

**Voluntary Sector Strategy Group
Monday 9th October 2023
Minutes of Meeting**

Present	<p>Cllr Gina Needs – Chair, Cabinet Member (CllrGN) Andrew Lawrence – LBE (AL) Antony Bewick-Smith – Enfield Voluntary Action (ABS) Chandra Bhatia – EREC (CB) Cheryl Headon – LBE (CH) Debbie Gates – LBE (DG) Farheen Ambia – Healthwatch Enfield (FA) Fiona Jones – Enfield Carers Centre (FJ) Ginnie Landon – Enfield Women’s Centre (GL) Hamida Ali – ECYPS (HA) Harriet Potemkin – LBE (HP) Jo Ikhelef – Enfield Voluntary Action (JI) Katie Smith – LBE (KS) Mark Riley – Enfield LGBT Network (MR) Martin Groombridge – London Capital Credit Union (MG) Mary Monaghan – Citizens Advice Enfield (MM) Nancie Alleyne – LBE (NA) Peter Glass (Age UK Enfield) (PG) Tim Fellows – Enfield LGBT Network (TF) Tony Watts – Enfield Borough Over 50’s Forum (TW) Ana Zuriaga Alvaro (North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust) AZA Chrissie Dillon – LB Camden (CD) Elspeth Smith – LBE (ES)</p>	
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies – Chair	
1.1	<p>Apologies: Michael Sprosson (LBE), Pamela Burke (Enfield Carers Centre) Michelle Malwah (Healthwatch Enfield), Nnenna Anyanwu (Citizens Advice Enfield). Apologies for lateness: Martin Groombridge. Everyone introduced themselves. CllrGN welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2.	VSSG Minutes 19th June 2023 and Matters Arising – Chair	
2.1	<p>a) Item 6.3 (19/6 mtg) – PB explained that this point referred to parents with children in transition and the advocacy contract. LBE commissioners will speak to Enfield Disability Action about their contract. Action: An update will be provided in due course.</p> <p>b) Item 4.4 – CllrGN confirmed that the number of VSSG meetings would not be reduced and will remain as quarterly meetings.</p> <p>c) Item 8.2 – CH explained that the issues with the leisure centre hoists have been addressed and thanked everybody for their patience. The Council is in discussion with the inbound leisure provider, Greenwich Leisure, to ensure that any future issues are actioned promptly. Further info under 7.5.</p>	AL
2.2	The minutes of the 19/6/2023 meeting were approved as read.	
3.	Project Health Resilience for Young People - Ana Zuriaga Alvaro, North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust & Chrissie Dillon, LB Camden	

3.1	<p>AZA and CD were representing Project Health Resilience (PHR). They shared their presentation, summary attached, and explained that this project is funded by the Legacy and Health Equity Partnership. It is a two-year NHS funding programme delivering collaboration with London organisations and London communities, to close the equity gap in vaccinations, screening and access to health.</p> <p>PHR was initially a pilot project delivered in Camden, in co-development with local schools and young people, to address some of the gaps that might happen with young people as they're transitioning into adulthood. It is now in its second phase and it has been rolled out across London, focusing on reaching communities with the greatest inequalities. The sessions are delivered by doctors and public health professionals.</p> <p>PHR are keen to work in a variety of settings where young people are involved not just schools, that is one of the key points of the project. They are interested in listening to our views and what we think about the programme, how they could work more closely with VCS partners and whether this is something that we would like to have in Enfield.</p>	
3.2	<p>In response to a question from TW regarding target numbers, AZA explained that the sessions started in May and resumed following the summer break. With the data that they have already, they feel confident that they can get some learnings to then share with partners to see whether this is something that others will find of interest to have in their areas.</p>	
3.3	<p>In response to a question from FJ about the long-term plan for the project from a funding perspective, CD explained that when the evaluation is completed, they will be seeking financial assistance, not from boroughs, but a variety of other organisations. If they get the funding for a long-term project, would Enfield like them to come back and discuss how they might be able to work with us?</p>	
3.4	<p>CllrGN commented that it would be helpful to discuss further outside of VSSG, and then bring back to a future meeting. Action: CllrGN/AL/DG to discuss if the project is of interest to Enfield - Completed: CllrGN/AL/DG discussed with the Public Health Director and agreed it would be a useful resource to take forward. PHR to send us their literature to share with relevant Council services.</p>	CllrGN/AL/DG
3.5	<p>HA commented that regarding the ambassadors, ECYPS and other organisations within youth provision already have ambassadors especially around resilience, building mental health and health and nutrition and this is embedded within their programme so that the young people have AQA accreditation. CD explained that there is flexibility around the health literacy modules. CllrGN agreed that we do not want to duplicate services already provided.</p>	
3.6	<p>CD offered to share the details of the evaluation. Action: DG to send out evaluation details to VSSG members when received - Ongoing: Phase 1 of the evaluation is complete; a report is being finalised and hoping to have some preliminary findings ready to share by early January.</p>	DG

