

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSIONING GROUP**

**MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2007 MEMBERS MEETING ROOM, CIVIC  
CENTRE**

### **Attendees:**

Bill Edwards (Chair) BE  
Jo Charlan JC  
Richard Browning RB  
Laura Breslin LB  
Jo Farrington JF  
Denis Durnian DD  
Liz Wilson LW  
Cllr Jean Stretton JS  
Moir Blood MB  
Eric Fegan EF  
Jonathan Yates JY

**Apologies:** Mark Powell; Paula Boshell

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record. RB reported that he has spoken to Adam Patterson from the Oldham Partnership support team regarding funding allocations for 2008/09. He stated that allocations will not be announced until December and therefore any recommendations should be based upon the allocation for 07/08 only.

### **Update on Commissioned Activities**

#### **Database**

RB gave an update on the database commission stating that there have been difficulties with the project, due to the CECG not providing the VAO database as stated in the commissioning specification. VAO can only provide contact details in address label format of organisations listed on the VAO database due to data protection issues. Therefore, ERS have extracted the required information from the VAO database manually. This time taken to clarify the sharing of data held by VAO and extracting the information, delayed the start of the works. The survey has been distributed and will be analysed by 15<sup>th</sup> October. Follow up correspondence will be completed by 29<sup>th</sup> October, and the launch of the database will take place week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> November.

RB concluded that ERS have been extremely helpful and proactive in finding solutions to the emerging problems.

A discussion was held regarding the feasibility of merging the two databases in the future, including all relevant database fields. RB clarified that a database is a key-tool of any CVS and commissioning specification stated the new database would be owned by the Oldham Partnership. This excluded VAO from submitting an expression of interest and results in two similar databases for Oldham. LB added that the database is a stream of income generation for VAO. The group also discussed the option of keeping both databases; OP and OMBC support the new database and VAO retain their version for business purposes. RB stated this would create long-term issues for the VCFS as there would be 2 databases, both to some extent incomplete.

BE suggested that he and JS to meet with VAO to discuss the future of the database with regards to ownership and maintenance. JS requested that a paper to be written outlining the additionality provided by the new database for Oldham.

### **Volunteer Development**

RB reported that the report is due on 16<sup>th</sup> October. VAO have stated that they have experienced some difficulties accessing details of volunteer data from OMBC and suggested recommendation would be for a OMBC volunteer strategy and awareness raising.

### **Global Grants**

JC gave feedback on the Global Grants scheme. She reported that there had been an overwhelming response to the scheme and that all funding has been allocated to a variety of projects around the Borough. Members of the Global Grants panel will accompany the team to project visits.

### **Oldham Infrastructure Development Report**

The group discussed the recommendations of the report, and agreed the following points.

1. That there be an open commission for development work of the CECG. This will aid the development of a range of mechanisms for supporting all VCFS organisations to benefit from commissioning. Furthermore, the commission will also assist the sector to get involved in shaping and developing the Local Area Agreement. The group agreed that due to the short timescale of this commission, the service could be delivered as a secondment.

2. That there should be a closed commission for the VCF Partnership. DD confirmed that it is acceptable to have a closed commission when there is a unique provider. The commission would:

Enable the development of representation of smaller organisations, within the VCF sector.

Production of a communication strategy including informing and involving the Sector in LAA developments and positively promote the Sector with stakeholders.

The development of a conference, should the communication strategy recommend it, which would inform the sector of relevant updates.

Commission 2 would require agreement from the VCF Partnership and the agreement of suitable costs.

JY agreed to provide feedback to the VCFP and seek a decision regarding commission 2.

### **Any other business**

There was no other business to discuss.

### **Date and time of next meeting**

The group will meet again on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2-4pm, Members meeting room, Civic Centre.