



the care forum

# **Minutes of Voscur & The Care Forum Joint Children & Young People's VCS Organisations Networks Meeting At The Vassall Centre Children and Young People's Services and Trust Arrangements in Bristol: Moving Forward**

**Date:** Tuesday 19 January 2010

**Attending:**

**Name**

Victoria Moore

Marie Bailey

Jenny Streader-Goffman

Steve Gear

John Pendlington

Helen Chignell

Sophie Taylor

Frances Fox

Katherine Piper

Lucy Tutton

Gemma Lewis

Lee Williams

Dom Wood

Monica Turnbull

Lizzie Evered

Sarah Evens

Julia Nibloe

Chris Box

Jo Rees

Caroline Jenkins

Bobby Owen

Joanna Holmes

Ella Pollock

Hannah Wilcox

Rosie Webb

Sandra Meadows

Michael Gadd

**Organisation**

Easton Families Project

Easton Families Project

Catch 22

Calling the Shots

Children's Scrapstore

Survive

The City Academy

The Bridge Foundation

Shelter

The British Red Cross

The British Red Cross

Young Bristol

1625 Independent People

Brentry & Henbury Children's Centre

Bike Club (Bristol City Council)

Bristol City Council

Brook

University Hospitals Care Trust (UHCT)

UHCT

Home School Support / Bristol City Council

Extended Services

Contact a Family

Barton Hill Settlement

Fairbridge West

YWCA

YWCA

Play & Early Years Training Unit (PEYTU)

HFT

Amy Halls	Play & Early Years Training Unit (PEYTU)
Shamim Baloo	Joint Commissioning Team, Bristol City Council
Annie Oliver	Single Parents Action Network (SPAN)
Denise Tombs	1625 Independent People
Karen Black	Bristol Drugs Project
Kath Fryer	Cerebra
Alison Jackson	Bristol City Council
Rebecca Mitchell	University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation
Jo Stallard	Bread Youth Project
Alex Tempest	Red Cross
Lorraine Millard	Wellspring Healthy Living Centre
Sandy Hore-Ruthven	Kingswood Foundation
Bonnie Curran	Children & Young People's Services
Jeff Hill	Children's Scrapstore
Jackie Cutmore	Bristol Children's Playhouse
Grace Allen	Young Mother's Trust Group
Asma Ahmad	Voscur
Louise Hudson	The Care Forum
Emma Rice	Voscur

**Apologies:**

**Name**

Jacky Humphries  
Liz Lewington  
Ben Ward  
Fiona Phur  
Mandie Lewis  
Isabel Simoes  
Kathryn Mason  
Julie Mytton  
Jennifer Turner  
Juliet Winter  
Fran Harrison

**Organisation**

Avon Sexual Abuse Centre  
The Jessie May Trust  
Play England, South West  
Learning South West

National Autistic Society  
NHS Bristol  
North Bristol NHS Healthcare Trust (NBT)  
North Bristol NHS Healthcare Trust (NBT)  
Fairbridge West

**1. Welcome: Asma Ahmad (AA) and Louise Hudson (LH) Voscur and the Care Forum Children & Young People's Organisation's Networks.**

**2. Presentation from Alison Jackson (AJ), Service Manager, Children's Trust and Commissioning on the proposed local and national changes in the Children's Trust Arrangements and the consultation**

[http://www.thecareforum.org/publication\\_uploads/Children%20and%20Young%20Peoples%20Trust%20Word%20Version.pdf](http://www.thecareforum.org/publication_uploads/Children%20and%20Young%20Peoples%20Trust%20Word%20Version.pdf)

**3. VCS Representation and Voice in Bristol LH/AA and Dom Wood**

[http://www.thecareforum.org/publication\\_uploads/Presentation%20Reps.pdf](http://www.thecareforum.org/publication_uploads/Presentation%20Reps.pdf)

[http://www.thecareforum.org/publication\\_uploads/My%20Experiences%20of%20being%20a%20VCS%20Rep.pdf](http://www.thecareforum.org/publication_uploads/My%20Experiences%20of%20being%20a%20VCS%20Rep.pdf)

<http://www.voscur.org/meetingsebulletin>

#### **4. Asma Ahmad invited VCS representatives to introduce themselves and talk briefly about the group/board they sit on and their experiences of being a VCS representative.**

Q: How can we monitor the long-term effectiveness of VCS representatives and their impact on the sector?

A: That is something the infrastructure organisations struggle with and we recognise we need to get much better at. Representatives can monitor their own effectiveness by remaining in the role and keeping track of the points they raise and the actions taken as a result of issues they bring to the table. It is about longevity in the role.

