



Bradford District Assembly
*the voluntary and
community sector together*



BRADFORD DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT AND CONFERENCE REPORT 2013/14

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.	
2	INTRODUCTION
3	HOW THE ASSEMBLY WORKS
3 – 12 4 8-12	ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2013/14 <i>Assembly Steering Group</i> <i>Assembly Forums</i>
13 – 21 13 14 14-15 15-16 13-17	BRADFORD DISTRICT ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 2014 <i>Executive Summary</i> <i>Overview</i> <i>Presentations</i> <i>The Workshops – Key messages and follow up actions</i> <i>APPENDIX A – Workshop Notes</i>

INTRODUCTION

The Bradford District Assembly (BDA) was established in 2009 and has successfully developed its objective to be an effective and influential voice for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in Bradford district within the local authority and other public sector bodies. CNet is commissioned by the council to co-ordinate and facilitate the Assembly, and to support its members and representatives.

The Assembly is firmly embedded in local structures and partnerships and is recognised as an important means of communication and engagement with the sector. It is open to any not-for-profit VCS organisation in the district via membership of forums, attending events and exchanging information.

This structure enables organisations to work together to shape local policy and services, and increases mutual understanding between the VCS and statutory partners. Representatives are elected or selected to participate in partnership meetings, task groups, and consultations to present a voluntary sector perspective.

The Assembly website contains information about how the organisation works, who is involved, reports from meetings and representatives, updates on important policy developments or consultations, and the latest decisions that affect our district's communities. Visit www.cnet.org.uk/bradford-district-assembly/

HOW THE ASSEMBLY WORKS

The Assembly comprises eight **thematic forums** all of which have open membership for people involved in voluntary/community groups and organisations. Collectively there are over a thousand members participating in the Assembly. The forums meet regularly and are independent but work under the Assembly umbrella. They provide a vital means of accountability for the Assembly and enable more co-ordinated responses to situations and consultations. Forums work with public sector colleagues to represent the needs of communities and the VCS, tackle inequalities and find solutions to the growing challenges for service provision.

- Health & Wellbeing Forum
- Regeneration & Prosperity Forum
- Young Lives Bradford
- Bradford Environment Forum
- Equalities Forum
- Safer Communities Forum
- Cultural Forum
- Religion and Belief Forum

The Assembly Steering Group (ASG) has representatives from each of the forums plus other VCS partners. Its role is to filter views, issues and information from the forums through to decision making negotiations.

ASG members meet representatives from the council on a regular basis, at meetings called the **Relationship Management Group (RMG)** which is chaired by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio holder for Safer and Stronger Communities. This provides an opportunity for honest and open debate and problem solving, using information from the forums and elsewhere. The RMG has been meeting since January 2011 and has played a key role in influencing and informing strategic decisions.

For further information and details of how to get involved, contact the Assembly coordinator, Janet Ford janet@cnet.org.uk 01274 305045 or visit the website www.cnet.org.uk/bradford-district-assembly/

Also on the Assembly website:

- A directory of assembly representatives and officers
- Minutes of meetings
- Dates of meetings and events
- Reports from representatives
- Links to other websites and information such as Council papers and reports

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2013-14

BRADFORD DISTRICT ASSEMBLY STEERING GROUP

Chair: Caroline Schwaller

Vice Chair: Matt Band

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ASSEMBLY STEERING GROUP'S WORK 2013-14

Caroline Schwaller, BDA Chair

A: INTRODUCTION

The Bradford District Assembly has been operating for 4 years, and there seems to be little doubt that this district benefits hugely from having a structure that has enabled the voluntary and community sector to raise its voice – and more importantly, be listened to. The fact that the council continues to fund the administration of this Assembly demonstrates their belief that having an “organised” relationship with the VCS brings the following benefits:

- benefits to the people of Bradford District by recognising how important the voices of communities are in helping to make the best decisions possible (and listening to where things need to be done)
- benefits to recognising that the VCS is a major player (a third of the market place, for one thing) from whom others can “buy” our services); we are a significant economical force in the district, bringing in money and resources from elsewhere and combining it cleverly to get maximum benefit from what we can get here
- benefits to considering how processes and decision making could use our expertise, local knowledge, and advice and ensure that the VCS is not disadvantaged by commissioning and procurement and grant making processes

The Assembly Steering Group (ASG) and the Assembly forums continue to work at the heart of local government and the new NHS structures and challenge where we feel it is important; we open up dialogue that might not have otherwise happened and importantly we offer solutions and ideas.

We have had very useful information from council officers, such as details of the new commissioning framework (Rosemary Cowgill); an overview of the information that is now gathered and considered by the Director of Finance’s department (Stuart McKinnon Evans); and the creation of Brad Maps (Jamie Saunders).

As always we provide constructive comments and advice and these opportunities strengthen the understanding between the VCS and the council.

Members of the ASG commit time to this work alongside their jobs and voluntary work; we are united by a common determination to create and sustain a strong and open relationship with local government and the NHS - for communities and the VCS. We are supported by the team at CNet, which makes all this possible.

