



## Oldham VCFSE Influencing Group (VSIG) Meeting Notes

### 24 July 2018, Positive Steps, Oldham

- Present: Camilla Guereca, Jenny Higson, Sarah Cook, Yvonne Lee, Jean Hurlston, Laura Windsor Welsh, Liz Windsor Welsh, Jonathan Yates, Nayan Joshi
- Apologies: Sally Bonnie, Hayley Harewood, Dawn Fox, Becki West, Vicki Davenport

#### Item 1 - Previous Meeting Notes and matters arising

1. Feedback from the GM People and Community Centred Approaches (PCCA) event was positive from the reps who attended (Liz, Jenny, Sarah, Jean and Rina). However, there was still a sense that this event was 'preaching to the converted' and hadn't necessarily attracted those key local policy and decision makers who have less awareness or understand of PCCA and the VCFSE.

2. Outstanding Action - Liz to firm up a date for Donna McLachlan to have a networking lunch with VCFSE Leaders (VSIG Members), including those commissioned by CCG.

#### Item 2 - Workshop to discuss and agree key messages for influencing for the sector across Oldham Partnership.

Group engaged in a workshop around developing key messaging from the sector to use when influencing across Oldham Partnership. Following the discussions, the following key themes were raised:

- The sector is a catalyst for change, we are about social movements
- We understand our communities, we have been embedded here for generations, we are in it for the long haul and care about our communities and the people living in them. We have a different kind of relationship with people than the public sector.
- There are some key facts from state of the sector that we should use to raise awareness of the scale, diversity and significance of the sector.
- We believe that parity in the relationship between the public service and the VCFSE is mutually beneficial
- The sector has the answers and we can develop the solutions
- Everything we do is co-produced, we are inclusive and led by our beneficiaries

- Considering social value and investment to build capacity in communities is critical to commissioning and procurement processes.
- The sector is place based! We have deep roots into our communities.

**Action:** Laura will draft some key messages following this discussion for the next meeting.

### **Item 3 - VCFSE Investment Strategy - Update**

Liz shared the presentation that is being developed by Oldham Council Policy Team regarding investment to the VCFSE. Liz gave feedback on the notes from the workshop with VCFSE colleagues (attached) into this discussion and presentation. The main areas of focus are;

1. the role of the VCFSE in delivering services - how to ensure there is a VCFSE market and how we can ensure VCFSE are cited early enough to respond as lead/ innovation partners.
2. the critical role that community anchor organisations play in neighbourhoods (e.g. community centres) and in tackling thematic priorities e.g. charities focussed on mental health, older people, economic exclusion etc.
3. the need for grant funding and support to further develop social action that increases individual and community resilience.

Liz asked for VSIG partners that would be willing to help shape the investment strategy asks. Camilla, Yvonne, Jenny, Jonathan and Jean offered their support to progress this.

**Action:** Liz to arrange a meeting with the VSIG partners and Oldham Council Policy team / Rebekah Sutcliffe.

### **Item 4 - Forward planning for future schedule of Oldham VSIG Meetings**

Following a discussion, we agreed:

1. Meetings to remain bi-monthly
2. We would like a regular update from Greater Manchester - a 'Devo Download'
3. We would invite a key local strategic leader to share information and for Q and A's
4. We would co-produce together the strategic representation framework for the VCFSE in Oldham and VSIG would be the vehicle with the mandate for nominating and electing representatives and feeding back to sector leaders.
5. We would continue to work together on influencing the investment strategy for the sector in Oldham
6. We would work together to develop leadership support for sector leads

**Time, date and venue of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 7 November 10.30am-12.30pm, Age UK Oldham, Conference room, 10 Church Lane, Oldham, OL1 3AN.