

**Voluntary Sector Strategy Group
Monday 11th December 2023
Minutes of Meeting**

Present	<p>Peter Glass – Chair - Age UK Enfield (PG) Andrew Lawrence – LBE (AL) Chandra Bhatia – EREC (CB) Cheryl Headon – LBE (CH) Debbie Gates – LBE (DG) Michelle Malwah – Healthwatch Enfield (MM) Pamela Burke – Enfield Carers Centre (PB) Ginnie Landon – Enfield Women’s Centre (GL) Hamida Ali – ECYPS (HA) Jo Ikhelef – Enfield Voluntary Action (JI) Katie Smith – LBE (KS) Mark Riley – Enfield LGBT Network (MR) Matt Casey – LBE (MC) Stephanie Collins - Alpha Care Specialists (SC) Tim Fellows – Enfield LGBT Network (TF) Vivien Giladi – Enfield Borough Over 50’s Forum (VG) Lee Shelsher – LBE (LS) Lucy Nasby – LBE (LN) Steve Baird – LBE (SB)</p>	
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies – Chair	
1.1	PG welcomed all to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. Apologies: Cllr Gina Needs, Harriet Potemkin (LBE), Nnenna Anyanwu (Citizens Advice Enfield), Tony Watts (Enfield Borough Over 50’s Forum)	
2.	VSSG Minutes 9th October 2023 and Matters Arising – Chair	
2.1	<p>a) Item 3.6 – Ongoing – awaiting Project Health Resilience evaluation report, to be shared with VSSG members.</p> <p>b) Item 6.6 – Ongoing - Council contact for sharing information with various Council departments.</p> <p>c) Item 7.3 – Ongoing – GL has emailed CllrGN re EWC Freedom Programme.</p>	<p>DG</p> <p>CllrGN/AL</p> <p>CllrGN/GL</p>
2.2	The minutes of the 9/10/2023 meeting were approved as read.	
3.	Family Hubs update – Andrew Lawrence LBE	
3.1	<p>The activities are starting to be delivered from the Ponders End Youth and Family Hub, primarily to families with children under the age of five. The official launch will be held on 13/12/23. The work to the early years room has been completed for our children's centre delivery of the service.</p> <p>We are also exploring use of Craig Park youth centre to launch our second Family Hub site as soon as possible. We are looking at the work we can do around getting some of the early years services fitted in there alongside the nursery that's already in. Alongside that there are several different services being commissioned at the moment to provide some of the core services that the Department for Education require us to deliver such as breastfeeding support, mental health support etc.</p> <p>Please contact helen.finnemore@enfield.gov.uk with any further questions, and if groups want to run sessions that meet the criteria.</p>	
3.2	HA commented that the hub is a great opportunity for partnership working for the benefit of the families in Enfield.	
3.3	PG thanked AL for covering this item in the absence of Helen Finnemore.	
3.4	Action: Updates at future meetings.	AL/DG
4.	Property Strategy – Katie Smith LBE	
4.1	KS explained that in her role as Head of Operational Estates Management at Enfield Council, she has responsibility for all Council buildings that have Council staff and Council commissioned staff working in, with a few exceptions, as well as the parks property portfolio and the	

	VCS investment portfolios that are now a part of the Operational Property team.	
4.2	<p>The team has been gathering data to get a clear understanding of what our buildings look like, who is occupying our properties, and how best they can support the Council, as well as working with commissioners to understand what everyone does.</p> <p>KS said that it has been very helpful getting to know the groups during this exercise and thanked the VCS reps and all VCS groups in Enfield for the fantastic work they do, generating a huge amount of social value for the borough.</p> <p>There are over 25 VCS organisations working out of Council property, the vast majority of which have appropriate occupational agreements, a lease or similar, and are paying for their occupation.</p> <p>The Council has to get best consideration for the use of its properties and the team will work with VCS organisations transparently and collaboratively to get to a point where 100% of VCS occupants are on full current tenancies and where our buildings that are occupied by VCS organisations are full and thriving hubs, giving organisations the opportunities to network, collaborate with other organisations and the Council, and are better maintained.</p> <p>There may be new opportunities in the Enfield Business Centre, and in Community House</p> <p>Please contact the team for any property issues you may have if you are a current tenant or to look at whether there are opportunities for you in the Council's portfolio as well. Katie Smith katie.smith@enfield.gov.uk ; Beverley Grant beverley.grant@enfield.gov.uk ; Harry Carver harry.carver@enfield.gov.uk ; Nikita Sachania nikita.sachania@enfield.gov.uk</p>	
4.3	<p>VG asked what the situation is regarding Enfield Borough Over 50's Forum lease at Millfield House and when would they get a licence to use the office on the 2nd floor? KS explained that Millfield House is managed by another team, but she would contact Tony Watts, to take forward. Action: KS to contact tony_watts@blueyonder.co.uk</p>	KS/TW
4.4	<p>Jl asked about the process for new VCS groups wishing to rent space at Community House. KS explained that if groups wanted a long term agreement, the contact is Beverley.grant@enfield.gov.uk, but KS is also happy to help. The team will advise on availability of space in Community House that meets the group's requirement and if it is not, whether it could be created. Further discussions would then take place if a suitable space is agreed.</p> <p>For all room hire and office space enquiries for Community House please email communityhouse@enfield.gov.uk</p>	
4.5	<p>MM explained that Healthwatch Enfield is a Community House tenant and has been seeking a bigger space for some time. KS apologised for the delay and asked MM to contact her to take forward. Action: MM to contact KS</p>	MM/KS
4.6	<p>In response to a question from Jl regarding the Community House rent review, KS explained that most of the Community House tenancies need to be renewed. They have outstanding rent reviews that are in the leases which would need to be resolved and then put everyone on new leases for however long is appropriate. We would be looking at what the appropriate rent is for the future. The rent reviews are stipulated in the</p>	

	lease and they are relating to RPI, it is a formula which is very clear. We have those calculations and will contact all tenants to discuss.	
4.7	PG thanked KS for her presentation.	
5.	Drug & Alcohol Services – Steve Baird LBE	
5.1	<p>SB explained his new role as Senior Public Health Development Manager for Substance Misuse at Enfield Council. He shared his presentation on the work of the Enfield Combating Drug and Alcohol Partnership (CDAP), a copy will be sent with the minutes.</p> <p>Action: DG – completed 23/1/24</p> <p>The work of the CDAP developed from the Government’s National Strategy “From Harm to Hope”, that sets out the Government’s 10-year plan to tackle harm caused by illegal drug use.</p> <p>From Harm to Hope benefits across Government sponsorship and its delivery has been supported by additional funding of almost £900m. The strategy will impact the way we support the people who are using substances. It sets out to break the drugs supply chains, to deliver world class treatment and recovery systems, and to reduce the demand for drugs. Specific groups have been set up to do that, such as Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery), a programme designed to address drug addiction and tackle supply in the hardest hit local authority areas. Enfield has its own ADDER disruptions supply team led by local police officers.</p> <p>We have a CDAP Board in Enfield to ensure that we are working to achieve the CDAP objectives. With the amount of money that is coming into borough it is important that it is transparent and that we are working with it in the proper ways.</p> <p>Three sub-groups have been set up to connect with service users, treatment services, and a range of people strategically about how those services are shaped on the ground. We are working with the young people’s treatment services and adult treatment services and looking at with partners in the voluntary sector, that is instrumental in terms of the way it links with our public. It has to reach the CQC standards of care and ensure that we have the most effective treatment system we can as possible in place for our borough.</p> <p>The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) data recognised that Enfield had particularly high levels of Class A users in the borough. This may be as a result of the earlier financial cuts in service provision.</p> <p>Local money has enabled us to re-establish our criminal justice work. We have a dual diagnosis practitioner in place in our local treatment service, which means that we are trying to support those people who have both mental health and substance misuse combined. We now have a provision for people who are rough sleeping in Enfield and using substances, to find them accommodation.</p> <p>We are starting to market recovery in the borough to look at what that means for Enfield, and one of the things identified is the need to provide training for frontline staff who may make referrals, who need to make referrals. Also involving people who have recovered, people who have lived experience of recovery and making them a visible force within our treatment sector and be involved in the process of designing services and working with services. A group of care navigators is being developed to help people get from various stages of treatment to the next stage that</p>	DG

	<p>they need to go to, making the links between treatment and employment, links between treatment and care and healthcare. A friends and family group is also being developed, which we are supporting.</p> <p>Action: Marketing Recovery through training survey to be sent out to VCS organisations – completed 11/12/23</p>	SB/DG
5.2	<p>PG suggested that it would be an opportunity for this group to reach out to the service providers and the network working in the drug and alcohol sector within Enfield to look at how we can bring them in, perhaps even if it's for specifics to work more closely. PG/SB have had a conversation about some work to do regarding older people and drug use and there are probably plenty of crossover areas if people in the group were interested.</p>	
5.3	<p>HA asked if there is a ward breakdown of the OCU (opium and crack use) figures for Enfield? SB replied that currently this is not available, and it is something that we have asked for to establish the reasons why we have increased numbers.</p> <p>Research has shown that extensive poverty can cause people to shift into such activities and we know that a lot of our treatment cohort reside in the eastern side of the borough. There are various reasons why people might use substances and to collectively establish those reasons that are the biggest contribution factors is something that may come out of our treatment data. BEH Enable provides specialist treatment for adults in Enfield who are worried about their alcohol or drug use. Humankind, a part of Insight Enfield services, run a young person's service.</p>	
5.4	<p>PG thanked SB for his presentation.</p>	
6.	Library Engagement – Lucy Nasby & Lee Shelsher LBE	
6.1	<p>LN/LS presented the proposal of developing a new library strategy for Enfield and were keen to hear the views of our voluntary sector. Due to funding pressures, we need to consider whether our library service can be delivered in a more efficient way, while still ensuring that it continues to meet people's needs and is comprehensive.</p> <p>LN/LS gave an overview of the current usage of Enfield's libraries. There are 39,000 active library users.</p> <p>We will use the feedback and ideas from this engagement to develop a draft proposal for a new library strategy in Enfield. All responses to that consultation will be carefully considered and we anticipate being able to finalise a new strategy and implement any changes in early 2025.</p> <p>LN asked VSSG members to promote the engagement within their organisations and service users, as well as promoting the drop-in sessions that will be taking place in each library so that people have an opportunity to provide any feedback face to face.</p> <p>Action: Details of the the first phase engagement of the library review to be sent to all VSSG members – completed 19/12/23</p>	LN
6.2	<p>VG explained that the library service is regarded as extremely important for the Over 50s Forum and is very much appreciated by the members. They will encourage their members to respond to the consultation individually as well as an organisation. VG asked that Tony Watts is kept informed regarding this.</p> <p>Action: LN to contact tony_watts@blueyonder.co.uk</p>	LN
6.3	<p>VG asked if the libraries will continue to be available for digital tutorial practices, because digital exclusion is one of our big concerns? We want to be assured that the libraries will continue to be available for voluntary sector space, and for use for digital inclusion programs. The Over 50s Forum is putting together a bid to coordinate the voluntary services that are interested in creating a substantial technology program. LS confirmed</p>	

	the Council's commitment to support digital literacy, as it is a key facet for libraries, and we would continue to offer that service. He would like to hear more about the funding bid. MC was also interested in hearing more about the technology bid project, as Adult Social Care is looking to do something around digital inclusion. VG advised that the contact is tony_watts@blueyonder.co.uk	
6.4	MM advised that Healthwatch Enfield has also completed a report on digital exclusion that may be of interest. Details here	
6.5	As the health lead on the Over 50s Forum, VG emphasised the number of hospital admissions for people suffering from malnutrition. Data from the Over 50s Forum project about loneliness and isolation, shows that one of the reasons for that is isolation, that people who are at home alone are not eating. This highlighted the vital public health function of the library service. LS thanked VG for her observation and agreed the importance of the libraries being that space where you can just come along, read a book, magazine, talk to somebody. The libraries provide different activities, like reading groups, so that people can take part and during these colder months we provide a warm space for the community.	
6.6	LS thanked all for their useful feedback and asked members to email libraries.engagement@enfield.gov.uk if they had any further questions.	
6.7	PG thanked LN/LS for their presentation.	
7.	Updates from Departments and VCS	
7.1	Enfield Voluntary Action - JI Enfield Local Fund grants program. The quality of the applications was very high. 24 groups were successful in securing grants for their projects. Requests received totalled £382,000 and total funding to be distributed is £198,000 in small grants. Round two of the Enfield Local Fund will be opened in the spring. Future events and training: 16/1/24 Cost of living training fundraising session; 23/1/24 Enfield VCS Mental Health Network focusing on children and young people's health; 30/1/24 Enfield VCS Cost of Living Network with speakers from City Bridge Foundation, Charity Excellence and LBE Community Hubs; 14/2/24 Understanding Annual Accounts ready for the year end; 6/3/24 Legal Structures Training. All details and to book here	
7.2	Healthwatch Enfield - MM We are asking residents what our health and social care priority areas should be in 2024 to help us to shape our upcoming projects. This year, we have chosen five categories based on our research and what we have heard in the community that is affecting Enfield residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP Access • NHS Dental Care • Cancer Screening • Housing Health & Wellbeing • Young People & Mental Health The survey is available here We have completed an eye surgery project, commissioned by NHS NCL Integrated Care Board, to gather feedback on their proposed changes to improve surgical efficiency, help to carry out additional eye surgery procedures and reduce wait times. The report is available here We are also working on our hypertension projects, informing people about how to reduce their blood pressure and giving blood pressure checks etc.	
8.	AOB	
8.1	PG thanked all for attending the meeting.	
8.2	Future Meeting Dates Monday, 18 th March 2024 at 2pm-4pm on MS Teams.	