Using intelligence gathered from the Assembly forums, and our experiences elsewhere (which could be local, regional or national) here are some brief examples of what the ASG has been concentrating on in the last year. **Please see the forum reports for more details.**

B: ASG WORKPLAN

In order to give ourselves a clearer focus and a more proactive approach to our role, we have divided our annual work plan into two main sections.

1. Policy areas with ASG lead as identified in this year's work plan

- a) Localism: Matt Band (Vice Chair and member of Young Lives Forum)
- b) Social Value: Anthony Clipsom (VCS Infrastructure representative)
- c) Social Investment: Anthony Clipsom
- d) LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnerships and city regions): David Wilford (Co-Chair RAP forum)
- e) Welfare reform (Nick Hodgkinson – not a member of ASG, but an undeniable lead for the district on this issue that troubles us all)
- f) Public Health reform: Natasha Thomas (elected representative on Health & Wellbeing Board and co-chair of Health & Wellbeing Forum); Helen Speight (co-chair Health & Wellbeing Forum). This was and is a hot topic for ASG – pressing for clarity and information about the council's plan for what it intends to do with the £34m transfer of funds from the NHS (April 2013), which is why it is the chosen subject of this year's conference.
- g) Sustainable Communities Act: Helen Speight (Health & Wellbeing Co-Chair) and Peter Bloom (safer Communities Co-Chair)

Ongoing work:

- **Council's review of commissioning and procurement, and structural changes in the council:** Anthony Clipsom and Javed Khan (CEO CNet) – extremely important work that involves working with council officers and commissioners to shape the setting of priorities and processes with the VCS in mind.
- **Review of infrastructure support services for the VCS:** Members of ASG are working with council officers to create recommendations for the future, using feedback from the VCS and bearing in mind the intended 25% cut in funding in 2014-15 and the continuing and changing needs of the VCS
- We aim to revitalise the Compact, and there have been initial discussions with the CCGs
- **Stronger communities:** in particular "active citizenship" and how best to harness and support the amazing energy and commitment to helping others; and the role of neighbourhood services

2. Operational matters – running the Assembly

- With the aim of improving the way we work and achieving more consistency across the forums, we highlighted external and internal communications; reporting by VCS representatives;

collecting the intelligence from these reports; involving more community organisations; creating a more coherent voice for the sector through issuing statements and reports (in relation to policy areas above).

- All these take co-ordination and time, and to date we have concentrated more on policy and working with the council, the CCGs and others.

C: FUNDING

Over and above the other policy areas this is a significant focus for ASG, as always

a) Council budgets and public sector cuts

Another year of public sector funding cuts and yet more difficult choices to be made by the council and organisations who provide services. The ASG has expressed its support and sympathy for the council but we are also able to challenge where we feel this is necessary.

Our 6 weekly meetings (attended by all the forum chairs) with the Council's Deputy Leader Cllr Imran Hussain and many senior officers are lively, informative and uninhibited! Without the RMG (Relationship Management Group) it would be difficult for parties to hold each other to account and raise difficult issues knowing that someone is listening.

We say:

- Listen seriously to our suggestions and offers to work with you to find solutions to the problems
- Have you really checked the potential impact of cuts on vulnerable communities?
- Tell us with enough time to explain changes to services, to the people who use them
- Give us time to find alternatives for them or support them as best we can
- Give us time to follow good practice if we have to cut staff hours or make people redundant
- Ensure you can demonstrate that you have measured the impact of cutting or changing a service specification (Equality Impact Assessments)
- Don't forget the smaller organisations and their significance at community level
- Give us time to talk to commissioners about doing things differently – there may be another way of doing this
- Tell people you have listened to them, and why you had to make decisions
- Don't forget the Compact

The consultation process on the budget for 2013-14 started earlier (in October) as we had pressed for, and people had the chance to contribute as they did in previous years. Until we see the final budget it is difficult to gauge what impact the VCS has made, but we know it made a difference last year.

b) CCG grants programme

While the VCS might welcome a grants programme when the trend is more generally in the direction of contracts, the ASG has put the recent grants process (completed January 2014) high on the agenda now because of concerns being raised about the process itself. We are seeking more information on the final outcome of this programme.

The Bradford District Partnership (BDP) is holding regular board meetings again which enables us to contribute at the highest level of strategic debate and hear what the various partners are thinking and doing. There is no doubt that everyone is equally troubled by the current challenges faced by local government,

which are compounded by the huge changes in the NHS and the new relationships and responsibilities that are still being worked out.

At one meeting the Chair was asked to present an overview on the VCS's contribution to the district and called for support in building an authoritative and factual profile of the VCS, and what it contributes economically to the district.

D: In conclusion at the end of another busy year:

Now that the Assembly is well established, with thriving forums and many representatives across the district's partnerships and task groups, there seems less need to argue the case to be round the table. But we cannot assume this will always be so; and we must not stop thinking about how to be more coherent and able to argue our case with facts and numbers alongside our passion and determination. There are so many things to worry and distract us, not least the survival of organisations and what they do for the citizens of this district and yet there are always opportunities and ways of doing things differently if we have the courage to do so and above all remember *why* we are doing this.

