

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSIONING GROUP

WEDNESDAY 23RD MAY 2007

Attendees:

Bill Edwards BE
Liz Wilson LW
Jo Farrington JF
Harji Patel HP
Richard Browning RB
Jo Charlan JC
Denis Durnian DD
Mary Murphy MM
Paul Fitzpatrick PF
Bruce Penhale BP

Apologies:

Jane Hughes, Mark Powell, Yvonne Burtonwood

Minutes and matters arising

BE stated that he had met with Jon Bloor regarding the Economy and Enterprise block in relation to the CEC Group. BE also reported that there were some concerns that competitive bidding from community groups means a lack of shared working.

Update on issues with Voluntary Action Oldham

Bruce Penhale reported an update on correspondence with VAO and stated that Paula Boshell had asked for continued support. He also reported that support to the VCFP, specifically the women's and BME networks. At this point, JF asked if all information had been provided when recommissioning applications had been assessed. MM confirmed all information had been provided.

BE asked whether this activity should be funded through the group. BP confirmed that some of it should be, although it does not necessarily have to be funded via the CECG or at this level and that the relationship should not be weakened.

Commissioning update

The Engagement Database and Volunteer Development commissioning specifications are now on the website. Deadline Friday 1st June.

Community Infrastructure Development Programme

A redraft of the commissioning specification for the Community Infrastructure Development programme was presented to the group. The groups raised

various issues, with Paul Fitzpatrick stating that it may need to be more explicit in covering the concerns that were raised at the previous meeting. It was requested that a section on evaluation be included as this wasn't clear. It was agreed that the redraft should include reference to the networks/vulnerable groups.

JF suggested that a third commission could be a continuation of salaries to maintain the partnership as a transitional role. It was also agreed that JF and BE should meet up with the chair of the VCFP to discuss concerns.

Action Point: Paul Fitzpatrick to adjust the commissioning specification.

Draft Community Engagement Strategy

This item was not discussed.

Global Grants

JC reported that a sum of ESF money is currently available to provide grants to groups who would not usually access funding. Grants are for capacity building within community groups. Currently only 45% grants are available, however if the CEC group could provide match funding, 100% grants of up to £6,000 per project would be available. BE stated that this could be something that the group may be interested in supporting, particularly in regards to match with the volunteer brief. It was decided that a decision could not be made on this item, as there were not enough members of the group present and it should go to the next meeting for discussion.

Action point: JC to provide the group with further information outlining Global Grants.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 6th June**, 1.30-3.30, Crompton A, Civic Centre.