**Halton Children and Young People’s**

**Voluntary Sector Forum (CYPVSF)**

Minutes 26th August 2015

Play Resource Centre, Runcorn

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

**In Attendance:**

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| **In Attendance:**  Donna Wells – Young Addaction  Ky Watson – Night stop Communities  Jonathan Evans – Child Bereavement UK  Claire Lomax – Halton Play Council  Joyce Reilly – Halton Play Council  Ian Pi – Mako Education  Dawn Conneely – Terrence Higgins Trust  Alex Kay – Terrence Higgins Trust  Barbara Cunningham - NYAS  Michelle Forder – Lead engagement Officer, HBC | **Apologies:**  Claire Bradbury – PIP  Chris Sweeting – Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service  Carla Boden – CRI  Pauline Ruth – Healthwatch Halton  Karen Tonge MBE – Halton Sports Partnership & Halton Table Tennis  Oli Gomersall – Wellbeing Enterprises CIC  Barry Lyonette – Child Bereavement UK  Deborah Cornes – Health Improvement Team  Alison Gleeve – Halton and St Helen’s VCA  Richard Shacklady – Communities HBC |

NB: Actions are highlighted in **bold**.

1. **Discussion to evaluate and plan future of forum**

MF has returned form 6 months on maternity leave. Today’s meeting was used as an opportunity to assess the business of forum and allow members to make suggestions.

Focus and core business of CYP VSF

DW suggested having standing agenda items/ areas of focus in order for those who have responsibility as representatives. It was thought that CSE and SEND should be standard agenda items. **Areas of focus will be discussed and decided at September meeting. MF to add to agenda.**

Funding was another key area discussed it was felt that more sharing of funding opportunities could be done at the forum. For example DW knew of funding for Astmoore area for organisations working with YP at risk of NEET.

Members felt that networking was an important part of the forum and there should be the opportunity to network, find out about members services and potentially work together on referring to each other and potentially doing joint funding bids. **MF to update the business profile and bring to next meeting for discussion.** JE suggested that at every meeting one organisation should have the opportunity to complete a 10 minute presentation; this would make members more aware of each other’s organisations. These presentations could then be reported at Halton Children’s Trust and Commissioning Partnership Board, based on these boards’ agendas. Presentations and agenda items will be discussed at end of meeting for following meeting. A call for items will also be sent out on outlook.

Members suggested a range of guests that could visit to talk and give information to members these were; Pauline Ruth on CWAC VSF, Community development officers on funding, Policy officers for updates on new policies and commissioning managers and Beverly Knight from KOOTH website. **Guest requests to be decided at each meeting and invite to be carried out by appropriate member.**

Representation and Chair

It was though that representatives should be linked to core business areas for the forum and feedback from boards would be incorporated into those areas.

Any important feedback from meetings should be sent to Michelle who will then email out to forum. Standing agenda items will also include information from meetings.

It was thought that members should leave the meeting with relevant actions and not all actions to be for MF.

CL and JK offered to be new Chair of forum under Halton Play council this will be decided once we have more members attend the meeting in Septembe**r. MF to put onto next meeting’s agenda.**

Cleo Alonso previous chair for Halton Family Voice has offered to be part of CYP VSF as she currently attends Halton Strategic Partnership Board and Children’s PPB. It was thought she could attend with the responsibility to represent Community and VSF. It was felt that CA would be an asset to the group as an impartial member and it was suggested that she become the Deputy Chair for the forum. CA can attend every other month and so would chair at these meetings. MF to send CA details for meetings.

Promotion, webpage and logo

Presentations and organisation films to be put onto webpage, which would be changed on a monthly basis. This will promote the work of VS. Any other suggestions for webpage to be sent to MF.

Press release on the forum to promote **JE to support/write press release once all business priorities are in place.**

New Logo to be designed and relaunched. This will be discussed at September meeting. Organisations asked to bring own logos with them to ensure no similarity to one particular organisation.

1. **Membership updates**

Mako - have had a busy summer delivering multimedia workshops. There have been sessions at CRMZ and Manchester Libraries as well as weekend animation courses which have all been well attended. Mako have also completed a number of filming projects for organisations wanting to advertise concisely what they do. This service is available for other organisations please contact Ian or Shaun further information, [info@makoeducation.co.uk](mailto:info@makoeducation.co.uk)

Child Bereavement UK – Last year referrals around summer had dipped but this year they have remained consistent with the rest of the year. They have now offered support for 110 families around bereavement. Recently recruited a new support worker for the support of 25 years plus.

Nightstop – Currently expanding to Knowsley and Warrington, still looking for premises in Knowsley. Opened 2nd house in Halton and now looking for 3rd. working with HHT to use properties. Still need hosts for emergency accommodation. Nightstop have had really high referrals (in particular from Wellbeing enterprises) recently and currently there is a waiting list but currently recruiting for new counsellors. Women’s play group is going really well and has had numerous activities organised and days out.

NYAS – Provides Children’s Rights and advocacy service for Children in Care. Currently recruiting for volunteers for the befriending service, volunteers would take out YP to do activities once a month.

Terrence Higgins Trust – Carry out chlamydia screening across Warrington, St Helen’s and Halton. They are a small team with a large area to cover. Their target age is 15-24 year olds. They would be happy to work with organisations working with this age range and can come to test YP during sessions, events or activities or can train staff in testing. They also have opportunities for sessional workers if there were people who were interested, it was felt that it could be good for young volunteers who are looking for some sessional paid work. **MF to invite DC to INVOLVE**.

Addaction – It has been a busy summer. Addaction have offered a range of summer provision including; JJsports, Mako media sessions, DofV, Extreme Sports. These activities have been well attended. Some of the universal youth club sessions has been quiet ie HRMZ. It will be decided in coming weeks which youth clubs will remain open.

There has been a huge amount of referrals in for addaction substance misuse service. An increase in y/women with alcohol issues has been recognised and a link made between the hidden harm project, there has been a 25% increase in mums with addaction presenting at adult services.

The Amy Winehouse foundation work is going well and is now delivered in all Halton secondary schools

Play Council – Extremely busy summer. 5 open access play schemes and short breaks. Sessions have been full most days, some sessions children had to be turned away due to child ratio’s. CL is working on the play council being sustainable this year. They have also had very high referrals, due to SEND reforms and autism diagnosis being broken down this has been difficult as there are more children entitled to provision.

Liaising with addaction to deliver some training on challenging behaviour and will support ‘make it happen’ group.

Toy Library

Play, Learn and loan scheme are lending more to professionals and disability teams. There has been some changes in loan sessions at the children’s centres due to need. There are now 5 targeted sessions instead of 6 this has freed up JK time to do more 1:1 sessions at the play resource centre.

1. **AOB**

Since the Network event at o2 strong links have been made between Play council and o2 who supported the funday at OCA. Mako, addaction have also made links with o2.

**Date of next meeting:**

**Wednesday 30th September 2015 10-12 – Box 9 Halton Stadium, Widnes**