**Halton Children and Young People’s**

**Voluntary Sector Forum (CYPVSF)**

Minutes 28th January 2015

Stobart Stadium, Widnes

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

**In Attendance:**

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| **In Attendance:**Chris Sweeting – Youth Offending Team – HBCAlison Gleave – Halton and St helen’s VCAJoyce Reilly – Halton Play CouncilJon Uttby – Sports WorksIan Pye – Mako EducationDave Packwood – Barnardo’sCheryl Darnell – Catch 22 Halton Youth Provision Rachel Doyle (MF) – Halton Borough Council | **Apologies:**Claire Lomax - Halton Play Council Sam Dutton – Catch 22 |

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

1. **Previous minutes and matters arising**

Previous minutes were accepted as a true representation of the last meeting. There were no matters arising or outstanding actions

1. **Jon Uttley – Sports Works (Manchester and Cheshire) ltd**

Jon Uttley is responsible for launching Sports Works in Halton, his company has been trading for six years and is hoping to grow this across the NorthWest – Sports Works provides Sport and Educational Programmes across Primary Schools, through Local Authority Contracts and disengaged children in mainstream education.

Jon was interested in gaining an understanding of what sports provision is available to disabled children in Halton.

Halton Play Council currently provide short breaks for children up to the age of 18. They also operate a playscheme (open access) for children aged 5 to 12. Disabled children can access this service with 1 to 1 support. A range of activities are on offer including sports, arts and crafts etc. The playscheme operates in the school holidays and is provides across 2 sites in Halton (Runcorn and Widnes). The most popular activities are doing outdoor sports such as football and basketball. The wheelchair rugby team recently attended their funday. Short breaks are currently being provided to 6-8 children per session and approximately 40children attend the playscheme on a Saturday (across both sites).

Jon asked the group if they had a view on what is not currently available and it was agreed that parents are always looking for additional activities for their children to take part it. It was commented that a visually impaired child has to travel to Liverpool to take part in Football as that provision is not available in Halton.

There are a number of sports teams operating in Halton (St Peter and Paul, Vikings, Connect, Chestnut Lodge)– it was agreed that Halton has a lot of amazing facilities to access including a new climbing wall at Upton Community Centre, Victoria Park, B Boulder located in West Bank, Ice Rink and Bowling Alley.

There was some discussion around Sports Works being a Ltd company. It was agreed that the structure CIC (Community Interest Company) is more easily recognised. A CIC can bring in additional funding via Big lottery etc.

Jon queried whether there was a parent’s forum In Halton – he was given the details of a group called Halton ImPart. This is a parent carers’ group within Halton empowering parent carers’ to be an active part of the design, development and delivery of services for children with a disability and or additional needs within Halton. Please see link below.

<http://haltoncarers.co.uk/help-for-carers/halton-impart-parents-group>

1. **Network event – Feedback**

A network event held at 02 was deemed to be a success. It was well attended. HPC and Mako commented on the new contacts made and found the event interesting and worthwhile. 02 have community teams and can provide free/cheap venue hire.

Although there is some grant funding there they can also offer plenty of staff who go along and attend events as volunteers and can provide support.

02 also operate the Think Big programme where young people can put forward their ideas for projects in the community and receive various levels of grant funding.

1. **Faith Organisations engagement – Jeremy Duff**

Unfortunately this representative had not been invited to the VSF Meeting – Rachel Doyle to feedback to her Manager.

1. **Feedback from Boards**

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| **Meetings** | **Organiser/ contact**  | **VSF Representative** |
| **Halton Safeguarding Exec  Board**No update | Tracey Holyhead Tracey.Holyhead@halton.gov.uk |  Michelle Forder Michelle.Forder@halton.gov.uk |
| **Halton Safeguarding Board**No Update  | Tracey Holyhead Tracey.Holyhead@halton.gov.uk |  Sam Dutton Sam.Dutton@catch-22.org.ukDonna Wells d.wells@addaction.org.uk  |
| **Halton Children’s Trust**Meeting following day | Tracy Ryan Tracy.Ryan@halton.gov.uk | Norma Hornby boatproject.76@btconnect.com |
| **Children’s Trust Executive Group** No update | Tracy Ryan Tracy.Ryan@halton.gov.uk | Michelle Forder Michelle.Forder@halton.gov.uk |
| **Early Help and Support /Closing The gap**Meeting cancelled due to inspection | Tracy Ryan Tracy.Ryan@halton.gov.uk | **VACANCY** |
| **NEET Strategic group** No Update | Claire Gurney Claire.Gurney@halton.gov.ukPaula Edwards Paula.Edwards@halton.gov.uk | Alison Gleave agleave@haltonva.org.ukNorma Hornby (deputy) |
| **Youth Opportunities** Meeting cancelled due to inspection | Christine Dooley Christine.Dooley@halton.gov.uk | Norma Hornby boatproject.76@btconnect.com |
| **Workforce development Date:** next meeting planned for January | John Gallagher John.Gallagher@halton.gov.uk | Michelle Forder Michelle.Forder@halton.gov.uk Norma to cover Jan 2015 – August 2015 |
| **Anti-Bulling Group /Esaftey****MF to contact group to add Ian and remove previous rep** | Susan Paine Susan.Paine@halton.gov.uk |  Ian Pye ian@makoeducation.co.uk |
| **Child and Family Poverty group** Cancelled due to inspection | Debbie Houghton Debbie.Houghton@halton.gov.uk | Norma Hornby boatproject.76@btconnect.com |
| **Commissioning Partnership**Cancelled due to inspection | Tracy Ryan Tracy.Ryan@halton.gov.uk | Michelle Forder Michelle.Forder@halton.gov.uk |
| **Placement provider forum**No feedback available | Sam Murtagh Sam.Murtagh@halton.gov.uk | Ross McCooey to investigate if Core assets already attend and if they could be the VSF rep |

No updates were available for any of the meetings – Alison Gleave will be attending the next NEET meeting.

1. **AOB**

An organisation has received a letter stating that they must have out a workplace pension in place for employees by next year. This issue will be affecting a lot of small charities currently. VSF are unable to recommend providers who deliver employee pension schemes however we are able to share the details of the organisation FOR INFORMATION ONLY. ***Information to be passed to me.***

HPC distributed some flyers detailing their February half term playscheme.

A volunteer recruitment fair is being held at Halton College on 21st April 2015 – If interested please book a table, these events are usually quite well attended by members of the public and students.

**Next meeting Wednesday 25th February 2015 10 -12pm Castlefields Community Centre**