I think we should all be proud of what Assembly has done and is doing to ensure the voice of the VCS is strong, informed, persuasive, useful, and making a difference.

Caroline Schwaller – BDA Chair

ASSEMBLY FORUMS

i. HEALTH & WELLBEING FORUM

Co-chairs: Natasha Thomas and Helen Speight

The Forum has held 8 meetings over the year with speakers ranging from the new Public Health Commissioner to a representative of NICE. We have supported the development of Healthwatch and been a conduit of information and challenge to our public sector partners through our representation at the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health Improvement Partnership. Forum meetings are very well attended by representatives from 30 organisations on average. Membership is currently 147, all of whom receive the information gathered and presented at the Forum.

The Forum's primary role this year has very much been:

1. To support third sector organisations district wide to understand the strategic direction of the district, and the rapidly shifting landscape of health and social care.
2. To support third sector organisations to understand how to influence services and highlight needs and gaps.
3. To provide a group of representatives from the Forum to be the voice of third sector organisations. Health and Wellbeing Forum has representatives on the following strategic groups and voluntarily contributes to the work of these groups:

- Bradford Integrated Care Group
- Transformative Integrated Care Board
- Self-Care Steering Group
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group
- JSNA: all chapters
- Area Health Hubs
- Bradford and Airedale NHS Equality Group
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Health Improvement Partnership
- Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee
- Commissioning Strategic group
- Assembly Steering Group

We have had an increasing number of requests to provide representatives to attend operational and strategic meetings by the council and CCG's. Forum members recognise the importance of these roles and the potential influence they can have in future decision making as well as understanding the importance of our sector on the health and wellbeing of the people of Bradford. However, there is still work to be done in helping some of our partners to understand that we may sometimes be called the Voluntary and Community Sector but that the majority of organisations are professional bodies with paid staff teams delivering high quality, cost effective, innovative services, that significantly contribute to the health and social care sector.

The year has not been easy as organisations were faced with the new funding round for CCG grants. The Forum sought to ensure that organisations who had received CCG money previously were supported alongside those seeking to access these grants for the first time. As a body, the Forum sort to highlight its concerns about the whole CCG process, and the possible knock on effects for the most vulnerable who access current services if this was not carried out in a thorough and thought through way.

By the end of the year members were discussing what was next for the Forum – could it remain in its current format with the increasing demands for representation and decreasing resources. 2013-2014 will be a time of continued change; the Forum will seek to adapt to meet the challenges.

As we move forward we want to express our thanks for the ongoing support and advice from Jen White from the local authority; from the Health Partnership Project team who provide regular reports and updates to the Forum and CNet who continue to provide our administrative support.

Helen Speight and Natasha Thomas, Co-Chairs

ii. EQUALITIES FORUM

Chair: Liz Firth ; Vice Chair: Neal Heard

The forum has built a membership of 65 representatives from a diverse range of groups and organisations district wide. Members agreed the following priorities for this year:

- Highlight the disproportionate impact of cuts on certain communities
- Ensure effective representation of under-represented groups at meetings, consultations and events
- Work with council partners to influence and inform the community of interest plans

The council supported the Forum to host an Equalities event in June 2013. The event brought equality groups together with council partners to develop ways of improving community engagement. Participants explored ways of feeding current issues into the various equality plans with an overall aim of reducing inequalities in our district.

Forum representatives attend a range of meetings including the Equalities Delivery Group, the Stronger Communities Partnership Board, and the Bradford and Airedale NHS Equalities Group. Work is currently ongoing to review representation across key decision making boards and working groups. The forum also intends to widen the membership and include groups currently not involved.

The forum has also been involved with the Council's equality objective action plan and has had an opportunity to influence the process for future equality impact assessments (EIA's).

iii. REGENERATION AND PROSPERITY (RAP) FORUM

Co-chairs: David Wilford and Tony Dylak

This has been a busy year with inevitable cuts to member organisations. Uncertainty of budgets is causing nervousness with trustee boards and organisations are having to look closely at which services they can continue to offer.

Highlights of the year:

Interactions with the council in a planned way. We restructured the way we plan meetings and invited guest speakers on relevant topics so rather than have several extra meetings we included where possible people from the council and representative bodies. Speakers have included:

- Steve Hartley (Neighbourhood and Communities Assistant Director, CBMDC) regarding services to be devolved to local groups
- Wendy Hall (Strategic Support Officer, CBMDC) around budgets and opportunities for sector
- Paula Dennison (SESC) regarding social enterprise support
- Hugh Rolo (Locality) regarding social finance and the new funder's language
- Mark Clayton (Strategy Officer, CBMDC) regarding Producer City and changes in enterprise approach

We have also met objectives set in our work plan of creating a new social enterprise around empty homes (ARISE Yorkshire Ltd). This involved five social enterprises setting up a new entity to take advantage of pulling down larger funding pots in the future around employability and skills and apprenticeships.

New members have joined the forum, and meetings have been well attended. We have pushed the case for advice across the district; the council listened and because of the strong case for poverty and serious issues around debt they earmarked an additional 2.2 million of funds to the quality marked advice services. This was a much needed increase as the services are under capacity and well over run by demand.

