

## **5th August**

**Meet with Chris Fearn, Director of Strategic Development, Acute Hospitals Trust** - Follow up from letter

Keen to look for ways to work with sector – interested in the benefits of the single voices website / voices panel. Concerned going forward about the number of older patients taking up beds – not sustainable. Keen to work with all of the Health Economy and WCC and Vol sector to look at sustainable solutions. Also considering transport issues and how to make services accessible to those patients and relatives who come to one of the hospitals – again elderly people may not be able to get there themselves. Again sees solution as being rooted across sectors. Interested in volunteering and also support in kind – e.g. allowing use of entrance areas for displays, use of training rooms for meetings etc. I agreed I would let her have the volunteering report and keep her informed about the web developments.

## **7 August**

**Attended LEP Focus Group re European Social Fund etc** with Derek Markie. Also had a cross section of other attendees including Sue Fry and Richard Quallington, Irene Walker, Philip Talbot, Margaret Gray and others. Very tight timetable – final submission by LEP at end of September but much work to be done before that to incorporate any input from SE into the document. Amion are supporting this. Agreed the need for Worcestershire SE two page very high level input.

## **9 August**

Met with Nick Parker

## **15 August**

### **South Worcestershire CCG – Patient and Stakeholder Forum**

Discussion around the CCG commissioning GPs to provide additional local enhanced services – I raised concerns about the transparency of the process and the ability of the CCG to monitor itself - there were examples of both good quality and poor quality of service from group members.

## **20 August**

### **Meet with Helga Edstrom from West Midlands Cabinet Office /Office for Civil Society/ Youth Work**

Very interesting – she was well informed about Worcestershire VCS / SE – across the work with the LEP and aware of challenges regarding the TLIF work.

We also briefly discussed the Democratic Engagement Innovation Fund / Rock Enrol Youth Engagement and the challenges of getting registered even to submit and EOI. She said that the government has a policy of channelling funds through other organisations – e.g. BIG / Government Procurement Service – she has fed back that the latter is not the best route to encourage the VCS to engage. Was very interested in the Voices work and recognised the need to 'do things' differently' and allow a wider range of organisations to engage through the Virtual Forum. Agreed to keep in touch.

## **23 August**

### **Alan Smith Worcestershire Partnership**

Phone call regarding the Next Generation Launch / segmentation of the VCS – agreed to look at this with Richard Quallington and Suzy James when Lorna returned from holiday.

## **29 August**

### **Neal Cartwright Committee member at Evesham Arts Centre**

I bumped into Neal in the street – he is an ex work colleague but we have not spoken for maybe 5-10 years – he knew nothing of the work I'm doing with Voices and was interested in the Forum for arts organisations as any networking is very difficult. (He is a web guru and will be interested in how the site works.) He also mentioned the challenges of recruiting volunteers and recognised that the Arts Centre are not good at supporting them. In fact without prompting he highlighted the many of the points identified in the volunteering report although he assumed that the number volunteering was falling. He thought that Evesham Volunteer Centre was closing but he had not felt supported by them.

He also offered the information that the Arts Centre is 'hanging on in there' without any funding for 15-20 years; he was not expecting that to change and wanted to share ideas with other similar groups to see if any had bright ideas regarding sustainability.

Agreed to send copy of Volunteering Report when published.

## **30 August**

**Meeting with David Knight, Bishop's Advisor for Chaplaincy** and Peter Stansbie (a colleague who has recently retired from senior NHS role outside Worcestershire)

The meeting was set up by Derek Markie to look at links between faith groups and CCGs but it became a much wider discussion on the Voices work – there was considerable interest in the Virtual Forums to provide a mechanism for better communication.

Identified that much good work done in hospital settings but virtually none outside institutions in NHS settings and none in Primary Care. Relatively underdeveloped links between health and wider VCS – mostly direct service provision. Good use of Volunteers within hospitals. But best practice not shared and ends when patient discharged.)

(Social Services and Community Safety are better linked with faith groups – e.g. Street Pastors)

No specific action agreed – but will keep them informed of progress.