



## **Thrive Trafford – Volunteer Managers Network Meeting, Tuesday 29th November 2016 Broomwood Community Wellbeing Centre**

### **Attendees:**

- Antonia Pike, Making Space
- Caroline Lewis, Project Coordinator, Thrive Trafford
- Craig Savage, Genie Networks
- Debbie Houghton, The University of Manchester
- Emma Powell, Project Assistant, Thrive Trafford
- Grace Kelly, CTZN
- Jenny Capper, Relate GMS
- Jonny Hirst, Beating Bowel Cancer
- Kirsty Hutchinson, The University of Manchester
- Mark Bailey, Trafford Council
- Nuala Kelly, Victim Support
- Rachel Forde, Trafford Leisure Trust
- Ronald Rolph, Trafford Hard of Hearing Group
- Sue Smith, Alzheimer's Society
- Vanessa Bryan, Royal Voluntary Service

### **Apologies:**

- Caroline Gleaves, Gorse Hill Studios
- Cherisse Appleby, New Way Forward
- Diane Russell, Coppice Library
- Elaine Eland, St Johns Centre
- Ian Wallace, Leonard Cheshire Disability
- Joan Hamilton, Royal Voluntary Service
- Justine Lea-Grime, Trafford Youth Service
- Karen Duffy, Age UK Trafford
- Kate Baldwin, The Counselling & Family Centre
- Katherine Bays, Healthwatch Trafford
- Rebecca Kershaw, Royal Voluntary Service
- Sam McLeod, TDAS
- Sharon Doyle, Relate GMS

### **Introduction and Updates**

- Introductions from the organisations and actions were discussed from the last VMN
- Caroline introduced Grace from CTZN who explained about the free app aimed at 13-18 year olds, and commissioned by the Home Office and Greater Manchester Police. The app is still in BETA and CTZN are planning officially launch the app in April 2017. Opportunities on the app can range from training, work experience and volunteering.

CTZN are looking to build up opportunities from partners running up to the release so that they can launch with a wealth of content. Organisations are encouraged to make their opportunities colourful and exciting for the app, with an image and some information so that the users can interact with the opportunities, and both the user and organisation can use it as a digital communications tool. Caroline to circulate CTZN contact details.

- Caroline from Thrive led a discussion about the National Citizen Service and the Prince's Trust, both of which are looking for community and voluntary projects to work on throughout next year. Caroline to circulate further details about both projects.
- Ron Rolph from Trafford Hard of Hearing suggested approaching the Cheshire Wildlife Trust to see if they had any community projects across the area.
- Debbie Houghton from The University of Manchester spoke about the University's Volunteering Hub – which is a new, bespoke database where students of the University can access a variety of volunteering opportunities.
- Debbie also talked about The Manchester Leadership Programme – with two elements to the programme including volunteering, and an academic unit which solidifies students learning. The programme is multi-disciplinary which means that there is a range of students that take part, from Geographers, to Social Science students and many more.
- Caroline from Thrive gave an update from items on the latest Office for Civil Society bulletin which included Local Charities Day, which taking place on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- The #iwill fund was also briefly discussed by Caroline from Thrive around each strand of the £50 million funding available for organisations/groups to encourage social action among 10-20 year olds.
- Caroline from Thrive gave a brief overview of The United Utilities Davyhulme Community Investment - Community Capacity Building Project, which is offering the Davyhulme community and across the wider Trafford area, Strong Roots Project Training and Practical Conservation and Gardening Skills. Caroline to circulate details to all Volunteer Managers.
- The Tesco Bags of Help fund was also mentioned to Volunteer Managers - the 5p from each Tesco bag sold makes up a fund for which communities can access to support community participation. Caroline to circulate details to all Volunteer Managers.
- Caroline talked about the Wellbeing Event taking place on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 for HM Courts and Tribunal Service Greater Manchester staff. Local services/organisations offering wellbeing activities and services are being invited to hold a stall to display information about the service, give demonstrations, and spread awareness to the staff attending the wellbeing event. Caroline to circulate details of how to book a stall space.
- Caroline from Thrive asked attendees for any online training needs and volunteering opportunities. Caroline to circulate a needs audit form to Volunteer Managers.

### **Open Networking Discussion**

- VM Attendees were invited by Caroline from Thrive to discuss any opportunities, share information and raise any queries during this discussion.
- Jenny Capper from Relate GMS – Early Help Hub discussed the different areas that the Early Help Hubs operate in, with many running particularly well with the help of the volunteers.
- Jenny mentioned that the Early Help Hubs could do with more volunteers with specific skill sets such as face painting, storytelling, arts and crafts etc.

- Jonny Hirst from Beating Bowel Cancer introduced the Bowel Cancer screening project being rolled out in certain areas across Greater Manchester, which trains up volunteers 18+ to assist local GPs in encouraging those over 50 who have not yet been screened for Bowel Cancer.
- Jonny Hirst mentioned that Thrive has already helped to recruit two new volunteers for the Trafford area through their promotion of the opportunity through Do-It.org; and would benefit from 2 or 3 more volunteers to cover the growing need across Trafford.
- Ron Rolph from Trafford Hard of Hearing explained about the service they provide to hard of hearing users in Trafford.
- Ron mentioned that Trafford Hard of Hearing could benefit from recruiting a volunteer with previous experience in bid writing and administration to help with funding applications, IT work etc. to help expand the service that they provide. Ron mentioned that the group is struggling with raising vital funds for an already oversubscribed group.
- Ron Rolph discussed how the group reaches some of their socially isolated service users with details of their service. Marketing avenues include leaflets and posters in local GPs, referrals from audiology departments in Hospitals, Facebook and word of mouth.
- Sue from the Alzheimer's Society discussed the need for Befriender volunteers, with 5 users of the organisation currently waiting on a match.
- Debbie Houghton from The University of Manchester asked if Alzheimer's Society could produce a case study for the Voluntary and Community Engagement team to enable them to circulate to students to inform them more about what Alzheimer's Society do and thus promote the opportunity to new students.
- Sue Smith also emphasised a need for mature male volunteers to match with the service users, as most volunteers are female.
- Antonia Pike from Making Space suggested that Making Space could benefit from befriender volunteers for their service users to help them build confidence and enabling them to go back into the community.
- Making Space attended the University of Manchester event on October and received some interest but unfortunately had no further contact with those initially interested.
- Debbie Houghton from The University of Manchester suggested that both the Alzheimer's Society and Making Space could hold a workshop shortly after events such as the one held in October to give potential volunteers more information about the opportunities available. The University of Manchester team said they could help any organisations run a workshop by booking a room free of charge on the campus, throughout the year but suggested around the start of Semester 2.
- Caroline from Thrive spoke about a few of the most current Corporate Social Responsibility business volunteers looking to support VCSE groups in certain skill areas and through community days. AMEY was one of the businesses mentioned that are still looking for projects throughout 2017 for their employees to take part in as part of their social responsibility. Along with a Software Engineer who is looking to volunteer to support VCSE groups with the creation of website.
- Antonia Pike from Making Space suggested that they could benefit from Social Media volunteers to help them to market their services more widely, and was interested in partnering with CTZN to get young volunteers to help.
- Mark Bailey from Trafford Council asked whether there is a fund available for transport for young volunteers. Rachael from Trafford Leisure Trust suggested that the Transport for Greater Manchester could possibly provide funding
- Caroline from Thrive mentioned to the VM's that Trafford Youth Trust are holding a Youth Provider Event on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to meet new and existing youth

providers to give details of potential commissioning opportunities available from Trafford Youth Trust. Caroline to circulate details of the event to all VMs.

### **Agenda items for next meeting**

1. Funding opportunities
2. News and Information
3. Open Networking for Volunteer Managers
4. AOB

### **Next Steps/Key Actions**

- Thrive to circulate CTZN contact information.
- Thrive to circulate the details of Davyhulme Community Investment Project and training including details about the Tesco Bags of Help fund to all Volunteer Managers, Gorsehill Studios Youth Club, UOM Incredible Edible and Making Space.
- Thrive to circulate the Office for Civil Society local for info North West newsletter which includes details about Local Charities Day and the #iwill fund.
- Thrive to circulate details about the HM Courts and Tribunal Service Wellbeing Event on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017.
- VCSE Needs Audit form to be circulated by Caroline at Thrive to obtain online training needs and volunteering opportunities.
- All Volunteer Managers to complete the VCSE Needs Audit form and email back to Caroline at Thrive as soon as possible.
- Thrive to further advertise and promote the Beating Bowel Cancer volunteering opportunity across the Thrive network.
- VCSE organisations to send through details of any community project days they need support with for business volunteers to get involved with next year.
- Thrive to contact Pro Bono member about helping to support Ron Rolph – Trafford Hard of Hearing group for support with creating a website.
- Thrive to look into funds that will support young volunteers by transporting them to their volunteering activities for Mark Bailey.
- Thrive to circulate details of the Youth Provider Event – 6th December 2016

### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 1:30pm to 3pm at Coppice Library, Sale