The next year is a crucial year where salami slicing by local authority and changes in NHS through reorganisation of PCT into CCG will leave the RAP forum with a lot of work to do to support its members.

iv. SAFER COMMUNITIES FORUM

Chair: Peter Bloom

Vice Chair: Yasmin Khan

The Forum has met 6 times during the year to consider progress made in the implementation of the Bradford Community Safety Plan by its three sub-groups, to receive and consider information from Forum members and to formulate and develop the priorities of the VCS across the areas covered by the Forum. Relevant staff members of the Council have attended all meetings and have contributed positively to all discussions.

The sector was well represented at the Community Safety planning meeting for 2013-14. The specific priorities determined by the Forum and its members were well received and incorporated into the Planning process.

2014-15 promises changes through much closer co-operation and working between public sector partners in the field of Community Safety and a priority will be to ensure VCS involvement in this process and in ongoing activities, building on the current acceptance of the sector as a meaningful partner.

Organisations are encouraged to attend Forum meetings to ensure that their views, opinions and ideas are promulgated through the Forum's representation on all active boards, sub-Groups and delivery groups.

v. BRADFORD ENVIRONMENT FORUM (BEF)

Chair: Carlton Smith

The Forum has maintained a steady level of activity with 42 members offering a vast array of environmental services. Members combine to engaging hundreds of volunteers and benefit tens of thousands of Bradford residents in environmentally and socially beneficial activities.

Strategic gains made last year have transformed into practical application this year with members helping to implement the districts Food Strategy, Allotments Strategy, Cycle Strategy and Woodlands Strategy. Forum members continue to engage in strategy development and scrutiny, with provision of local knowledge and detailed technical input.

BEF members cover a wide spectrum of environmental issues and activities, including food, renewal energy, transport, conservation, green space improvements, forest schools, environmental education, environmental awareness, environmental play, recycling, cycling, woodlands, wetlands, parks, bugs and bats. The year has seen specialist networks maturing and enlarging within the forum supporting training, sharing best practice, coordination and support.

The position of BEF within the Regeneration Forum has stifled full cooperation and consultation with some district plans such as the Community Strategy and this has been identified by the Environment Scrutiny Committee, to whom the Forum regularly reports. The challenge remains for BEF to keep local focus, attention and progress on long term environmental issues during a time of limited resources and conflicting demands.

vi CULTURAL FORUM

Co-Chairs: Suzy Russell and Irfan Ajeeb

Vice Chair: Javaad Alipoor

The Cultural Forum has gone from strength to strength this year and we now have over 120 members from a range of backgrounds including VCS, social enterprise and freelance artists covering the hugely broad range of cultural activity in the district. In response to need we have increased the frequency of the meetings and have one every 6 weeks, every third one being in the early evening to enable attendance by as many people as possible.

This year's key achievements include:

- Contributing to a useful conversation about Bradford Festival and festivals in general within the district
- Sharing a huge amount of information and providing a platform for different organisations and artists to work together
- Building the profile of culture across the district
- Beginning to work at a more strategic level to influence the place of culture within the district
- Building our reputation as the place to go for information and involvement with culture

These achievements fit well with our priorities which are:

- Influencing policy
- Raising the profile of the forum and of culture throughout the district
- Bringing people together

- Work to improve marketing of cultural activity across the district
- Influence Strategic decision making
- Ensure commissioning processes are fair and equitable for the sector
- Promote equalities and embed the equality agenda
- Jointly Create Festivals
- Increase work and volunteering opportunities within culture

Suzy Russell, Chair

vii YOUNG LIVES BRADFORD
Chair: Kerr Kennedy

Young Lives Bradford continues to provide the Children & Young People’s VCS with a wide range of infrastructure support. Based at Bradford CVS, our team comprises Kerr Kennedy and Dionne Norman who administer the network. Our current network totals over 350 groups and organisations,

In 2013 our Core Strategic Group met bi-monthly and engaged with Bradford Children’s Trust Board and partners, Bradford Safeguarding Children Board, the Bradford CCGs, the Bradford VCS Assembly, Young Lives Yorkshire & Humber network and the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services. We also hosted four Quarterly Forums: in April, July, November 2013 and February 2014. We manage more than 20 VCS representatives to a wide range of strategic partnerships and through them, the VCS contributed to local strategies such as Child Poverty, Special Educational Needs, and Early Help. We continue to provide up to date communications – weekly e-bulletins, quarterly newsletter, regular social media – to the network. Additionally, we hosted focused forums on youth services and liaise with the Play Forum network. Our work with the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board has seen us develop tutored training on Safeguarding principles and practices which is delivered regularly by us in conjunction with Bradford CVS Training.

We have been heavily involved in the development of two major Big Lottery bids as the key voluntary sector partner. Firstly, we have been contributing to a bid by Leeds City Region to the ‘Talent Match’ programme aimed at working with 18-24s who are furthest from the job market. This fund is now successfully launched and local VCS organisations are able to bid to become a delivery partner. Secondly, we are working alongside Bradford Council and the Health CCGs in a very significant bid to the ‘Better Start’ programme to secure £30-50m over ten years to improve the well-being of children 0-3 in three disadvantaged wards of the District.

