

# Health & Social Care Voluntary Sector Forum

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025

10am – 12noon

Online



## 1. Derbyshire Voluntary Action Business

### a. Minutes of the last Health & Social Care Voluntary Sector Forum held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

### b. Matters Arising

#### Derbyshire County Council Consultation on Discretionary Funding

Derbyshire County Council approved the recommendation to cease all discretionary grant funding arrangements after 31 March 2025.

#### VCSE Memorandum of Understanding in Derby/Derbyshire

Jacqui Willis commented that there is still a lot of work to do to get the Memorandum of Understanding fully engaged.

#### ThinkFest!

ThinkFest! 2025 will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May in Chesterfield.

## 2. Coalfields Regeneration Trust Support

### Steve Abson, Regional Development Manager East Midlands

Steve gave an overview of the range of free benefits and services available to Coalfield Regeneration Trust members.

- Critical Friend –face to face and virtual meetings, telephone and email support from the Regional Development Manager and wider team.
- Identifying Sources of Funding/Finance –we use Grant Finder to provide detailed information on sources of funding
- Funding Applications -we provide support applying for funding and provide detailed feedback on draft applications to any grant funder
- Local Insight –detailed statistical reports for any area
- Grant Funding –grants are only available to member organisations. Last year we awarded over 100 grants between £500 -£10,000
- Training, webinars and events covering a variety of subjects and informed by the needs of members
- Access to an online library of resources
- Networking/Information Sharing –with around 900 member organisations nationally and around 200 in the East Midlands region we will be arranging virtual and face to face member meetings to encourage members to share information and work more proactively together
  - Signposting -to partner organisations and other sources of support including Cranfield Trust, WEA and Utility Aid
- A quarterly CRT Support newsletter

To become a member your organisation must be physically located in an eligible coalfield ward or be delivering the majority of your services to people in coalfield areas (see presentation for map of eligible areas).

If you are interested in your organisation becoming a member visit: <https://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/crt-support> or contact Steve Abson, Regional Development Manager 07792 556825 [stephen.abson@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:stephen.abson@coalfields-regen.org.uk)

### **Presentation - [East Midlands CRT Support](#)**

Q. Would CRT be able to offer support in the cleaning of the Saltergate Miners Statues in Chesterfield?

A. CRT can work with member organisations, and if the aim is relevant to your organisation we can work with you on heritage opportunities.

### **3. Key Fundraising Messages and Top Tips for 2025**

#### **Jenny Raschbauer, Impact Project Lead, Derbyshire Voluntary Action**

Jenny began by explaining that only 14% of UK Trusts and Foundations are open for applications, many are closed or restricted, meaning that there is lots of competition for any funding resources that are open.

Jenny covered the following points to consider when looking for funding:

- Explore how organisations can grow existing opportunities e.g. through maximising customers and service contracts, hang on to supporters and donors you have, use relationships you have.
- Finding Charitable Funders is the first step in the process, Jenny suggested several grant resources and recommended compiling a database of funders to refer to.
- Read Funder Guidelines/Restrictions carefully so that you don't waste time if you do not meet the criteria.
- Building a case for support – all funders have different criteria and questions, but all fundamentally want to know Why, Where, Who, When, How. Jenny suggested pulling these answers together to reuse for multiple applications.
- Create a portfolio - with evidence of photos, case studies, quotes, numbers local and national context.

### **4. 'We Pledge' Initiative**

#### **Dr Melanie Hani, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Practitioner for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector, Derbyshire County Council**

The Mental Health and Suicide Prevention team at Derbyshire County Council recognise the vital support VCSE employees and volunteers provide in the community. The 'We Pledge' initiative develops a bespoke, effectual, impactful mental health wellbeing environment for all. 'We Pledge' urges VCSE leaders to prioritise mental health through supportive practices.

As it is a bespoke service, Melanie would initially meet with an organisation and create a survey to ask staff what they want and then create a bespoke strategy for that organisation. The offer can include training, a handbook, access to wellbeing activities etc.

All VCSE organisation in Derbyshire are eligible (except Derby City) and an organisations can commitment whatever capacity they have.

If you are interested in the registering visit <https://forms.office.com/e/DvPk0UsV60>

We Pledge Poster - <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:e033ac64-5fcb-464a-a92d-a80be1226917>

**'All Words, All Actions, All Weathers' Conference and Exhibition 2025**

The free Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector conference and exhibition focussing on Wellbeing, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. To book and find out more visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-words-all-actions-all-weathers-conference-and-exhibition-2025-tickets-1043932709837?aff=odtdtdtcreator>

**Date of next Forum: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

*A list of attendees can be provided on request.*