3.7	CllrGN thanked AZA and CD for their informative and helpful presentation.	
4.	Enfield Local Fund and EVA Update – Jo Ikhelef, EVA	
4.1	<p>The Enfield Local Fund is a fund that EVA has put together from three different sources, Enfield Council, North Central London Integrated Care System and from the Local Trust.</p> <p>Enfield community groups that meet the grant priorities and the criteria can apply for funding between £5,000-£10,000. Groups do not have to be an EVA member. The deadline for applications is 5pm on 6/11/2023.</p> <p>The priorities are in the Lower Edmonton and Edmonton Green wards, and are children and young people, community cohesion and all well-being developing opportunities for local people and improving the local environment.</p> <p>The independent grants panel will meet on 20/11/2023 and applicants should hear if they are successful by mid-December and projects can start either end of December or early January 2024. EVA staff/trustees are not involved in the decision making, therefore EVA can provide support and review draft applications. All successful applicants will need to attend EVA’s Planning for Success Workshop on 9/1/2024 where monitoring requirements will be discussed.</p>	
4.2	Jl introduced Antony Bewick-Smith, EVA’s new Development and Funding Advice Manager. CllrGN welcomed ABS and we all look forward to working with him.	
4.3	Jl shared EVA’s training and events page and gave a brief summary of the events. Jl thanked those that attended EVA’s recent volunteer awards and AGM at Millfield Theatre. It was a very successful, well attended event to celebrate brilliant projects and amazing volunteers, as well as excellent performances by Chickenshed.	
4.4	Jl explained that she is in discussion with the National Lottery about EVA doing an Energy Champions project, looking at tackling carbon emissions and fuel poverty.	
4.5	Jl asked VSSG members to contact her for any further details of the items covered in her presentation j.ikhelef@enfieldva.org.uk	
4.6	CllrGN thanked Jl for her informative and helpful presentation.	
5.	Safeguarding Adults Strategy (refresh) – Elspeth Smith, LBE	
5.1	<p>ES shared her presentation, copy will be emailed to VSSG members, and explained that the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory function that brings together different agencies to think about how we can keep adults safer in the London Borough of Enfield, particularly adults with care and support needs. ES asked VSSG members to let her know if they would like to be more involved in the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board Elspeth.smith@enfield.gov.uk .</p> <p>During the period of the 2018-2023 Strategy some significant events happened and one of the things that was learnt over that time is the importance of breaking down our goals into yearly plans.</p>	

	<p>The new Strategy involves 3 areas of priority; preventing abuse, protecting victims and learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and other cases. These priorities come from SARs, from feedback, from complicated cases, from engaging with partners and our safeguarding community engagement group.</p> <p>From analysing trends in safeguarding adults, self-neglect is a big priority in the Strategy going forward, because we have had a huge increase year on year and self-neglect is now the most common reason we get safeguarding concerns reported to the Local Authority.</p> <p>Our online and non-digital resources are being reviewed, to ensure that people know where to find the right information so that they can reach out to the right person at the right time. Making sure again the community know how to recognise and report abuse.</p> <p>There is a programme within Enfield that is centrally funded around working with people alleged to have caused domestic abuse and working on behavioural change around this.</p> <p>Learning from our neighbours is a hugely important area as well. A lot of our providers and a lot of people live and work across boroughs, and it is important that we all have policies that talk to each other and make sense.</p> <p>The consultation runs until 8/11/2023 and ES invited VSSG members to complete the survey when they have read the Strategy. ES is also keen to build connections with the VSSG VCS representatives and their groups.</p> <p>Action: DG to email the presentation to all – Completed 9/10/2023</p>	<p>DG</p>
5.2	<p>In response to a question from CllrGN, ES confirmed that the domestic abuse perpetrators project is led by the Council's Domestic Abuse Team, working with Rise Mutual, focusing on domestic abuse perpetrators from minoritized communities, looking at behaviour change.</p>	
5.3	<p>In response to a question from CllrGN regarding the issue where someone with a lot of support needs is housed outside of Enfield borough, ES described it as a partnership issue, particularly with Adult Social Care, and different partner departments and agencies. It is something that we must look at because there is an issue where someone has additional needs. Our Integrated Learning Disability Service and Mental Health Services particularly are working on cross borough protocols.</p>	
5.4	<p>CllrGN asked how the Adults Safeguarding Board can help vulnerable people in supported living accommodations that are abused, for example within criminal gangs? ES responded that it is an issue because you can only work to solve a problem that you know about and that is why it is so important that everyone knows how to raise concerns when they have them. We do have a Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) that meet monthly where there are issues around antisocial</p>	

	behaviour that come to light, and often that is where we hear about particular addresses of concern.	
5.5	In response to a question from CB regarding clarification of the term self-neglect, ES explained that self-neglect could be any number of things and our first response to a self-neglect concern is to forward it for an assessment of need. CB invited ES to EREC's Strategic Race Equality Forum on 26/10/2023.	
5.6	CllrGN asked ES to share the details of how to report safeguarding concerns to all Councillors. Action: ES - Completed	ES
5.7	CllrGN explained that a Southgate firefighter who works within the community is offering to do fire safety talks, particularly for people with Alzheimer's, Memory loss, Dementia. If any groups are interested in this service, please let CllrGN know.	
5.8	In response to a question from HA regarding the Rise Mutual programme, ES explained that it has to go through an organisation but if there is a particular case that you are concerned about, please email ES. ES will take this up with Julie Taylor, DV Co-ordinator.	
6.	Family Hubs and Start for Life Transformation update – Andrew Lawrence, LBE	
6.1	<p>AL provided a brief update, following on from the presentation by Helen Finnemore, at the June VSSG meeting.</p> <p>Family hubs is a government initiative to expand on the idea of children's centres, and to offer one-stop services for families in the borough.</p> <p>The programme is focusing particularly on pregnancy through to age two, and families with children that age. It is quite specific and quite prescriptive in terms of the different strands that we can provide and deliver against.</p> <p>The different strands we are able to deliver against are perinatal mental health, infant feeding support, parenting support, the home learning environment, transformation, and a start for life offer, which is a digital offer, that offers a range of easily accessible support and advice https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/start-for-life/where-to-get-help-and-support .</p> <p>An early help awayday was held on 18/9/2023, which was well received, with representation from DfE and the Department of Health and Social Care, and various VCS groups.</p> <p>The family hubs website has been launched https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/youth-and-family-hubs The activities are starting to be delivered from Ponders End Youth Centre, with health type drop-in sessions, early years play room, and other rooms that are being converted into clinical spaces that would be available for local groups to run sessions, as part of this offer.</p> <p>We are currently recruiting for parent and carer panel members; details are on the family hubs website. Service users could become</p>	

