
Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership

c/o Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary
Action
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The Partnership met on Tuesday 6 January 2009 in the St Aldate's Room at Oxford Town Hall. This was a shorter meeting than usual followed by a self assessment exercise.

MINUTES

Present:

Alison Baxter (AB)	Emma Morris (EM),
Linda Chalcraft (LC)	Nisha Prakash (NP)
Gwen Davies (GD)	Janet Pring (JP)
Bishop Coin Fletcher (Chair) (CF)	Nigel Randall (NR),
Jim Flux (JF)	Dene Robson (DR)
Julie Higgs (JH)	Meryl Smith (MS)
Kate Hill (KH) minutes	Barry Tanswell (BT)
Val Johnson (VJ),	Patrick Tolani (PT)
Jacqueline Malone (JM)	Toby Warren (TW)
Pauline McCredie (PM)	

APOLOGIES

Pat Chirgwin (PC) Jo White (JW)

Action

1. WELCOME

The partnership welcomed Nisha Prakash, Barry Tanswell, Linda Chalcraft and Pauline McCreadie to their first meeting.

2. MINUTES

The minutes were circulated and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

MS welcomed the fact that OCC is writing a policy on when it is appropriate to tender a service and when to contract with another provider. This will help to add clarity that has been missing at times up until now. JP confirmed that interim guidance would soon be available for officers to refer to before the full policy was available for consultation in the Spring

KH confirmed that she had contacted Job Centre Plus and a representative was interested in OVSDP but she would be invited to the meeting in April because of limited time at this meeting.

4. COMPACT UPDATE

OCC's update was included in the papers for the meeting. KH referred to her paper on the Compact and the recommendation that she and Tamsila Tauqir of

OCC should push ahead and update the Compact and write the new codes.

DR suggested it would be better to wait until the recent Commission for the Compact consultation results were available. It was agreed that KH and TT will draw on consultation information and start the process. A progress report will be tabled at the next meeting.

KH, TT

AB raised a concern that the group as a whole must take ownership of the Oxfordshire Compact, and that as OCC progresses with its policy on funding, procurement and grants, this must not happen in a silo and must be integrated with other work of the consortium and partners. KH has written a paper that covers this issue and this will be circulated after the meeting.

KH

5. LAA REWARD GRANT

Invitations to submit bids to access the funding available when OCC hits some of its LAA1 targets were distributed in December. Thematic partnerships and local strategic partnerships are eligible to submit proposals. KH circulated a paper ahead of the meeting outlining two proposals that could be submitted by OVSDP. One is for a grants pot for VCS organisations to access, and the other to take forward some of the work from the Business Plan around setting up a Diversity Forum.

This needs to be linked in to any proposals the District LSP s may submit.

Regarding the first proposal, AB made the point that grants are a cornerstone of the local voluntary sector and it is important for OVSDP as a partnership to be seen as facilitating access to funding so the wider VCS in the county can benefit.

Regarding the diversity proposal, it was acknowledged that this will be a forum of forums. This forum could act as a reference group to enable a single point of contact for consultation with organisations representing the different strands of diversity and fill the gaps in representation for those groups who are at risk of exclusion. In this way there are benefits for the Oxfordshire Partnership and other such bodies throughout the county.

PT offered his experience to draw on through his role on the board for the Raise Diversity Forum and other key contacts.

CF asked for feedback regarding the faith research currently in the planning stage and in need of further funding. Given the economic crisis it was acknowledged that some district councils may find it harder to support this project, so it was agreed it was appropriate to add this proposal to the LAA Reward Grant proposal.

It was agreed to submit the proposals. KH is to work on the detail, circulate to OVSDP members for comment and feedback before the deadline of 23 January.

KH

6. BUSINESS AND STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Written reports were circulated prior to the meeting. There were no comments made about the content of the reports.

7. PROPOSED NEW STRUCTURE OF PARTNERSHIPS IN OXFORDSHIRE

At the meeting with Mary Harpley in December, it was agreed that OVSDP would take on the role of Stronger Communities Partnership. Elected members will be invited to join the membership of OVSDP but further discussion about the number

of elected members and from which councils needs to take place and be agreed. The role of the elected members and the officers must be made clear. Concerns were raised that the statutory members of the partnership could outnumber the voluntary sector members. Their remit must be made clear with a careful induction process.

VJ agreed to take the comments to the group reviewing partnerships, and that CF should go back to Mary Harpley with comments as well.

VJ/CF

8. CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONSULTATIONS

KH mentioned that she had been approached by Nick Hurd MP with a request to put on an event to consult the local VCS on the recent Conservative Green Paper 'A Stronger Society, Voluntary Action in the 21st Century'. This sets out how the party would work with the voluntary sector. It was agreed that we would respond that we would support them to put on an event by inviting voluntary sector colleagues, but that it would be up to Nick Hurd and his team to organise the event.

KH to respond to MP

9 COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

KH circulated the draft OVSDP communications plan and invited comments from colleagues.

Signed: Date: