**Public and Voluntary Sectors’ Partnership Away Day 2014**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2014 at the Jack Carter Pavilion**

**12.00 – 3 pm**

Present:

Cllr Bhamra (outgoing Chair, present for items 4-11), Cllr Santos, Cllr Lambert, Cllr Sharma, Jon Pushkin (incoming Chair), Lorraine Silver, Bushra Tahir, Sudarshan Bhuhi MBE, Khalil Ali, Steve Brown, Nicholas Hurst (present for items 1 – 3)

Apologies:

Cllr Best, Ram Bhandari, John Garlick, Chief Inspector Fish.

In Attendance:   
Cllr Ashley Kissin, Mayor of Redbridge (present for items 1 – 3)

John Turkson, LBR

Ross Diamond, RedbridgeCVS

Liz Walker, Volunteer Centre Redbridge (present for item 1-3)

Volunteers of the Year Awards nominees and nominators

1. Introductions and welcome.

Jon Pushkin (Vice Chair for 2013/14, and covering the role of Chair for items 1 – 3 in Cllr Bhamra’s absence) welcome everyone to the event.

1. Compact Ambassador Ceremony

Cllr Ashley Kissin, Mayor of Redbridge, formally accepted the role of Compact Ambassador for 2014/15. He said how important partnership working is, particularly at this time, and welcome the wide range of support and services that voluntary organisations in Redbridge provide for local people. He explained that the Compact helped to ensure positive working between the voluntary sector and local public sector agencies and undertook to ensure that the Compact was widely understood and used.

1. Volunteer of the Year Awards

Ross Diamond (RedbridgeCVS) explained the background to this, the second Volunteer of Year Awards for Redbridge. He said that LBR’s Public and Voluntary Sectors’ Partnership (PaVSP), RedbridgeCVS and Volunteer Centre Redbridge had developed the Awards and were delighted to receive many strong nominations.

Ross said that all the winners and nominees should be congratulated and thanked for all that they do for Redbridge. The Panel had a difficult job in deciding who should be awarded the ‘winners’ trophies – and the awards are really to celebrate and thank everyone who volunteers in Redbridge.

There were three categories, and the winners (in no particular order) were:

* 1. Long Standing Volunteers of the Year

Linda Diamond Jewish Lads’ and Girls’ Brigade

Pat Borrott, Redbridge Voluntary Care

Nicholas Hurst, Frenford Clubs

* 1. Outstanding Volunteers of the Year

Jeremy O’Callaghan Forest Farm Peace Garden

Chris Wyatt Redbridge Music Lounge

Geraldine Maclaine Bogus Caller Partnership

* 1. Young Volunteers of the Year

Ilford Fire Station Young Cadets Volunteers

The Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr Ashely Kissin, gave trophies to all the winners and certificates to all the nominees. He thanked them all for all that they have done for Redbridge.

LUNCH BREAK

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The members of the Partnership introduced themselves and explained their interest in this work.

The Chair of this Partnership is rotated each year between the Public and Voluntary Sectors. This year it was the turn of the Voluntary Sector to Chair the meeting. After a secret ballot Jon Pushkin was elected as Chair for 2014/15. Cllr Mark Santos was elected Vice Chair, unopposed.

The outgoing Chair, Cllr Bhamra, thanked all the Partnership members, and the supporting officers for their help in 2013/14.

1. Minutes of Last Year’s Away Day (23 July 2013)
   1. Accuracy

It was noted that ther3e was a typing error, giving the wrong year on these minutes, but otherwise the Minutes were agreed to be an accurate record

* 1. Matters Arising

All actions had been undertaken during the year and there were no other matters arising.

1. PaVSP Annual Report 2013/14

Ross Diamond presented the PaVSP Annual Report for 2013/14. This was agreed – subject to an amendment to Cllr Bhamra’s initial. This document would now be uploaded to RedbridgeCVS’ website. **Action: RD**

1. Compact Annual Report 2013/14

Ross Diamond presented the PaVSP Annual Report for 2013/14. This was agreed and would now be uploaded to RedbridgeCVS’ website. **Action: RD.** John asked if both the PaVSP and Compact Annual Reports could be send to the relevant LBR Committees. This was agreed. **Action: JT** It was noted that the Police’s place on this group was vacant. It was agreed that John Turkson would write to the Borough Commander to ask for representatives for both the PaVSP and Compact Champions. **Action: JT**

