



Thrive Trafford – Volunteer Managers Network Meeting, Tuesday 24th June 2014, Trafford Town Hall

Attendees:

- Sarah Lewis, Service Delivery Manager, Thrive Trafford
- Caroline Lewis, Project Coordinator, Thrive Trafford
- Fiona Villanova, Leonard Cheshire Disability
- Aliya Bukhari, Voice of BME
- Janet Wong, Mustard Tree
- Rod McFarlane, Trafford Council, Libraries Service
- James McVeigh, Employment and Training Officer, Trafford CYPS
- Tracy Brundrett, Stockport CP Society
- Bernie Connor, VCAT
- Mark Nesbitt, VCAT
- Angela Ormisher, Trafford Youth Offending Service, Trafford Council
- Natalie James, Stockdales
- Tony Dagnall, Trafford Carers Centre
- Justine Lea-Grime, Trafford Youth Offending Service
- Urooj Khan, BlueSCI
- Salah Abdisamad, Ogaden Community
- Amanda Childs, Lostock College

Apologies:

Karen Duffy, Age UK Trafford; Gill Prideaux, TSPC, Diana Forrest, Sale West Community Urban Trust; Alison Loble, Trafford Rape Crisis; Maureen Reilly, Lostock Partnership, Graham McIsaac, Shop Mobility; Kate Booth, Cyril Flint Volunteers; Val Gray, Trafford Council; Kay Statham, Trafford Leisure Trust.

Volunteer Managers Network Meeting

• Updates

Sarah Lewis gave an update on the work of Thrive across Trafford, including information and resources available on the Thrive website, and other news and event items taking place in the coming months, including the VCAT Assembly event taking place on Thursday 26th June.

News and event items discussed included:

- **Capacity building and the Trafford Quality Mark** – Organisations can sign up to go through the TQM through the website. For smaller organisations there is the smallgroups healthcheck that can support smaller groups with their development.

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- **Meet the Commissioner** – Follow on meeting from last year coming up in September 2014.
- **Social Enterprise Challenge** – Starting on 3rd July 2014. A four day programme comprising of three days of business training and a final ‘Dragon’s Den’ style event. All applicants will be given the opportunity of mentoring including support from businesses such as Tesco. On the final day all participants are due to take part in a ‘Dragon’s Den’ style pitch to a panel to win funding for their social enterprise idea. Trafford Council are providing the prize fund for the winners; 1st prize winner will win £3,000, and then two runners up will each win £1,000. Those who do not win a monetary prize will have access to mentor support from the business mentors to help develop their idea further into a social enterprise.
- **Voluntary Sector Grants** – Sarah from Thrive talked about the participatory budgeting event for Urmston & Partington voluntary sector grants, which is taking place on Saturday 5th July at Partington Community Centre. Sarah mentioned to the group that the Sale Voluntary Sector grant will open for a month on Friday 27th June 2014 for local groups to apply.
- **Equalities Grants** are opening in July 2014, Sarah explained that these grants are to support projects tackling social isolation; total fund available is £30,000.

It was also noted that Thrive is facilitating quarterly Inward Investment Network meetings, with a faith based meeting planned for the 15th September. Organisations can also download resources from the website, for example the Volunteer Manager’s Toolkit.

Mark Nesbitt from VCAT talked to the group about the Assembly event taking place on Thursday 26th June 1pm to 3pm at the Life Centre, Washway Road, which will look at how people in the 3rd sector can join together, and become a joint voice, discuss any issues, financial pressures and delivery pressures they have. And will also look at ways in which the sector needs to change in response to the changing environment. Mark said that the Leader of the Council Cllr Sean Anstee will be attending and giving a presentation at the event.

Sarah from Thrive discussed with the group about the proposed model for third sector representation, including how can we make sure that the Third sector is represented at a strategic level, influences decision making and what is the model for this? The group were undecided as to how best to represent.

Action: Sarah to send out information to the group once the role of 3rd sector ambassador has been developed.

- **Volunteering Trafford**

Sarah updated the group about Thrive’s role in supporting the coordination of volunteering infrastructure in Trafford.

