



Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Co-ordination Project

Notes of the Healthwatch and WCA Voluntary Sector Forum 30th November 2016

Welcome and Introductions from the Chair Sarah Rackham— an impressive turnout, 65 people!! Apologies for the cold room and access issues, two wheelchair users reported not being able to enter the building.

Voluntary Sector Co-ordination Project Update for feedback from the Forum

Lauren Ashley-Boyd delivered an update on the voluntary sector co-ordination project. The forum was asked for feedback on what the project has learnt so far, and the projects activities that have been identified in response to this. Points raised by the forum were:

- The community resilience project which is a collection of voluntary organisations delivering small projects for older people can provide some learning for how we can evidence our value to the CCG. In Rotherham a social prescribing project was able to evaluate its impact as hospital admission records for individuals involved were compared with a control group who were not engaged with the project. This triangulation of clinical data with soft outcomes measured by voluntary organisations is a good model we should consider replicating.
- The council need to establish formal consultation routes with the voluntary sector.
- Increasing poverty in the community is an issue (one organisation reported increase in the issue of foodbank vouchers)
- We need to avoid using acronyms in this forum as not everyone knows what they mean. IAPT (improved access to psychological therapies) is changing its name to Talk Wandsworth
- Mapping is really important – we don't want to duplicate other organisations work but we also want to work together.

Presentations from Voluntary Sector Organisations

The forum heard 5 short presentations from voluntary sector organisations - Michelle Gershe - Stroke Association, Natalie Gibson - Tooting Graveney, Grace Sotinrin - Harvest of Grace Trinity Centre, Kim Perlow - Battersea Link Up, Lucia Daniels - Parent Champions. These presentations will be circulated as part of the next voluntary sector co-ordination project newsletter.

How do we include our diverse communities in our network?

The forum was asked to consider the diverse make up of our community and voluntary sector, and that some of these groups might be unconstituted or not even consider themselves 'voluntary sector' yet are playing a significant role in supporting local people to keep well. The forum was asked how we might include them in an ongoing dialogue to develop a shared agenda on how we can work together to meet the health and wellbeing needs of our community. Comments from the forum included:

- The GP Federation is keen to work with this network and explore how we can work together in the future.

- It was suggested that the forum invites the health and social care co-ordinators present in the GP practices to participate.
- Forum meetings and newsletters are useful to communicate with and include people
- What implications will the Wandsworth and Richmond Shared staffing arrangements have on the Children and Young People's Strategy? A: we could invite someone from the council to our next forum to discuss this with us.
- What support will the voluntary sector coordination project offer the voluntary sector with capacity building? A: There is a great deal of free training that the coordination project will widen access by advertising through its mailing list. The project is applying for additional funds to deliver capacity building – particularly training in impact evaluation, applications so far have been to Health Education South London, Health Innovation Network and the CCG particularly for the Seldom Heard groups. Also the project is working with Battersea Link Up to recruit skills based volunteers to deliver capacity building workshops.
- A voluntary organisation shared that they find it very difficult to apply for funds and Wandsworth Council does not help with this. Rachel Stokes, Labour Councillor reported that she has just joined the small grants committee within the council and will follow this up.
- The Wandsworth Grant offers workshops
- Some of the Leaders of voluntary organisations have formed a group that is focussing on what support the council could offer the voluntary sector – in light of their new shared staffing arrangements with Richmond Council and support that Richmond Voluntary Organisations receive through their CVS. If anyone is interested they can speak to Annie McDowell of Share Community.
- The Foundation for Social Improvement provides free training.
- Lifetimes have lists of potential funders and lots of useful resources on their website, and the Community Development Officers at the council can help small groups set up projects and apply for funding. Details will be circulated after the meeting.
- Those present agreed to shared their contact details – Lauren agreed to circulate.
- Local community interest organisations should be offered discount rates at community centres.
- Carers do not get enough support – consideration should be given to getting from one place to another.
- Matchfunding is too challenging. Churches and individuals often fund voluntary sector activities.
- Food is important at this event and it's great to see so many people here.
- It's unrealistic not to expect funders to want organisations to match fund. It demonstrates commitment from the organisation. Matching does not necessarily have to be finances – it can be volunteer hours etc.

Future Topics and Feedback

May Van Schalkwyk public health registrar working in the public health team for Wandsworth and Richmond explained how they are developing a joint CCG and cross council prevention framework for Wandsworth and are seeking to engage with the voluntary sector. This framework will focus the council and CCG on enabling people to make healthy choices, engage in activities that keep them as well as they can be and enhance their quality of life, as this is proven to prevent the need for NHS treatment or social interventions. It will also be used to guide the way in which the council aims to commission voluntary services in the future. They will be presenting at the Battersea Forum on the 14th December as well as the next Thinking Partners forum on the 21st December at CCG Offices. They also plan to share the work directly with Healthwatch. Any feedback that provided through these channels would be appreciated greatly. They are also open to any suggestions on other ways they can engage with the voluntary sector further, and would like to bring the Framework back to the forum in February 2017.

Harriet Steele, Community Partnerships officer covering both Wandsworth and Richmond explained this new shared team is currently engaging with the voluntary sector and a member of her team would be happy to come

back to the next forum in February to answer any questions regarding shared staffing arrangements or joint commissioning.

The meeting closed at 1pm and was followed by a networking Lunch.

Posters and post-its on each of the discussion topics were available for members of the forum to put any additional comments, which were:

- Maps can get out of date and sometimes reflect aspiration rather than reality.
- The use of CCG held data such as hospital episode statistics to measure the preventative outcomes people derive from engaging in VS activities. This is important for allowing the CCG to commission directly from community organisations and helpful to sustaining community activities.
- Arts in health Justine Kenyon arts development Wandsworth Council to talk.