation of Probation Services nationally – 40% staying in public sector; 60% being commissioned nationally; split to take place from April 2014 and contracts awarded in following months. Changes now to split the service in two. In future all offenders coming out of prison will be supported. No local commissioning – but hope that the main contract holders will recognise good practice and continue to support local providers. Implications for representation from Probation of strategic groups.

Spending reductions – all partners seeing continued pressures to reduce costs. Cuts to date have had big impact on organisations but less obvious signs for the services delivered to people / communities – impact may not have rippled through completely. Commitment to openness at early stages of planning so that cuts in several agencies do not have disproportionate impact on particular groups of people. Police in discussions with partners, Fire Service announced cuts to front line services. Following Corporate Strategy Week the Council recognised increased pressures to reduce budgets – up to double what had been planned. Key services would need to be funded but others would face significant reductions. No detail at present but effects would be felt in the next financial year.

26 September

Meet Martin Honeywell

He is undertaking a mapping exercise on behalf of the West Midlands Compact Panel into Third Sector Infrastructure Support. This is an exercise to gather data about those involved in infrastructure support across the 14 Upper tier authorities in the region.

27 September

Malvern Hills Volunteering Forum

Over 40 people attended most from Malvern groups with a few from WCC, SWCCG, MHDC, and from larger / countywide VCS organisations. Sian Basker spoke briefly about the report and the recommendations in relation to organisations using volunteers (who were in the majority of those present). She plugged our site as the place to download the report and summary. Discussion groups looked at the issues for groups using volunteers. Recruitment of volunteers was a common thread particularly young volunteers and also specialist roles eg Trustees. Much reflected the research findings. They felt that local networking events would be useful but accepted that not everybody could / would come. Some picked up our flyer from the resource table.

30 September

Governance Subgroup Meeting