



Thrive Trafford – Volunteer Managers Network Meeting, Wednesday 26th November 2014, Urmston Library

Attendees:

- Sarah Lewis, Service Delivery Manager, Thrive Trafford
- Caroline Lewis, Project Coordinator, Thrive Trafford
- Kate Booth, Cyril Flint Volunteers
- Simon Davies, Trafford Council
- Gillian Renshaw, Trafford Council
- Julie Reilly, Trafford Council – Partnerships & Communities
- Aliya Bukhari, Voice BMET
- Rachael Forde, Trafford Community Leisure Trust
- Fiona Villanova, Leonard Cheshire Disability
- Michelle Grogan, Trafford Carers Centre
- Katy Dymoke, Touchdown Dance

Apologies:

- Becci Cunningham, Victim Support
- Mark Nesbitt, VCAT
- Karen Duffy, Age UK Trafford
- Philomena Farrell, Trafford Council
- Tina Patterson, GM Carers Trust
- Justine Lea-Grime, Trafford Youth Offending Service

Volunteer Managers Network Meeting

- **Minutes from the last meeting**

Sarah 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:

- Trafford College, Volunteer Manager's training course – Sarah explained to the group that she has been trying to contact Joan Scott from Trafford College for details of the Volunteer Manager's training course the college is due to be running; date and cost still TBC.
- Sarah gave a brief overview of the talk that Jenny Hunt from Stronger Families did last meeting, explaining how the programme works and the significance of the support volunteers can have in the area in regards to helping support families stepping down from the programme.

Action: Sarah to chase up Joan Scott from Trafford College in regards to a date, venue and cost for a Volunteer Manager's training course.

Sarah to update next meeting about the Stronger Families work.

Pulse Regeneration and Trafford Housing Trust working in partnership to deliver Trafford Council's Third Sector Infrastructure Development and Support Service

- **Potential workshop with Volunteers for Peer Review**

Sarah from Thrive gave an overview of the last meeting's discussion of the peer review model. Following on from this discussion it was decided that holding a focus group with volunteers in Trafford would be needed to take the peer review model idea forward, or to contact volunteers by phone to find out about the model and their involvement.

Action: Sarah/Caroline from Thrive to email Volunteer Managers to ask if they have any volunteers willing to take part in the peer review model focus group – a date from Thrive needs to be emailed out to groups or short phone calls with volunteers about their views on the peer review model.

- **Volunteer Audit Exercise**

At the last meeting some groups suggested the need for more information about opportunities or a 'pool' where groups could either signpost volunteer opportunities to a relevant organisation, or share volunteer information. From this suggestion Sarah from Thrive drafted a volunteer audit form, which was completed at the meeting. The group had a discussion about what they thought of the areas highlighted in the audit. Some people noted that a lot of the volunteers they work with are not necessarily willing to do further training or work with another organisation. However, the Youth Offending Team suggested in the last meeting that an audit and information point would be good for their service as they get a lot of women wanting to volunteer who could be referred to other organisations and they have a need for more men to volunteer for the service. Other attendees noted that they often interview volunteers who might not want to volunteer for their organisation but would be suitable for another organisation so could be referred on if opportunities were known about.

It was discussed between the group members that an information resource online would work best for volunteer managers to access the audit information and opportunities.

Action: Caroline from Thrive to circulate the audit form/information to all volunteer managers in the area, and to then collate the information to be put onto the Thrive website for managers to access and view.

- **Talent Match**

Sarah from Thrive gave details of the next training workshop available to the Volunteer Managers from Sue Lewis as part of Talent Match – **Reducing Barriers & Maximising Benefits: Supporting Volunteers with Additional Needs.**

- **Open Networking**

During the discussion about the audit a lot of the group members explained how some of their volunteers were only recruited on a short term basis for a maximum of up to 6 months and discussed about some of the implications of this high turn around.

Other points discussed were about the lack of volunteers from local colleges and universities including Trafford College and Manchester University. Kate Booth explained how the colleges

and universities are all very enthusiastic about volunteering, but then there is limited follow up. A few other members of the group found a similar problem.

From this discussion it was suggested that Caroline from Thrive gets in contact with some of the local colleges, schools (mentioned Lostock and Stretford) and universities in the area to find out if they have any students looking to do voluntary work, and see if Thrive can help to signpost these contact details on to Volunteer Managers in Trafford.

Action: Caroline from Thrive to contact local schools, colleges and universities to get contact details for their volunteer managers to pass onto the group.

Another discussion point raised was about training and that some volunteers are not necessarily aware of different medical and mental health conditions including Dementia; from this discussion Kate Booth from Cyril Flint offered to give some training about Dementia Awareness in the next volunteer manager's meeting.

Action: Kate Booth from Cyril Flint Volunteers to deliver Dementia Awareness training to the group at the next volunteer managers meeting.

- **Agenda items for next meeting**

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

1. Dementia Awareness Training
2. Peer Review Focus Group
3. Contact details for local schools, colleges and universities
4. Share Best Practice for Volunteering including current volunteers

Next Steps/Key Actions

- College's Volunteer Manager's training; Thrive to discuss with Trafford College a new date and any associated costs.
- Sarah/Caroline from Thrive to email Volunteer Managers to ask if they have any volunteers willing to take part in the peer review model focus group – a date from Thrive needs to be emailed out to groups.
- Caroline from Thrive to look at circulating the audit form to all volunteer managers in the area, and to then collate the information to be put onto the Thrive website for managers to access and view.
- Kate Booth from Cyril Flint Volunteers to deliver Dementia Awareness training to the group at the next volunteer managers meeting.
- Caroline from Thrive to circulate school, college and university contacts to the group.
- Suggested that partners bring the opportunities they have within their organisation to the next meeting to assist with highlighting opportunities.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Proposed date of Tuesday 10th February 2014 – at Urmston Library, Unit 34, Golden Way, Urmston, M41 0NA

Pulse Regeneration and Trafford Housing Trust working in partnership to deliver Trafford Council's Third Sector Infrastructure Development and Support Service