1. PaVSP Work Plan

Ross had prepared a draft work plan for 2014/15, building on the previously agreed work plan for 2013-2015. The first two items (‘Appointment of the Compact Ambassador’, and ‘Volunteers of the Year Award’) had been completed earlier in the Away Day. The third item (‘Refresh the Volunteer Strategy’) was no longer considered a priority. Ross said that he had previously offered to do this at no cost, by building on the previous Volunteer Strategy for Redbridge, but as so much had changed since that report (including the funding of a Volunteer Centre for Redbridge) this would now be a much larger undertaking that, in the current resource climate, was not considered a priority. This item was, therefore, to be removed from this year’s work plan. Item 4 (‘Refresh the Redbridge Compact’) would be the key item for the PaVSP in the year ahead, and was the subject of the next agenda item. Item 5 (‘Invite the voluntary sector to apply for the Redbridge Community Fund 2014/15’ in order to achieve ‘a better quality of applications’) would remain. It was also noted that LBR would be review whether or not to continue this funding programme in 2015/16. Item 6 (‘Review of the Corporate Grants Programme’) had been started. John Turkson said that only 36 groups had responded, but these had included some very helpful comments. These were now being analysed by the new administration who may take a different approach to the previous administration. This might include aligning funding with the Council’s Corporate Strategy, instead of with its Sustainable Community Strategy. John said that they key responses to the grants review focused on the monitoring levels. Council staff have also looked at grants programmes in other boroughs. Cllr Sharma said that the Community Fund grant was being also being reviewed, and the Council had not yet taken any decisions. Bushra said that small grants could have huge impacts on small organisations who were attempting to meet rising levels of need. It wasn’t yet decided where the grants review report would be taken by the Council, but Cllr Sharma would be involved in the final decisions on future grants programmes. Cllr Bhamra said he Chairs the Service Committee that would consider the report, and this PaVSP is a subsidiary of that committee so it may be possible for the PaVSP to formally consider the draft report. It was agreed that the PaVSP would be alerted to the report once complete, and members could ask to speak at the relevant Service Committee when the report was considered. **Action: LBR Grants Funding to be added to a PaVSP agenda for 2014/15.**

1. Compact 2015-18

Ross tabled a draft of the new Compact document. This was based on the previous Redbridge Compact which had proven effective. He had updated the document to reflect factual changes, and was seeking approval from the PaVSP to use this document as a draft for consultation. This was agreed, subject to members having a bit more time to consider this draft. **Action: PaVSP members agreed to respond to Ross by 11th November with comments on the draft. Ross and John Turkson would then agree the consultation timetable, to link with Council timetables, giving at least 3 months consultation time.** It was noted that all stakeholders (including those present) would be invited to comment on the draft. Once the consultation starts RedbridgeCVS will collate the responses and the PaVSP will agree the final version, which they will recommend to all parties for signing.

1. Presentations for local partnerships nominated for national Compact Awards.

The meeting heard presentations from the three projects nominated for national Compact Awards – all of which had been shortlisted.

10.1 Redbridge First Response Service: Bushra Baig-Daykin LBR

Bushra Baig-Daykin gave a presentation outlining the work of the Redbridge First Response Service (ReFRS) which is a unique multi-agency partnership model that seeks to help people with low level needs for support to be put in touch with appropriate agencies. Over half the partners are from the voluntary sector, and ReFRS has demonstrated that it has the potential to improve the quality of life of service users at early stages by enabling them to access support in order to lead fulfilling and independent lives in the community. ReFRS is seamless, co-ordinated and promotes joined up working between the voluntary, health and statutory sector. A whole system approach supports the work of the thriving voluntary sector by using community resources more effectively. Bushra reported that satisfaction levels with those referring to, or using, the service was very high. She noted that 20 of the 46 GP practices in Redbridge are already referring to the service. Lorraine Silver invited Bushra to attend a meeting of the Patient Engagement Forum to speak about the service. John Turkson said LBR hoped to expand the service, but wanted to ensure it didn’t grow too fast, and would not raise expectations that it could not keep.

10.2. Work Redbridge/Volunteer Centre Redbridge partnership: Liz Gardner, LBR

Liz Gardner gave a presentation about the partnership work between Work Redbridge (a cross-sectoral partnership led by LBR which aims to help local people find employment) and Volunteer Centre Redbridge. They undertake a range of joint outreach visits and have recently launched, “Making it Count” – a project to maximise the impact of people’s volunteering experiences on their employment prospects.

10.3 Daffodil Advocacy Project: Ros Weinberg, Kiran Kaur and Carol Gardner

Ros and Kiran from the Daffodil Advocacy Project’s Quality Checking Project gave a presentation on their work. The project has recruited and trained a support group of up to 13 people with learning disabilities, calling themselves Experienced Voices, to work as volunteer quality checkers developing their skills and knowledge to become an “extra pair of eyes” for vulnerable people, working with the Learning Disability Commissioners to share information. This year they will check 10 local services, including residential homes, day services etc. they speak to service users to seek their views and send anonymised reports to service users, commissioners, service managers, Healthwatch and the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.

The PaVSP members said that they had found all the projects inspiring – and wished them well for the Compact Awards that would take place the following evening. The Chair thanked all the speakers for attending.

1. Dates of Future Meetings

Ross Diamond and John Turkson would liaise and arrange two meetings for the year, to tie in with the timetable for agreeing the Compact etc. Dates would be circulated to members as soon as they could be arranged.

CLOSE