We work in partnership with Bradford Council on a range of issues: including the management and administration of the Young Futures Grant fund under the Government’s Youth Contract programme for 16-18 NEET young people. In a joint project with Young Lives Leeds and Wakefield Young Lives, we have recently undertaken research with young people 18-24 who are NEET. This highly comprehensive report has recently been published and is available to all.

Our recent focus has been to develop and launch the Young Lives Bradford Consortium. This is a separate venture from the Young Lives Bradford network but shares the brand. The mission is to win resources to deliver high quality services to children, young people and families. We are inviting organisations to become members of the new company and collaborate formally on contract opportunities from statutory bodies. It was launched on 6th February 2014 and the response to date has been excellent. We have high hopes for its success.

Kerr Kennedy – Chair

BRADFORD DISTRICT ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE 2014

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fourth VCS Assembly conference in Bradford Metropolitan District was a lively and packed affair, with 143 delegates from a wide range of organisations, an impressive line-up of speakers and an excellent panel session. As always the conference aims to provide a snapshot of the Assembly's forums work over the last year, and to focus on a current topic that affects or concerns the VCS. The theme of Public Health was chosen by the Assembly Steering Group because there was a common desire to gain a clear understanding of the remit and aims of the council's new role in overseeing public health, and how that fits with the Clinical Commissioning Groups' (CCGs') priorities.

Many people in the voluntary and community sector had expressed frustration that public health funding was not yet aligned with the recent CCG grants programme for 2014-15, and some organisations remained unclear about the approach being taken towards those organisations who could "fall between two stools". The event comprised several presentations (see below) which together provided delegates with a range of information and reflections on the need and priorities for public health and the significant role that the VCS can and should play in helping to reduce dependency on medical interventions, which also helps to reduce costs in these times of cuts in health and social care spending.

Workshops were lively, and the speakers stayed throughout the event, having also given honest and open contributions to the panel session. Delegates later expressed their appreciation of that, and many people said it was the most successful Assembly conference to date.

As a result of it a new dialogue has opened up with the Public Health team, headed by Dr Anita Parkin, whose team has met with the Assembly Chair and the Assembly Representative on the Health & Wellbeing Board (Caroline Schwaller and Natasha Thomas). The aim is to have regular meetings which will be informed by and fed back to the ASG and particularly the Health & Wellbeing Forum, to implement any future actions that are mutually agreed.

It is hoped that in the future the VCS will work regularly with the Public Health team and other colleagues to help shape decisions about priorities, use of resources, and how the VCS can be partners in service delivery. The ASG will be keeping this important subject alive and also following it up in its regular meetings with the council's deputy leader and senior officers at the Relationship Management Group.

At the end of the conference an open space item gave delegates the opportunity to share any burning concerns, comments or information, and to make statements to stimulate further discussion. The general conclusion was that the Assembly continues to, and increasingly so, play a very important part in developing and strengthening the relationship between the VCS and the council; but an equally important relationship needs to be strengthened between the VCS and the NHS. There are many issues of process and how to the needs of local citizens that will be discussed, planned and pursued over the coming year which the ASG will be keeping an eye on, as always.

The range of VCS organisations participating in the 7 forums, and the growing numbers of VCS representatives scattered across the many boards, task groups, partnerships and consultations throughout the district is testament to the fact that the Assembly has put the VCS on the map in a more organised, and accountable way.

Caroline Schwaller - Chair, Bradford District Assembly

2. CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The information pack contained the following information, all available on the Assembly website at <http://www.cnet.org.uk/bradford-district-assembly/Assembly-Conference/AC2014/>

Presentation slides
Summary of The Marmot review *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*
National Public health Outcomes framework / objectives
Draft pre-conference BDA annual report

Dr Mohammed Salam - CNet Chair opened the conference and welcomed everyone attending. He thanked CBMDC for their assurance that funding for the Assembly will continue. He also thanked the assembly steering group and forum members for their continued commitment and support to Bradford's voluntary and community sector.

Caroline Schwaller - BDA Chair gave a review of last year's progress and achievements as outlined in page 4 to 7 of this report.

3. PRESENTATIONS

i. Ralph Saunders. Head of Public Health CBMDC

Public health: the council's approach to new responsibilities

http://www.cnet.org.uk/library/downloads/Presentation_Ralph_Saunders.ppt

ii. Marcus Beacham – Public Health Commissioning Manager (CBMDC)

"Lets get practical". The public health budget, focus on communication and co-production

http://www.cnet.org.uk/library/downloads/VCS_Assembly_Marcus%20AD_Beacham.ppt

iii. Dr Chris Bentley - visiting professor, Sheffield Hallam University

Health inequalities, important principles for action - scaling up engagement with those seldom see, seldom heard.

http://www.cnet.org.uk/library/downloads/Bradford_Assembly_Chris_Bentley.pdf

iv. Colin Philpott - Lay Member, Bradford District CCG Board

Colin explained the changes made to health services 3 years ago, and the role of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's). There are 3 in our district, Bradford City, Bradford District and Airedale and Craven. He went on to explain his role of CCG lay member-the main focus is ensuring effective consultation and engagement with patients / service users.

Many people feel that the structures and processes imposed and developed are irrational, complex and over complicated. However, Bradford District CCG aims to improve communication and will encourage collaboration between the council, the CCG's and the sector. There is a need to focus on local community services in community based settings and GP surgeries. This will reduce expensive hospital costs.

v. **Natasha Thomas – Health and Wellbeing Board Assembly**

Why the third sector can contribute to Public Health in a significant way

http://www.cnet.org.uk/library/downloads/ASG_AGM_2014_presentation_Natasha_Thomas.pdf

4. QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

- Q Not heard much about prevention and / or work with preventative measures re children
- A School public health service commission via public health / health visiting
CCG don't just look at clinical models
Outcome rather than output focussed
- Q Why do we always work on physical health - need to look at people holistically? Why has money been taken away from health awareness activities
- A Partnership working = holistic approach. Medical model is good for individual focus
- Q VCS are competing against Asda and large organisations who want to work with the community. some national orgs are taking large contracts .
- A VCS is a good link into community more positive strengths than larger groups like Asda.

5. WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP THEMES

Health and Wellbeing, Culture, Economy, Safer Communities, Equalities, Young People

i. **Aim of the workshops:**

Each workshop carried out a SWOT analysis based on views and knowledge shared by participants and information presented at the event.

The aim was to consider the impact each workshop theme has on the health of local people

- *Identify key thoughts on what they have heard today*
- *Summarise the sector's contribution to health outcomes / what can the VCS offer?*
- *record key points on A3 SWOT template*

ii. **The workshop feedback (see Appendix A. pages 17-20)**

Summary of key messages:

ARTS AND CULTURE – creative people, ideas and communication bring innovation

HEALTH AND WELLBEING – the VCS is able to engage those furthest away from preventative messages and tailor those messages for their audience to bring about tangible health/wellbeing improvements in people's life. It is innovative, creative and flexible able to respond to emerging issues that impact on the health inequalities experienced by communities

EQUALITIES – the VCS is trusted by local people and communities. Improve system one and work with us to develop social prescribing

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - there is a need to support preventative interventions, often the VCS is best-placed to deliver

ENVIRONMENT - ENVIRONMENT – there are many opportunities for public engagement and action relating to environmental issues especially with connections to health and well-being agenda.

SAFER COMMUNITIES – prevention and intervention will reduce crime, increase community safety and tackle the effects of issues such as drugs, alcohol domestic violence etc.

REGENERATION AND PROSPERITY – the key to the future is CO-DESIGN

iii. Workshop follow up actions:

- *Workshop discussions and outcomes will be considered in the Bradford District Public Health 10 Year Strategy*
- *The Assembly Steering Group will feed back to the Relationship Management Group, lead council officers, commissioners and partners*
- *Workshop discussions and outcomes will be included in the Assembly Conference Report.*

6. OPEN SPACE

There was an opportunity for participants to share concerns and information.

Key statements from the floor:

- Increasing numbers of people in Bradford are falling into debt / poverty
- Large increase in families accessing foodbanks – URGENT ACTION NEEDED
- Promises of co-design/co-production – but will it really happen and when?
- Need for prevention / early intervention services – will reduce health costs in the long term
- New website developed – clients insert their postcode and are shown where local advice centres are
- VCS Young Lives Consortia launched in February. aims to bring local VCS providers together to deliver services for children and young people
- People's Health Group, Bradford is a Partnership of VCS orgs looking at health inequalities. they are holding a series of seminars last Thursday of the month 12.30-1.30, City Hall, Bradford. Topics coming up include occupational health, & diabetes

7. PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

143 people attended, 57 people completed a feedback form.

The response to the conference was overwhelmingly positive: *'a day well spent'; 'excellent'; 'well organised and useful'; 'very well put together'; 'good event, great speakers'; 'very well organised conference, good speakers, very well facilitated workshops'; 'excellent table discussions'.*

Attendees found the presentations interesting and useful: *'very positive presentations'; 'great speakers'; 'good speakers'; Marcus Beacham – great presentation'; 'I liked Ralph Saunders statistics'; 'Dr Chris Bentley's statistics were very clear'.*

Overall the delegates found the information pack useful and they welcomed the chance to network with colleagues. Other comments of note were:

'It would have been good if the panel could have stayed to listen to feedback'
'More focus on preventative interventions'

'The conference has raised the profile of public health in Bradford'

'We heard lots of important information – small breaks between speakers ...would have been helpful for me (to digest information)'

'I'm new to the voluntary sector and would like more opportunities to feed into the CCGs to let them know about the good work we all do. Is there a way we can feed in our good news stories rather than them just sitting in monitoring forms?'

