

**Consortium Meeting**  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008**  
**2.00 – 4.00**

**Present**

Mick Lloyd, Ella Sips, Karen Roper, George Kinnell, Peter Beer, Diane Cuff, Beverly Harris and Kas Welch

**1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising**

The Equality and Diversity policy has not yet been finalized.

Procurement – Mick, Sam & Ella met with Adrian Griffith. They are looking at ways to support groups to become “fit” to tender for contracts. This could include offering groups a package of support.

They will meet again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

**2. Regional Consortium**

This meeting is now chaired by Elsbeth Rolls from Communities First. The consortium members will receive minutes of these meetings via Mick.

**3. Progress on bids**

Modernisation – 3 bids were submitted to Capacity Builders under the Modernisation funding. One bid (Growth for Groups) which was the largest, and a 3 year bid, was successful. This will be jointly delivered with TREDP. It will mean funding for development workers to work with BME groups and Rural groups.

The “Improving Reach” bid to Capacity Builders covers similar ground to the Growth for Groups bid. A decision will be made at the end of May.

The Basis funding from the Big Lottery was launched in May. The closing date for Basis is 27<sup>th</sup> August. The priorities do not appear to include Telford. There will be discussions with Big about the most appropriate way to apply for this funding.

Grassroots –the CVS has applied to this initiative led by the Office of the Third Sector. This initiative has 2 aspects to it:

1. The distribution of grassroots grants to voluntary groups to help them develop.

2. Raising funds (new money and not from statutory bodies). The CVS would have to raise just over £32,000 in the first year. The Government would match this funding and the total amount would need to be sensibly invested (endowment). This would mean that at the end of the project (after 3 years) the grants giving could continue with the interest raised on the endowment.

#### 4. **Compact**

George explained that he has updated the wording in the compact and that Adrian Griffith has added information in about tendering. The national compact is being reviewed.

The Council is currently being inspected (CPA) and the inspectors focused on “partnership working in the Voluntary sector and the compact”. George explained about the Compact and clarified how the council and CVS work together.

Diane mentioned that the Voluntary Sector Focus group, which is attended by Diane, David L, Mick and others, also had a session with the inspectors. This was to get a clear idea about how effective the partnership working with the Voluntary sector is.

At the next review the inspectors will examine what people think of Telford as a place to work and/or live.

#### 5. **National Indicators**

The national indicators were discussed (NI 6&7). It is still not clear to all how this works and what influence the consortium has in this. George will email everyone the new indicator, to give an idea where it all fits.

Telford & Wrekin Community Services are planning to put together a Voluntary Sector Strategy.

**AC: George is to circulate the new indicators**

Mick explained that the Voluntary Centre will be expanding and the first step is to appoint dedicated admin. Support. This will be advertised soon.

**AC: Mick to discuss funding with the Council chief exec.**

#### 6. **Consortium Membership**

Pete has met with Laura Price from Millennium Volunteers (now “V”) and reported that she has set up V within Telford and Shropshire. Laura will be

supporting volunteer placements that take on volunteers and recruiting volunteers for organisations. This potentially duplicates the work of the Volunteer Centre.

Pete thought Laura could become a member of the Consortium. Laura will need to write to the chair formally.

**AC: Pete to tell Laura how to go about becoming a member**

## **7. Any Other Business**

Ella explained that Capacity Builders agreed that the under spend which is approx £2,200 can be spent on training resources for the Consortium.

**AC: Diane and Karen to let Ella know what she would like.**

It was decided that the TNA would be conducted by the consortium. This would be more economical and would use the range networks the members have access to. The TNA would examine the training needs of volunteers, paid staff and trustees.

CVS would design a brief and a questionnaire, could then be used by consortium members in any way they would think appropriate. There would be funding available for small community events.

**AC: Members to share their approaches/ideas with Ella.**

**AC: Ella to draw up brief as soon as possible**

## **8. 5 Funding Bids**

4 Fix it Fund Bids and  
1 BME Community Chest bid were discussed

### **Date of next meeting**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008 2.00 – 4.00 at Meeting Point House**