

Community Cohesion Thematic Group Meeting  
2.00 pm, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2011, Council Chambers, WLBC

Present:

Cllr Iain Ashcroft	Chair
Cllr Bob Pendleton	WLBC
Cllr John Mee	WLBC
Jill Bradley	WL CVS
Cerys Smye-Rumsby	WL CVS
Louise Cropper	Help Direct
David Tilleray	WLBC
Puala Jones	West Lancashire Disability Support
Phyllis Roberts	Young People's Service
Gina Moran	Skelmersdale & Ormskirk College

**1. Apologies**

Greg Mitten - WLCVS

**2. Individual Introductions**

Those at the meeting briefly introduced themselves

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011 were agreed as an accurate record.

**4. Matters Arising**

Item 7 – The LSP Executive met at the end of May and discussed how the 2<sup>nd</sup> homes funding could be dealt with in the future. Options are being reviewed over the next couple months to try to widen access to the funding and a commissioning strategy is being developed to include the priorities for the funding. BP wanted it noted that it was important for everyone to be able to access this funding and felt that this was sometimes difficult if you aren't a member of the LSP.

**ACTION – The Chair will consider ways to provide this information to the group and the wider community.**

**ACTION – Cllr Grant to be invited to the next meeting to provide information on the LEP.**

Item 9 – DT confirmed that HR have agreed to put a DVD on hate crime on the WLBC website and that this will be brought to the attention of all existing staff and new starters.

## **5. Future Support for the West Lancs CCTG**

West Lancashire CVS offered to provide secretariat support to the group for the remainder of the financial year. This was agreed to by group members.

## **6. Action Plan**

- **Action No. 2 – Community Food Growing**

This action is progressing well. The Community Food Growing Project, in partnership with West Lancs Allotment Federation held a successful “Grow Your Own” event at Burscough Wharf on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. The event included presentations, workshops, information on a variety of subjects including composting, chicken rearing and planting. The May edition of “Dig In” was handed out to group members.

- **Action No. 3 – Timebanks**

Help Direct are supporting the Timebank in the Tanhouse and Digmaor areas and they have £1,000 per month for 6 months. Oaks Church are currently sharing best practice with a Morecambe timebank and are hoping to then mentor other areas to encourage timebanking. There is a members lunch at the end of June and a launch of the Timebank scheme in August.

- **Action No. 4 – LGBT**

A report is being produced through the YP service and this will allow partner organisations in West Lancashire to see the type of work that is being undertaken. Edge Hill University have been given an Acorn grant to carry out work around LGBT issues and inclusion.

### **ACTION – Findings of the YP report to brought to the next meeting**

### **ACTION – A report on the work undertaken by Edge Hill to be brought to the next meeting.**

- **Action No. 5 – Disabilities**

It is National Disability Awareness Week starting on the 20<sup>th</sup> June. West Lancashire Young Carers are launching their carers information pack and cook book on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June. There are wheelchair basketball sessions every Tuesday evening 5-6pm in Preston. The Transport Thematic Group will be meeting in Preston on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and the main topic will be railway services. Three representatives from train providers will be attending, namely Trans Pennine Express, Northern Rail and Virgin.

- **Action No. 6 – Tensions Monitoring**

There was no-one representing the Police at the meeting.

### **ACTION – Contact Police to ask for a representative for the group.**

It was noted that there is some friction in the local community and that members of the group had witnessed negative comments being made about ethnic minorities in the West Lancashire area.

CSR - The CVS is looking to do more work with schools to raise awareness with children and young people.

PR – Migrant workers may fall through the gap as quite often they are agency workers who don't tend to sign on or attend job clubs when they become unemployed, better education is required to inform them of their welfare rights. Lancashire schools have been taking part in a pupil swap between different types of schools, in different areas to allow pupils to gain an understanding of cultural differences.

LC – An interpreter was taken to Hesketh Bank as part of Help Direct's outreach work and this enabled discussions to take place with migrant workers about the issues they faced and to inform them of the services offered.

GM – Equality and Diversity is embedded in the culture and curriculum of the college and the college has a 4% BME population amongst its employees and students. Recently there has been an equality and diversity competition in the college, which was a success.

PJ – The hate crime DVD was passed to the local community officer in Simonswood for distribution and use with groups. Other copies are available from LCC and Lancashire Constabulary.

- **Action No. 7 – People and Communities**

The group were informed that three West Lancashire voluntary groups had just been awarded the Queen's Award for Volunteering, which is the MBE for groups of volunteers. They are:

Twinkle House  
West Lancashire Sitting-in Service  
West Lancashire Disability Helpline.

An awards evening was held last Tuesday to present volunteers who had achieved 100 or 200 hours of volunteering with certificates. 47 people achieved this, which equated to 6,000 hours or £60,000 of paid work.

There is a free trustee training course being held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June at Digmaor Community Centre between 10 and 12.30. Anyone interested in attending should contact Greg Swift at West Lancs CVS on 01695 733737.

**ACTION – Cllr Ashcroft asked if any information or press releases, such as from the volunteering event, could be passed on to the Members Secretary for distribution.**

## **7. Exchange of Information**

LC – With the recent reductions in care packages, if anyone comes across people who don't know what is currently available, please refer them to Help Direct, who will offer advice.

GM – There are free taster courses throughout June and July at the College for anyone over 19 years of age, details are available on the College website.

PR – All summer activities are on the “Go 4 It” website. The NEET group in Skelmersdale currently has the lowest number of individuals that are linked to YOT (youth offending).

BP – Currently working with the Credit Union to try and find a base for them in Skelmersdale as they are currently working out of various community centres. At the moment they have a licence that covers just Skelmersdale but once they are fully re-established there is potential to expand coverage across West Lancashire. TMB (Together Making a Difference) Board have a community event in the Concourse on 15<sup>th</sup> July and this has a youth theme. TMD has been expanded to encapsulate all our Tanhouse, however, lack of funding is still an issue.

CSR – Faith Network - Skelmersdale Street Pastors has been launched and begin their street work in July.

There is a Community Action with Churches event in Ormskirk on the 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> June and an evening event – “Understanding Depression” on the 27<sup>th</sup> June at Christ Church.

## **8. A.O.B.**

BP wanted details of the consultation undertaken to change the name of the College, including how the change of name came about and who was consulted including if Council Members were consulted.

**ACTION – Details of the consultation process to be brought back to the next meeting.**

Rural watch is now “text live”, which will assist with communication of issues in the rural areas. This is to be discussed at the operational sub-group of the Community Safety Partnership.

**ACTION – PJ to forward details.**

## **9. Proposed Items for Next meeting**

The group agreed on the following agenda items for the next meeting (in addition to the standard agenda items):

- Social transport
- Update on CCTV from the Community Safety Partnership
- JVC – Joint Venture Capital
- Self Financing Housing

## **10. Dates for Future Meetings**

It was agreed to meet every three months, therefore the date of the next meeting would be set for mid September and group members would be notified of the date.