



Thrive Trafford – Volunteer Managers Network Meeting, Wednesday 13th May 2015, Trafford Town Hall

Attendees:

- Caroline Lewis, Project Coordinator, Thrive Trafford
- Justine Lea-Grime, Trafford Youth Offending Service
- Stephen Evans, Trafford Blind Deaf Club
- Julie Reilly, Trafford Council – Partnerships & Communities
- Fiona Villanova, Leonard Cheshire Disability
- Mark Nesbitt, VCAT
- Bernie Connor, VCAT
- Alicia Clare, Bluesci
- Cath Foster, University of Manchester
- Cherisse Appleby, New Way Forward
- Christine Booth, Trafford Council Libraries
- Christine Turner, Henshaws
- Doreen Webster, Trafford Deaf and Blind Club
- Farah Ayub, Bluesci
- Kate Baldwin, The Family and Counselling Centre
- Katy Dymoke, Touchdown Dance
- Nathan Jordan, Trafford Community Leisure Trust
- Rachael Forde, Trafford Community Leisure Trust
- Sue Mosco, Intergen

Apologies:

- Becci Cunningham, Victim Support
- Jessica Stewart, Mustard Tree
- Jules Kennedy, TDAS
- Paul Guest, Foodbank Manager
- Graham McIsaac, Shop Mobility
- Manju Pearce, Trafford Rape Crisis
- Charlie Bruce, Together Trust
- Kate Booth, Cyril Flint
- Aliya Bukhari, Voice BME
- Lynda O'Gorman, GM Carers Trust
- Karen Duffy, Age UK Trafford
- Simon Davies, Trafford Council Libraries

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Volunteer Managers Network Meeting

- **Introductions**
- **Minutes from the last meeting**

Caroline Lewis from Thrive discussed some of the actions from the last meeting with the group and gave an update on some of the points including:

Informal Volunteer Manager Training Course from GMYN Thrive Trafford has been in contact with Trafford College for several months in regards to organising Volunteer Manager training, unfortunately the college has been unresponsive with confirming a date, time and cost for the training. Alternatively Sue Lewis at GMYN has been contacted to provide informal Volunteer Managers training on Thursday 18th June 10am to 1pm, venue tbc.

Volunteer's Week Ideas (Monday 1st June to Sunday 7th June 2015) Caroline from Thrive Trafford asked the VM's to work in small groups to come up with ideas and events that they may have been doing for Volunteer's Week. The groups brainstormed their ideas onto flipchart sheets. Ideas included

- An awards/recognition event, 'unsung heroes', speakers.
- Blogs – 'A day/week in the life of a volunteer from...'
- Use of the Twitter hashtag during volunteers week,
- Certificates,
- 'Bring a friend' to a volunteer's usual place of volunteering to promote volunteering more,
- Open day/taster sessions,
- Stories from different types of volunteering i.e. business, academic, community, micro volunteering.
- Information and poster refresh.
- Articles in local paper about volunteering and benefits of it.
- Include thanks in newsletter/website/Facebook/Twitter.

Action: Caroline to email all VM's with final details for the GMYN informal volunteer managers training.

Action: Caroline to email all VM's details and requirements from VM's for Volunteer's Week.

- **Open Networking Discussion**

During the open networking session Caroline Lewis from Thrive introduced Cath Foster from Manchester University, who gave out to the VM's details of how they can link up with the University and their students any volunteering opportunities they may have.

Mark Nesbitt from VCAT talked to the group about how the VMs and their volunteers and members could access free cooking classes with the Vegetarian Society in Trafford, Mark also provided details of a local transport company (Colin Road Transport) based in Urmston, which are providing local community groups discounted travel.

Caroline Lewis from Thrive Trafford passed around a contact list of schools, colleges and university within Trafford to help groups and organisations connect up with younger people for volunteering opportunities, this was something that VMs in a previous VMN meeting had asked for.

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Caroline Lewis from Thrive asked VM's to fill out a form with the following details on:

- Current Volunteering Opportunities in their group/ organisation.
- Training Needs
- Another further support required from Thrive Trafford including:
- Small Groups Health Check
- Trafford Quality Mark
- Funding Support
- Private Sector Engagement

From the discussion of Volunteer's Week the VMs talked about other ideas of how to promote and recruit more new volunteers to their group or organisation. Ideas included holding a stand at festivals or events during the summer such as Sale Festival, Altrincham Festival, Timperley Festival and THT Festivals.

Caroline from Thrive highlighted how the VMs could upload their volunteering opportunities for free on the Thrive website on the following link:

<http://www.thrivetrafford.org.uk/volunteering-trafford/volunteering-opportunities/>

Caroline from Thrive Trafford told the group about a future Pro-Bono Bank network event in June (date tbc) with a focus of professional business people signing up to be board members or trustees for voluntary sector organisations. The following questions were asked:

- Are you looking to develop your board?
- Would you like a professional business person on your board?
- What skills are you looking for from a board member?
- How would you benefit from a professional business person on your board?

Caroline from Thrive asked the group if their group or organisation would be interested in taking part. No one at this time in the meeting needed this type of support.

Also during the networking session VMs asked if all attending the session could have each other's email addresses to allow groups and organisations to share information, and for further peer support.

Action: Mark Nesbitt from VCAT to send through to Caroline at Thrive the details about the cooking classes and transport to be disseminated through to the rest of the VMs.

Action: VMs who still have volunteering opportunities, training requirements and other support to email Caroline Lewis at Thrive Trafford using the form attached with the meeting minutes.

Action: Caroline from Thrive Trafford to email all VMs to ask if they would be interested in a Pro-Bono Bank network event in June.

Action: Caroline from Thrive Trafford to email all attended the meeting each other's email address details for further networking.

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- **Agenda items for next meeting**

1. Informal Volunteer Manager Training from GMYN.
2. Activities to Promote Volunteering Opportunities.
3. Open Networking – Share Best Practice for Volunteering/ Information /Advice.
4. AOB.

Next Steps/Key Actions

- Caroline Lewis from Thrive Trafford to email all VMs to ask if they have any volunteering opportunities, training requirements and other support using the information form.
- Caroline from Thrive Trafford to email all VMs to ask if they would be interested in a Pro-Bono Bank network event in June.
- Caroline from Thrive Trafford to circulate school, college and university contacts to all VMs via email.
- VMs to bring their opportunities they have within their organisation to the next meeting.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

TBC

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