	part of shaping the design of some of the services and they will be supported with various things, such as creche facilities, travel cost reimbursements, interpreting.	
6.2	HA commented that the early help awayday was very informative and she enjoyed the opportunity to do some collaborative work, meeting other agencies. ECYPS will be promoting the family hub services.	
6.3	Jl also found the awayday very useful, with good networking opportunities. EVA will be exploring the opportunity of spaces between voluntary groups and the family hubs and is hoping to hold an event in the new year to bring together various community spaces and groups. Jl welcomed any views from VSSG members J.lkhelef@enfiedva.org.uk CllrGN asked Jl to keep her in the loop of the community spaces meetings/events.	
6.4	MM agreed that the awayday was really useful, with a wide mix of people, and although it was focusing on funding for early years, it looked beyond that to young people up to 19, with SEND needs up to the age of 25, and carers and young people who needed support. CAE is promoting the service to parents who are contacting them. The hubs are the place to refer people as a starting point to send people in the right direction for the next stage of help.	
6.5	AL asked VSSG members to send him any info to be shared in the family hubs or children's centres. HA is also happy to receive posters/flyers to share.	
6.6	CllrGN commented that a conversation needed to be held outside VSSG regarding a central point of contact within the Council for sharing information with various Council departments. Action: CllrGN/AL to discuss - Ongoing	CllrGN/AL
7.	Updates from Departments and VCS	
7.1	TW advised that the Over 50s Forum is presenting a Falls and Flu, Loneliness and Isolation day on 25/10/2023 from 9.30am at Southbury Leisure Centre. Contact their office to book.	
7.2	HA explained that ECYPS is holding a Mind Kind event in a local school, which is a series of workshops around mental health, creative writing, physical health and mindfulness. They are also delivering a parenting programme this week at Eldon Primary School, and hopefully in November at the Ponders End family hub. Details of ECYPS training programme is on their website https://www.ecyps.org.uk/training-1	
7.3	GL advised that EWC has just started another terms course for the Freedom programme. It is oversubscribed, with 15 places and 32 referrals, that come via court workers, social workers, specialist children and DV workers etc. There is a sense of urgency in their referrals for these women and the best EWC can offer them is January 2024 for the next course, when they will have another cohort, therefore additional funding is needed for DV training. CllrGN asked GL to email her the details and she would forward on to the new Head of Community Safety when in place. Action: GL to email details to CllrGN – GL to update	GL/CllrGN
7.4	CB advised that EREC is presenting a Strategic Race Equalities Forum on 26/10/2023 from 11.45am at Community House. The event will include discussions about health inequalities and a celebration of Black History Month.	

7.5	<p>CH explained that from 4/12/2023 Greenwich Leisure will take on the running of our leisure centres on a 3-year contract. Any community groups that currently have bookings or working relationships with the centres, will be contacted by Greenwich Leisure, to understand how we continue to support each other and move forward. From a customer/resident perspective nothing changes in terms of the staff and so forth, they will all TUPE across to the new provider. We will need to maintain credit union savings scheme for staff. Contact CH with any further questions cheryl.headon@enfield.gov.uk</p> <p>Action: CH will arrange contact for MG with Head of Leisure LBE – CH/MG to update</p>	CH
7.6	<p>TW commented that at recent meetings of the Older People’s Partnership Board, the issue was raised of digital exclusion in the borough, and how we might address this. NA advised that the first meeting of the Ageing Friendly Communities Digital meeting would be held on 17/10/2023 and that meeting is planned to get an idea about all the gaps associated with digital exclusion so that we can work on specific projects together. We hope to be able to come back to VSSG in March with an update on progress made.</p> <p>Action: Provisional slot on March VSSG agenda - Ongoing</p>	DG
7.7	<p>CllrGN agreed that it is an important issue that needs addressing and was pleased to hear that it is being taken forward.</p>	
7.8	<p>TW asked if there was any progress made on Enfield joining the Age Friendly Communities Network? NA explained that it was decided to wait until the Council Plan was finalised to take it on board as a corporate initiative. It does need a Council wide approach and we are looking at how we do that. HP commented that this is being discussed by the Corporate Strategy and Adult Social Care teams. NA is also discussing the initiative with Public Health colleagues.</p>	
7.9	<p>JI explained that the digital exclusion projects that EVA managed through funding from NHS charities is coming to an end, and she would forward any learning from the projects to NA that would be helpful in moving forward on this issue. JI will also forward to NA and Victoria Adnan (Policy & Performance Manager), feedback on barriers to health in Enfield, collected at the EVA AGM event.</p> <p>Action: JI to send information to NA and Victoria Adnan - Completed</p>	JI
7.10	<p>CllrGN thanked all for attending the meeting and for the commitment in working together, sharing information.</p>	
8.	<p>Future Meeting Dates All at 2pm-4pm on MS Teams. Monday, 11th December 2023 Monday, 18th March 2024</p>	