Volunteering Infrastructure Update

- **Volunteering Trafford Charter and Peer Review**

Sarah gave an overview of the volunteering charter and also asked the group on their views about a possible peer review system for quality marking and best practice for volunteering throughout Trafford. There were differing views on how the charter and peer review should be policed. It was noted that Thrive does not have the capacity to check all systems and interview volunteers from a number of organisations across Trafford. The group reiterated the point made in the last meeting that the peer review should be built in, with Thrive developing standard forms that could be used generically across Trafford for volunteering, to ensure standards were consistent.

Action: Thrive to develop peer review forms for the Charter for further discussion at the next VMN meeting.

- **Volunteering Trafford, Volunteer Management Training**

Sarah explained to the group that Joan Scott from Trafford College was due to be running a Volunteer Manager's training course shortly, venue and cost still TBC by Joan.

Actions: Sarah to find out from Joan Scott at Trafford College further details for the Trafford College Volunteer Management training sessions.

- **Volunteering Trafford Web Portal – Registration Opportunities**

Sarah Lewis showed the group how they could upload any future volunteering opportunities on the Thrive Trafford website in particular how the Volunteering Trafford item works, including how organisations are able to register and upload their own volunteering opportunities. The website asks for details about the opportunity that organisations want to recruit volunteers including the ability to upload volunteer role descriptions and provide contact details for individuals to contact the organisations direct for the opportunities.

Sarah discussed the point that was raised in the last meeting that the Thrive website should also contain case studies of why people should volunteer, including why young people should volunteer and supporting them to access opportunities. Sarah highlighted the case studies that Caroline from Thrive had put on the website to promote Volunteer's Week. Sarah also discussed with the group that Joan Scott from Trafford College was signposting students from the college to access the volunteering opportunities on the website. Caroline from Thrive explained to the group that she could upload any case studies of volunteers in Trafford onto the website if the group had any they wished to showcase. Caroline also mentioned to the group that she could upload onto the Thrive website and promote via Twitter any volunteering events or opportunities they needed promoting.

- **Open Networking**

Sarah explained to the group that the VMN meetings are designed for the Volunteer Manager's to discuss any issues, highlight best practice, network and share information and that Thrive's role in the meetings was to coordinate the volunteering opportunities and act as a portal for information sharing.

Members of the group expressed some concerns about the way the Government is trying to get people into volunteering, i.e. people coming off Job Seeker's Allowance are then being pushed to volunteer whilst they find try and find work. This is a scheme that is due to start at the end of summer.

Amanda from Lostock College discussed the issue of employers not wanting to take on 14 year olds/ year 10 students for work placements, and that getting young people into volunteering would be a good way for young people to build the necessary skills for future employment opportunities. Amanda's concern was that not enough young people want to volunteer.

The group discussed openly how they get most of their volunteers and also the benefits that their volunteers have gained through volunteering, e.g. training, transferable skills for the job market, and confidence.

The group raised the idea of showcasing more case studies of local volunteers to try and promote volunteering more around Trafford, targeting the younger age groups.

Action: Sarah to organise speaker from a Work Programme Provider to come and speak to the group in regards to the changes around JSA and volunteering.

Action: Caroline from Thrive to collate case studies from volunteers and promote through the website, local colleges and social networking sites such as Twitter to reach younger age groups.

- **Volunteering Opportunities**

Those with any opportunities were asked to share with the group. Tracy Brundrett from Stockport CP highlighted they have lots of events and opportunities they were looking to promote as the organisation had just won a large contract for 11-19 year olds for 5 years, covering volunteering opportunities in Trafford as well as the Stockport area.

Action: Tracy to send through to Caroline at Thrive any events/ information she wants to circulate through Trafford.

Agenda items for next meeting

Attendees discussed the items that could form part of the next meeting agenda.

1. Volunteer Skills
2. Peer Review
3. Work Programme Provider as a Guest Speaker

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4. Share Best Practice for Volunteering
5. Recognition & Motivation for Volunteering

Next Steps/Key Actions

- College's Volunteer Manager's training, Thrive to discuss with Trafford College a new date and any associated costs.
- Suggested that partners bring the opportunities they have within their organisation to the next meeting to assist with highlighting opportunities.
- Bring ideas and questions for the guest speaker from a work programme provider
- Look at how to brand the 'volunteer hub' and an image for this, especially targeted towards the younger age groups.
- Look at the potential for volunteers to run the 'hub' and develop this to the next level.
- Collate case studies from volunteers across Trafford to showcase volunteering.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 18th September – 1pm to 3pm, Sale Point (THT offices), Washway Road, Sale.

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