**Notes of the meeting: Public and Voluntary Sectors’ Partnership,**

**Monday 6th October 2015** (5.00 p.m. – 6.45 p.m.), **@ RedbridgeCVS, Forest House, 16-20 Clements Road, Ilford Essex**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Hussain (Chair – in attendance from item 3 onwards), Bhamra, Santos, Blaber.

**Voluntary Sector Reps:** Jon Pushkin (Vice Chair), John Garlick, Rita Chadha, Jon Abrams, Nigel Turner.

**Redbridge CCG:** Khalil Ali

**Officers in attendance:** Ross Diamond (RedbridgeCVS, note taker), Shila Barber (LBR), John Turkson (LBR).

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Jon Pushkin, Vice Chair, opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Apologies & Substitutes**

Apologies were received from Cllr Best.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

The Vice Chair asked for any declarations to be made at the relevant part of the meeting. It was noted that all the voluntary sector representatives had signed the Code of Conduct Undertaking. Rita Chadha pointed out that, whilst she agreed with the Code and the Nolan Principles that underpin it, she had not received the relevant training on the LBR Equalities Strategy and relevant legislation, as no such strategy currently exists. The Code as is stands, therefore, is outdated and needs revising (until such time as the new Equalities Strategy is complete). She also said that the Fairness Commissioners should have received this training. **Action: RD to invite LBR Constitutional Services to the next meeting to explain why the voluntary sector members of this group are “Appointed Members of the London Borough of Redbridge” and need to sign up to the Code.**

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2015**

Cllr Hussain took the Chair at this stage of the meeting.

**3.1. Accuracy**

These were agreed to be an accurate record.

**3.2. Matters Arising**

Rita asked if PaVSP members could see LBR’s response to the recent London Councils grants consultation. Cllr Hussain said that this would be done – but pointed out that LBR’s response is only going to London Councils this week, as they have been granted an extension. **Action: LBR to circulate its response to London Councils to all PaVSP members.**

1. **Development of an Integrated Health and Adult Social Care Service in LBR:
Nicola Parry and Sally Bird LBR.**

Nicola Parry and Sally Bird gave a presentation outlining the latest plans for a new integrated Health and Adult Social Services (HASS) Partnership. The PowerPoint slide pack is attached as Appendix 1. Nicola also said that LBR would be the first London Borough to merge its Adult Social Services Department with Public Health.

They then took questions from the Partnership. Jon Pushkin asked if the Hub would have its own budget. Nicola said that it would not at first – but over time they aimed to develop a dedicated budget for this, eg using Better Care Fund monies. Nigel Turner asked if the new service would be 7 days a week – to match the extended services in hospitals. Nicola said that there have been social workers in local hospitals 7 days a week since 2013. They are permanently based at Whipps Cross and King George hospitals, and visit Queens as required. Rita asked if this would save money and lead to redundancies. Nicola said that they are currently consulting with staff so redundancies etc., are not yet known. Overall she said that LBR needs to save around £2million from the Social Services budget so there would certainly be some redundancies (though they hoped to mitigate this by redeploying staff to other roles where possible and offering voluntary redundancies). She said that the new structure would require a different skillset to that currently in the teams. Rita asked how the Hub would manage its commissioning role, and how they would seek to ensure commissions didn’t just go to the ‘usual suspects’. She also asked how NELFT and Public Health would engage with the voluntary sector. Nicola asked for suggestions of ways they could engage with the voluntary sector (and encourage them to bid for contracts), and said they would use “outcomes based commissioning” which might enable more voluntary sector bids (including in partnerships). Nicola said she would inform Bob Edwards (NELFT) and Vicky Hobart (Public Health) about the voluntary sector’s wish to engage better with them. Khalil Ali said there were lots of “single points of access” and GPs were now working in “hubs” and feared that this would cause confusion. Nicola said that the Urgent Care and Transforming Primary Care teams were working together (involving the CCG and Health and Wellbeing Board) to find ways to avoid duplication. She reminded the meeting that the presentation was on draft proposals that were still being consulted upon and discussed. Khalil said that CCGs have a legal duty to engage patients and carers, and suggested that the HASS should make a public statement about how it intended to engage with its service users and carers. Nicola said she thought this was a very good idea – and would raise it with the Joint Commissioning Partnership. Jon Abrams suggested that the commissioners in Redbridge should make better use of the Social Value Act. He recommended a recent paper which made it clear of why the Act is not in breach of EU regulations. This can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-action-on-health-inequalities-using-the-social-value-act> **Action: RD to circulate Social Value link as recommended.**

Cllr Santos said that this felt like a very exciting development which could really improve local services and the meeting thanked Nicola and Sally for the presentation.

1. **Heritage Lottery Fund: Richard McClenaghan**

Richard McClenaghan, Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Development Officer for London, gave a presentation about the various funding strands offered by the HLF. The presentation is attached as Appendix 2. This covered what HLF means by ‘heritage’ (which can include memories, languages and traditions as well as historical artefacts and places. Richard said that HLF will only fund not-for-profit organisations, including charities and local Councils. Richard said that Redbridge has not been getting as much HLF funding per head of the population as other parts of the country, so he was actively promoting the fund locally (and in Waltham Forest). He said that central London gets the most funding, but this is largely due to the very large grants being allocated to huge projects in central London. He said that Redbridge is now being targeted with extra promotion of the HLF to encourage bids from the area. Redbridge will remain a priority area for promotion for the next 3-4 years - or until the amount of HLF funding coming to Redbridge rises significantly.

In response to questions Richard said that there is a World War I engagement centre in London; that Councils can bid on their own without voluntary sector partners (as they are not-for-profit) – but said that working in partnership can help to generate better outcomes so partnership bids are always worth exploring; that match funding is not compulsory for most of their grants; that they target their promotional activity at areas and groups who are currently underrepresented in their bids (but can’t prioritise the allocation of funding); and said that the number of enquiries about HLF from Redbridge has increased, but not yet the number of bids submitted.

1. **Gerard Green, Redbridge Museum (Vision)**

Gerard informed the meeting that the Redbridge Museum is a community heritage museum sited in the Central Library which has a range of useful resources about local history. He said that Vision (which manages the Museum and the Library) has a list of possible bids, including several that will include the Museum working with local voluntary organisations (such as the Roma Support Group, Step Ladder Foundation, Muslim Women’s Welfare Association, ASNet and Eastside Community Heritage). They are also considering joint bids with Redbridge Institute and LBR’s Childrens Centres. Vision are also actively looking at bids relating to LBR’s archives, the Hainault Forest Country Park, Roding Through Wanstead, Ray Park, Valentines Park, Goodmayes Park and Wanstead Flats. Gerard said that Eastside Community Heritage have established Redbridge Heritage Forum to encourage more applications to the HLF.

1. **My Romania**

Representatives from the My Romania group were not able to attend.

1. **Commissioning in Redbridge: Task and Finish Group update**

The Redbridge Fairness Commission has made a number of recommendations relating to commissioning in Redbridge, in line with the PaVSP’s thinking in relation to the planned Task and Finish Group. It was, therefore, agreed that the Task and Finish Group would not now be established (-though it might be reactivated depending on the progress of the Fairness Commission’s recommendations. **The recommendations of the Fairness Commission – and any subsequent action - would be on the agenda for a future PaVSP meeting.**

1. **LBR Voluntary Sector Grants – update**

Shila Barber tabled an Annual Report on the voluntary sector grants programme for 2014/15. This is attached as Appendix 3. This shows that LBR distributed £590k in grants and the recipient groups were able to secure an additional £1.3+ million. Shila congratulated the sector on this achievement.

Shila said that this year LBR would be merging its “Emerging Needs and New Initiatives” (ENNI) grant with its “Community Fund”– to give a fund of £300,000 for local voluntary groups to bid to. Unlike the previous ENNI grants, this would have no upper limit – but 50% match funding would still be required. She also said that the current Strategic Partner grant recipients would be invited to reapply for a one year extension of this funding. All voluntary sector grants would be reviewed ahead of any future funding rounds next year. This review will link to a Council-supported Voluntary Sector Strategy for Redbridge. (Shila noted that there is current no Strategic Partner for the Environment, so this role would be advertised and open to new applicants.) Shila said that new grants round would open on 9 October and close on 20 November. She gave details of ‘funding surgeries’ to help potential applicants that were taking place (including in local voluntary sector venues).

Jon Pushkin asked if arts grants would be included in any future review, as they always seemed to be managed separately and differently to other voluntary sector grant opportunities. Shila said she thought this funding would be included in the review.

Jon Pushkin thanked Shila Barber on behalf of the local voluntary sector for all her positive work with the voluntary sector during her time at LBR (which she was soon to leave). He said that Shila had been a very supportive colleague and would be missed.

1. **Compact Awards Update**

Shila informed the meeting that 4 local projects had been shortlisted for national Compact Awards. These are: RedbridgeCVS Fit for Fun; Redbridge Faith Forum dementia project; Sycamore Trust’s autism ambassadors and RedbridgeCVS TB Partnership work. The Awards event would take place on 4th November. One local nomination had not been shortlisted.

1. **Work Programme**

It was agreed that the PaVSP would invite Mark Green from LBR to discuss the planned move to allow Council’s to keep their Business Rates at a future meeting. It was also agreed that there should be agenda items on the outcomes of the Fairness Commission and about crowdfunding – in the light of the support LBR is giving to ‘Spacehive’, a crowdfunding platform. (Rita noted that some of the information emerging about this had suggested that LBR was intending to use this as a way of making savings. John Turkson was clear that this was not the case, so it was agreed that the messaging on this new development needed to be clearer.)

1. **Any Other Urgent Business**

There was none.

1. **Dates of Future Meetings**

It was agreed that the next meetings of the PaVSP will take place at 5pm at RedbridgeCVS on

* Monday 11th January 2016
* Wednesday 13th April 2016

CLOSE