A: The Care Forum are carrying out a piece of work as part of The Champions Learning Scheme, funded by NAVCA, to develop an effective monitoring framework for representatives. We will be conducting interviews with representatives and Chairs and seeking their views on barriers to effective representation.

A: The VCS representatives on the Bristol Safeguarding Children Board have lobbied for free child protection training to be offered to the VCS through the Board.

A: There are many wider benefits to the VCS representative role. As a representative I have come to be involved in other groups and broadened my knowledge base through my rep role.

A: It raises the profile of your organisation with statutory decision makers and that is a wider long-term benefit.

#### **4. Children & Young People Plan Consultation – refresh of current CYPP and rewrite of CYPP April 2011 – 2014 and the VCS’s voice in this process – Alison Jackson**

- The Children’s Trust is expected to become law in April 2010
- When this happens the Trust will become responsible for writing the Children & Young People’s Plan
- The Plan will then become a Trust document and not a Children & Young People’s Services (CYPS) document
- The Plan is the vehicle for the Trust to set out its priorities
- It is in the Statutory Guidance around the writing of the Plan that this should involve consultation on the process used to generate the final Plan.
- The Trust will do a complete re-write of the Plan for 2011 – 2014, so the Trust has a year to write the Plan. Meanwhile, the Trust will be completing a ‘light-touch’ review of the existing Plan for 2010-2011 which will take about 11 weeks

AJ handed out guidance

The guidance is what the Government propose to see in every C&YP Plan as cross-cutting. The Children and Young People’s Plan must include a needs assessment for children and young people against the five outcomes and the delegates present are asked to inform this analysis. An additional indicator added to the plan will be ‘Children in Poverty’ which will be added as an equalities group

The plan must include an outline of key actions to help:

- Children and young people with Special Educational Needs
- Disabled children and young people
- Children and young people looked after by Bristol City Council achieve the five outcomes.

The plan must set out the arrangements made by the Trust Board partners to :

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people;
- Co-operate on prevention and early intervention;
- Co-ordinate services for children and young people within their families;
- Reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty;

- Improve the behaviour of children and young people and their attendance at school;
- Some of these indicators are cross-cutting and some have a broad impact
- The plan must set out arrangements made by the Board partners for cooperating in training and developing the Children's workforce.
- The Workforce Strategy will also be owned by the Children's Trust
- There will be a consultation and participation in writing the Plan
- The consultation "should be a planned and systematic activity, involving communities and other relevant organisations. Where the Board has involved partners, particularly the Third Sector... they must be consulted."
- A broad catch-all of a range of bodies have to be consulted on the plan and the quality of the plan

## **5. Discussion Groups to consider:**

- the response to the national consultation on Children's Trust Arrangements
- opportunities to participate in the Children and Young People's Plan rewrite
- Ideas to improve dialogue with the VCS representatives

## **Workshop 1– Facilitated by Shamim Baloo (Room 2+3)**

### **What are the key messages from the VCS in relation to Bristol's consultation response to the Children's Trust Arrangements**

- Links between adult services and services for children and young people need to be made so that services for families are better coordinated eg homelessness, domestic abuse
- Transition Support
- Services for newly arrived (refugee/asylum seeking children), particularly schooling and accessibility of the school curriculum
- Mental wellbeing – Tier 1&2 services
- Workforce skills – to deliver integrated services for a rapidly changing child population
- Need a document that shouts the key issues to the VCS
- Only one non-statutory sector individual interviewed for workforce strategy rewrite – network meeting does not even up the balance

### **How would you like to be involved in and participate in the rewrite of Bristol's CYP 2011-14 and can you think of key priorities – in terms of improving outcomes for CYP – that should be included in the plan eg safeguarding, family support and alleviating poverty?**

- Base priorities on a needs analysis
- Start with a balance sheet and apportion budget rather than follow others agenda – success follows resources, this is key
- Consult on what is negotiable eg 90% of funding is already ringfenced so to be honest there is only 10% to decide upon
- Want to see more joint working with health and play – and more of these influences on the Children's Trust Board
- Holistic approach to service planning

### **How can we strengthen VCS representation in Bristol. What is currently working? What could be done to improve the dialogue between representatives and the sector?**

- VCS need to sit on the Children and Young People's Trust Commissioning group, as in other local authorities
- Having only one or two VCS reps on trust/safeguarding boards is not equitable
- It should be recognised that reps do not have the same working relationships/networking opportunities as statutory partners and often the work of the partnership they are sitting on is not directly connected with matters being discussed
- Improved communication between the VCS reps and the sector they are representing needs to be addressed

## **Workshop 2 facilitated by Asma Ahmad (Conference Centre)**

### **What are the key messages from the VCS in relation to Bristol's consultation response to the Children's Trust Arrangements**

- Project visits
- Financial support for representation
- What will structure be in future?