'Managed to fit a lot in to a very tight timescale'

APPENDIX A

STRENGTHS OF THE SECTOR – EG. UNIQUE RESOURCES	WEAKNESSES OF THE SECTOR – EG. LIMITED RESOURCE / CAPACITY
<p>Arts and Culture Sense of community and pride generated by cultural activity Going to an arts / culture event isn't labelled in same way as going to day centre or community centre People, ideas, communication Sensory benefits Flexible, recordable, visible Local knowledge and grassroots connections Doing things on a shoestring A fun and sociable method of learning Self-worth through interaction Small VCS orgs are willing to come and interact Value for money Population ages – more dementia art therapy needed</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Trusted by community Community based – familiar, safe Extra money brought in by VCS Volunteers Preventative work / early intervention bring big savings on future health costs Clinicians need to focus more on mental health Strong social capital / local knowledge Innovative / creative and flexible Culture awareness Accessible / holistic Work with people to achieve tangible outcomes Local knowledge and relationships Effective and responsive to need Health gains through volunteering (self-care agenda) Tackling inequalities within the health sector Access to diverse populations Lots of activism in the sector Closer to the community to deliver services Added value in flexibility and responsiveness Raising awareness for ethnic minorities, groups, more affected by health inequalities Reducing dependency on mainstream services</p> <p>Equalities Local intelligence Diverse group of people in this room today Improve system one to develop social prescribing</p>	<p>Arts and Culture Arts and culture sector doesn't fully recognise how it can contribute to health and wellbeing agenda, social value Cut to adult learning budget (arts class, languages etc) No support for small groups to work collaboratively Concept of art as a joke or not useful Link between PH and CCG spend Case studies – no arts organisations</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Proving outcomes – evidencing impact Lack of funding Funders not understanding – ie value/added value of 3rd sector Funders seem unsure how to capture evidence of change / interpret succinct monitoring Perceived lack of professionalism Referral routes from GPs VCS disjointed in some areas Not enough infrastructure support Lack of public sector understanding of VCS . Changes needed on both sides Capacity issues Lack of resources to build structures / consortia to bid CCG lack of understanding of third sector role How will we as a unit put the 10 year vision to action More awareness of the facilities (heart disease) Inequalities still exist in the healthcare system – VCS groups not always able to influence this in a coordinated way. Competitiveness created within the sector. Overlaps and fragmentation in work delivered Disjointed approach within the sector – groups need to know not to overlap / duplicate</p> <p>Equalities No coherent strategy between public sector funders – pulling everything together Communication – develop awareness of what is going on – portfolio / mapping of what is going on</p>

<p>VCS can develop trust with local people and communities VCS has some good relationships with public sector particularly the council Some good partnerships within VCS - the way forward</p> <p>Children and Young People The VCS can influence strategies through existing channels. Young Lives Bradford /Children’s Trust VCOs work in schools and communities Supporting preventative interventions More innovation from the VCS (prof C Bentley)</p> <p>Environment Communities genuinely care about their local environment – entrance point to mobilise change Making things happen on local scale</p> <p>Safer Communities Marcus Beacham – background, experience, consistency Street doctors – need identified and executed Community forums Voluntary sectors and variation of these</p> <p>Regeneration and Prosperity Westfield – recruitment and regeneration opportunities Effective partnership working and contraction enables district wide interventions Larger VCS orgs can lead in contracting</p>	<p>No resources to pull things together – evaluate Tick box monitoring – more imaginative things proving our worth, evidencing outcomes – v hard and we are already working on nothing Problem of evidencing some of the things VCS does (lack of time because we are delivering)</p> <p>Children and Young People Lack of public health vision or strategy Services are fragmented eg services for disabled children Commissioners from Public health (LA) and CCGs developing better joint commissioning arrangements and processes eg aligning budget cycles Preventative interventions not addressed by statutory bodies</p> <p>Environment Poor cycle / walking infrastructure (priority given to cars) Repenting on social value Orgs need to comply with H and S best practice / requirements ie outdoor leader qualifications</p> <p>Safer Communities Small amount of money available Preventative measures in health need to be made Inequalities in healthcare How is the money spent Not all services are known to others Funding cuts in police force Decisions are made at policy level without strategic evaluation</p> <p>Regeneration and Prosperity Sector is good at what it does not proving it</p>
<p>OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SECTOR</p>	<p>THREATS – POTENTIAL THREATS TO THE SECTOR</p>
<p>Arts and Culture Massive contribution that’s arts and culture can make to health and wellbeing re isolation and stimulation Culture does impact on pyscho-social risks hugely A useful tool to put a health message across in a way that doesn’t come across in a condescending way and in a creative and out of the box way</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing For voluntary sector to pilot themes / programmes Better use of expertise from 3rd sector To redress ‘amateur’ image of 3rd sector Training opportunities / for food hygiene / nutrition</p>	<p>Arts and Culture <i>As contracts get bigger less opportunity for smaller art / culture initiatives and projects</i> Medical priorities Stuff is still measured in short term gains so it doesn’t recognise our input Lack of CCG’s understanding of culture Expectation of cheap / free services How to demonstrate to GPs and commissioners that’s arts / culture can achieve measurable health outcomes</p> <p>Health and wellbeing Big outside orgs – Winning large contracts- expecting local groups to provide evidence / work for small funds Size of 3rd sector orgs Payment by results – barrier to smaller orgs</p>

