

VOLUNTARY ACTION MERTHYR TYDFIL

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 13th MARCH 2017

Present: Ruth Hopkins, Helen Thomas, Maria Thomas, Ceinwen Statter, Anne Roberts, Brian Lewis, Huw Williams and Paul Gray.

In attendance: Ian Davy, Hilary Edwards and Carol Hindley.

17/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Nicola Mahoney.

17/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

17/21 FUNDING AND STAFFING UPDATES

17/21.1 THIRD SECTOR SUPPORT WALES (TSSW) BUSINESS PLAN/FUNDING

A letter had been circulated in advance from WCVA. The letter confirmed that the TSSW Business Plan has been accepted by the minister. As anticipated the funding has been allocated on a regional basis with VAMT and Interlink receiving a 3.63% reduction. The Board was reminded that this was as a result of the new funding formula and unfortunately adversely affected the Cwm Taf region.

17/21.2 DWP VOLUNTEERING

Regarding the DWP volunteering bid the Deputy Chief Officer was hopeful that the bid would be successful and she confirmed that VAMT was now on the DWP's dynamic purchasing system.

17/21.3 MTCBC CORE AND CARERS GRANTS

The Carers Information and Development Officer had left her post at the end of February and a meeting between VAMT and the local authority to discuss the future of the project was cancelled. Regarding the core funding a new SLA is under discussion but it is anticipated that the core funding will remain at the current level.

17/21.4 CTUHB – CORE AND BSB

The funding received from Cwm Taf University Health Board for the Core and Building Stronger Bridges will get continue into 2017/18 but the funding level is unsure at present.

17/21.5 INTERMEDIATE CARE FUND – COORDINATORS AND GRANTS FUND

An ICF review meeting was held at the end of February, and an email had been received congratulating VAMT and Interlink on the monitoring of the Projects. A standstill budget for the Community Coordinators is expected.

17/21.6 MAGNET

The seven projects within the Magnet portfolio will all end by the end of October 2017 and the Management project will end at the end of January 2018. Sally Richards had left the Magnet Manager post at the end of February. The Board were informed that there were two essential elements which need to continue. The organisation of the annual event due to be held in May and the ongoing monitoring requirements of the projects. Nia Williams had been allocated extra hours for twelve weeks to coordinate the annual event. An internal advert had been circulated for expressions of interest in completing the monitoring task which is currently ongoing.

17/21.7 STAFF STRUCTURE

The staff structure was circulated for information only.

17/21.8 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Deputy Chief Officer had held discussions with Interlink about submitting a bid for a regional worker around digital inclusion. A first stage expression of interest has been submitted.

17/21.9 THIRD SECTOR SKILLS

A paper was circulated regarding a bid which has been submitted.

17/22 COMMUNITIES FIRST

A meeting was held recently with the local authority who confirmed that the Communities First funding will end on 31st March 2018, with a 30% cut in funding from 1st April 2017. The programme priorities are not changing. Three members of staff have left and these members of staff will not be replaced in order to meet the available budget.

The Chief Officer noted that three meetings have been held with staff to keep them informed regarding the programme and negotiating programme activity during 17/18. Anne Roberts asked if staff have the skills to do the additional work or is training needed. The Chief Officer said that there may be training

requirements for staff but this will be ascertained. The local authority also confirmed that the redundancy payments to staff which total £33257 can be paid from the CF grant allocation. The monitoring arrangements are currently unknown but it was confirmed that a decrease in activity was expected due to the decrease in grant.

From April 2018 there will be a Legacy Fund of approximately £350,000 for the Merthyr Borough and also an employability support project. Maria Thomas asked if the Public Service Board are doing any work around the gaps that will be created when the programme ends. The Chief Officer said that there is now a Tackling Poverty Strategic Board which includes Families First, Flying Start, Resilient Communities and Employability. The Communities For Work Project will also remain. Maria Thomas said that the Board should raise concerns at the PSB regarding the future for the deprived communities.

17/23 INDICATIVE CORE BUDGET 2017/18

The Chief Officer explained that as there are a number of unknown funding decisions concerning the budget it was not possible to agree a budget at the present time. The Board **AGREED** that the budgets would be presented to the Board meeting in May.

17/24 VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTRE PURCHASE

The Chief Officer circulated a report in advance of the meeting. Subsequent to the report the Chief Officer has been informed by MTCBC that their new preferred option would be to fund the essential repairs to the building and to extend the lease with VAMT at a low rent.

17/25 POLICY / PQASSO

The Business Continuity Plan, Reserves Policy, Environmental Policy, Welsh Language Policy, External Communications Plan were all **AGREED**.

It is planned to submit the application for PQASSO verification in May.

17/26 STRATEGIC PLANNING

The strategic planning workshop was held recently. The draft strategic plan will be presented to the Board in May.

17/27 RISK REGISTER

The Chief Officer reminded the Board that the risk register is reviewed every six months. The Board approved the new register and noted the actions within it.

Sharon Richards joined the meeting.

17/28 INTERMEDIATE CARE FUND

Sharon Richards presented the impact report for the Community Coordinators and the Community Capacity Grant Scheme.

Sharon informed the meeting about the extended grant scheme for 2017/18 to £240000. In addition VAMT will have £100000 to allocate to befriending schemes.

Sharon Richards left the meeting

17/29 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Fire contract is being negotiated.

17/30 MEMBERSHIP

The membership report was **ACCEPTED**

17/30 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th JANUARY 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2017 were **APPROVED**.

17/31 MATTERS ARISING & ACTION LOG

It was noted that items 17, 31 and 42 are still outstanding on the action log but a date for the Chief Officers appraisal had been arranged.

17/32 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ceinwen asked for permission to share the action log format with the Leisure Trust which was **AGREED**.

17/33 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15th May 2017 at 2pm

MEETING CLOSED

Signed:

Date: