

Future Role of VCS Gathering 30 November 2015 Notes

Gathering of key VCS leaders to start a discussion on the question “What is the future role of the VCS in Worcestershire?” and how to respond.

Attendance:

See list below along with apologies and invitees. This list needs to be expanded to cover more of the VCS.

1. Introductions:

2. Background:

Austerity - continuing for foreseeable future - public sector shrinking - the public sector partners exploring how to get more for the ‘Worcestershire pound’ - key element - people do more for themselves, their community, community resilience and want to reduce dependency culture

Opportunity for the VCS - How do we want to respond - if at all?

3. Exercise

Draw a picture of the Worcestershire we see / want in 5-10 years time

There was a wide range of views – some salient points
(These are not points of agreement but some of the diverse views)

- Do we (the VCS) survive?
- Need to be focussed not generalist
- Appetite for volunteers to take on more roles (leadership)
- Questioned if vol orgs should become leaders in communities?
- Some communities are self sustainable
- Communities not in isolation
- Role for the VCS – information and communication
- Some communities not self sustainable – need some (a little support)
- Not all needs equal
- Questioned if the Voluntary sector was part of the problem and should be done away with?
- Agreed now seemed like a time for change
- Expectations of people are rising as the state and the voluntary sector appear to be shrinking
- Evolving solutions to suit particular circumstances (not one size fits all)
- Experience shapes society – for good or ill

- Focus on people in communities and support for them from Family / Neighbours / Communities VCS/ State
- Communities evolve – but NOT driven by money but ‘social’ impact
- Do we need community Facilitators or Leaders?

4. Future Role of Voices:

New model for Voices was shared (attached)

Three parts –

- Stakeholders
- Reference Group
- Chair and Action Group

This has been the first meeting of a Reference Group. This is for those who are willing to engage and to shape the responses of Voices – not looking for a single voice but to reflect diversity. Will not be dominated by large organisations

5. Next Steps

- Agreed to continue the debate – and include those who could not make today.
- Agreed to have a ‘central point’ WV admin who would circulate emails (with no attachments) to the wider group.
- Agreed to try to hold another meeting of this Reference Group in a couple of months

Present:

Michael Hunter	Worcestershire Voices	
Cat Illingworth	Young Solutions	
Derek Markie	Worcestershire Voices	
Kate Walton	Pershore Volunteer Centre	
Tonia Enderbury	Droitwich CVS	
Philip Talbot	Age UK H&W	
John Taylor	Community First	
Lindsay Peniston	Worcestershire Volunteering Hub Community Transport Consortium Worcester Volunteer Centre	
Richard Quallington	Worcestershire Voices	
Jim Smith	Worcestershire Association of Carers	
Kate Harvey	Onside	
Jonathan Sutton	St Paul's Hostel	
Phil Street	Young Solutions	

Apologies:

Gary Roskell	BARN	
Roger Britton	Community Foundation	
Carole Cumino	Worcestershire Association of Carers	
Philip Gerard	Deaf Direct	
Jane Abdulla	Red Cross	
Mark Jackson	St Richard's Hospice	
Helen Gray	Evesham Volunteer Centre	
Doug Chaplin	Diocese of Worcester	
Steve Brewster	Sports Partnership	
Andrew Herbert	Sports Partnership	

Invitees:

Richard Levett	Worcestershire CALC	
Duncan Berry	Worcestershire YMCA	
Vanessa Turner	Red Cross	