<p>Sharing of tools / methodology Statutory sector to 'fund' opportunities for sharing good practice / build into bids To demonstrate value for money / use of resources Case studies – everyday stories that show impact Evidence – change to people's health through participation Localism and Social Value Acts Need to invest in infrastructure so can build consortia Willingness to work together/public sector to work with us Primary care providers looking at things differently VCS have opportunity to influence Funding that could tackle health inequalities and provide better opportunities Third sector – catalyst for better communication Working together in a more coordinated way so services are better streamlined Learning and sharing events Coordinated approach to sharing VCS intelligence Co-design Longer terms HWB benefit needs longer term planning and investment</p>	<p>Lack of legislation enforcement Building – shop application (no checks) because takeaway Lack of 'core funding' to support work Not helped to work together in partnership Time and resources Fighting to survive Expected to change / innovate Big external providers coming in Financial marks in tenders Cut cost for bigger funders What they say they want as outcomes and what they are willing to fund – core costs / development costs short termism Them and us contracting undermining partnerships Imbalance of power VCS / statutory Localities worse off because needs are not met Other sectors pushing voluntary and community sectors aside Massive challenge short term funding can't achieve in a short period It is not always easy to collaborate between VCS groups due to competitions created by the commissioning processes Evidence based results are not always easy to demonstrate / outcomes need to be realistic Tangible outcomes vs quality care VCS intelligence needs to carry weight to inform decisions on HWB position / strategy</p>
<p>Equalities Develop better links with GPs / patient participation groups Develop creative feedback from communities Learn from recent CCG funding round Positive partnerships developing Develop relationship with GPs – look for positive examples of social prescribing Tools being developed for GPs to use that can promote, develop awareness of VCS Collection point for good practice, good news Build requirement for GPs to use social prescribing ensure that preventative health campaigns are delivered in community centres</p>	<p>Equalities Services / commissioning going to large orgs Globalisation / neo-liberalism on public health – growing inequality and its impact on public health Welfare reform : negative portrayal of people by media and government Divide and rule – impact on minority communities including disabled people Competition for reducing resources – effect on communities and orgs Constant re-organisation of public sector</p>
<p>Children and Young People Reach communities whom we have failed to reach (Prof Bentley) Take advantage of council's more flexible approach to setting outcomes Use CY peoples plan to guide our work Co-production processes – commissioners adopting a positive approach to consultation leading to change</p>	<p>Children and Young People Need to embed things that the VCS are good at into tender specs We need clarity about PH strategy - is co-production the new word for collaboration? Need more transparency re commissioning eg public health / CCG money Why is the caring role not included in the indicators section of the framework? Plans to streamline services – improve overall health, save money AND improve services – HOW? Need reduction in the number of council / NHS funded organisations - process needs to be simplified</p>

<p>Environment</p> <p>Put cycle to city centre times on electronic traffic (live) information boards</p> <p>Planning decisions impacting the environment ie views – priority to traffic</p> <p>Behaviour change is critical – make it personal and easy – lifestyle change. More green spaces / trees improves air quality</p> <p>Increase physical activity by encouraging outdoor activity</p> <p>Environmental issues to connect communities and enable action and self help</p> <p>Sustained (periodic) awareness raising</p> <p>Cycling and walking promotion (cycle safety, slow cars down 20 mph)</p> <p>School forum training for anti? And cycle leader qualities</p> <p>Safer Communities</p> <p>Marcus Beacham – background, experience, consistency</p> <p>Make small amount of money bigger – get investments (shift of investment)</p> <p>More prevention techniques</p> <p>Identify where the need is and take action</p> <p>Identify all services / agencies in Bradford and publicise effectively</p> <p>Re-focus of police force</p> <p>Organisation of voluntary sector</p> <p>Regeneration and Prosperity</p> <p>Co-Design key to future</p>	<p>What can be offered to enable carers to ensure they stay physically and mentally healthy</p> <p>How are they actually planning on implementing their vision and making it transparent and easy to navigate for Third Sector orgs.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Increasing disconnection of young people from the outdoors</p> <p>Air quality – impact on health (caused by traffic and industry)</p> <p>Damp housing</p> <p>Over crowding</p> <p>Access to green space</p> <p>Dog fouling</p> <p>Health and safety legislation and insurance requirements</p> <p>Safer Communities</p> <p>Quick turnaround of commissioners and their agendas</p> <p>Funding cuts</p> <p>How funding is distributed, is it fair and proportional</p> <p>36 organisations funded by health – will that money go back to LA?</p> <p>This could push smaller voluntary organisations out</p> <p>Regeneration and Prosperity</p> <p>Proliferation of cheap take- aways</p> <p>Commissioning is going to larger contracts how can grassroots benefit</p>
---	--

Report written and compiled by Janet Ford, Bradford District Assembly Co-ordinator, with contributions from the Bradford District Assembly Chair and Forum Chairs

This report is available to download at www.cnet.org.uk/bradford-district-assembly/

Alternative formats available on request