### **How would you like to be involved in and participate in the rewrite of Bristol's CYP 2011-14 and can you think of key priorities – in terms of improving outcomes for CYP – that should be included in the plan eg safeguarding, family support and alleviating poverty?**

- Commitment for VCS groups to deliver within CYP Plan
- Is there Youth Consultation? Where is the young people's voice?
- Building coping strategies in young people – empower them (resilience)
- Don't lose play – a crucial element in Enjoy and Achieve
- City/Government's responsibility towards children and young people. What will they provide?
- People writing the plan should come and visit projects
- Priorities differ in different areas. There is a lack of understanding.
- Write in CYP Plan – services delivered by local organisations.
- 10 localities and 14 neighbourhood partnerships – problems with overlapping. So many groups and so many strategies – lose sight of issues. How will this all fit with Neighbourhood Committees – 2 processes running at the same time.
- Are all small VCS groups engaged? There is an assumption.
- Need a voice for city-wide services
- Enjoy and achieve and play – where are they?
- CYP Plan – 1 of many plans. Where are the priorities?

### **How can VCS be involved? How can we strengthen VCS representation in Bristol. What is currently working? What could be done to improve the dialogue between representatives and the sector?**

- Allocate money to enable representation so VCS meaningfully involved.
- Mental capacity
- 10 localities – 10 reps – keeping people up-to-date, gaining information, promoting VCS. Something similar to councillors notes.
- Better use of website/blogs/comments/publicise on Twitter.
- How do reps know priorities? How do views fit in/be of use at these meetings/
- Responsibility to take things to rep – not just an onus on rep.
- Conduct an anonymous survey of experience of using reps.
- Case work approach in reps notes.
- Real lack of knowledge of what reps do/what can't do.
- Social networking/new media will become more prevailing – 2 way and powerful – closed group forums.

## **Workshop 3 facilitated by Louise Hudson (Conference Centre)**

### **What are the key messages from the VCS in relation to Bristol's consultation response to the Children's Trust Arrangements**

- Finding out more about rep role will strengthen Children's Trust Arrangements
- Contact details in one place.
- Background information about each group that reps sit on (Terms of Reference) would be helpful.

### **How would you like to be involved in and participate in the rewrite of Bristol's CYP 2011-14 and can you think of key priorities – in terms of improving outcomes for CYP – that should be included in the plan eg safeguarding, family support and alleviating poverty?**

- Partnership with parents – inroads have been made but still a long way to go – especially with schools.
- In areas where schools are on board there are good partnerships with parents. Should be expectation on all schools.
- Parenting support varies widely.
- Needs to be a greater analysis of local need – through localities – began with local needs analysis – enrichment to come through the local voice eg CAF panels – using data more intelligently couple with informing through local voices
- Need balance between top down approach to universal needs and local needs.
- Gathering data through locality plans – to be rewritten annually (not sure if this will possible at the moment locality working is still a new process.
- Voice of CYP themselves: CYPS are still part-way to drawing up a strategy of how to involve CYP in the rewrite.
- Thematic eg feeding in areas of expertise eg emotional health and wellbeing. Need to have thematic approach
- Will need an idiots guide. VCS can be blinded by information and jargon and obstacles to participation.
- Relationship between thematic and local need is vital – need to get that relationship right.

#### **How would you like to be consulted on 2011-14 CYP plan?**

- Range of ways is important:
  1. An event - to attend will need to feel they are getting something back eg opportunity to network, opportunity to be in themed groups people working across areas can get together.
  2. Children and Young Peoples Partnership website pages and infrastructure organisations websites.
  3. Hyperlink key consultation questions through to TCF and Voscur websites.

#### **How can VCS be involved? How can we strengthen VCS representation in Bristol. What is currently working? What could be done to improve the dialogue between representatives and the sector?**

- Want clear information on how to contact reps – A4 sheet in post – rep list and contacts.
- Communications is vital.
- A higher profile for reps on websites
- Contact details in one place.
- Background information about each group that reps sit on (Terms of Reference) would be helpful.

### **6. Next Steps**

- AJ will consider the views of the VCS detailed in the notes above. The views will be used to strengthen the VCS engagement with the Children’s Trust Arrangements and subsequent plans for the rewrite of the CYP Plan.
- There will be ongoing communication with the VCS to facilitate their engagement and the engagement of CYP themselves in the rewrite of the CYP Plan.
- AA and LH will use ideas generated at the meeting to strengthen representation of the VCS on multi-agency decision making groups. They will be working closely together in the near future to improve their joint offer to representatives and to improve communication between representatives and between representatives and the sector.
- The Care Forum is updating information on representation available on their website.

### **7. Close**

AA thanked the facilitators and speakers. AA also thanked the delegates for attending and contributing.