

Better Together VCS Forum Notes – 13 August 2024

Agenda Item	Key Issues	Actions/Links
Welcome & introductions	Kate Burrows welcomed everyone to the meeting at the DCA offices in Willington. 18 people attended and introductions were made. Apologies were received from 14 organisations.	
Educational Development Trust	<p>Amy Jaroszkiewicz attended the Forum from the Education Development Trust (EDT), a charity supporting local people with careers advice, employability and skills development. EDT have received funding from Durham Learn to engage 19+ Durham residents into learning and employment through a three day literacy taster course. Amy’s presentation is available through the link attached.</p> <p>Tailored courses can be run from specific care settings or prisons for example. Anyone interested in this should contact Amy directly for more information. EDT run courses in the Durham area (including South and East Durham) though they do not cover Darlington as ‘communicate’ is a Durham Programme. For similar programmes in the Darlington area, members should go to Darlington BC - Learning & Skills.</p>	<p>www.edt.org</p> <p>Presentation</p> <p>ajaroskiewicz@edt.org</p>
Safeguarding Adults	<p>Heidi Gibson, Business Manager for the Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership attended the meeting and gave a presentation about the work of the Partnership and its board. Heidi explained the key areas of work around the delivery of the strategic plan, the annual report and the learning from the Safeguarding Adults Reviews. A copy of the Partnership Plan can be found here.</p> <p>Heidi referred to the wide range of training that is available such as the Toxic Culture Training previously highlighted to the Forum. Training is available both face to face and virtually and a training the trainer programme is also available.</p> <p>In terms of how the voluntary sector can assist, Heidi asked members to draw on opportunities for training and attend events within Safeguarding Week 2024; encourage and support community curiosity and challenge social acceptability. A revised risk tool will shortly be launched for services to use but currently a Good Practice Guidance Toolkit is available on collaborative working for professionals.</p> <p>Heidi emphasised that the intelligence that is gathered by support organisations is invaluable in building a picture of an individual to give a voice to that person in a safeguarding review (particularly in instances of a death). The intelligence gathered by other agencies who come into contact with an individual such as postal</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <p>All to note</p>

	workers and delivery drivers can also help build that picture. Royal Mail have recently launched the Knock and Check Pilot in the Derwentside Area and Susan agreed to link Heidi with Connor Burnett who is the lead.	S Garrett
Safeguarding Children	<p>Paula Mather, Durham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (DSCP) Business Manager also attended the meeting to give a presentation on the DSCP. Paula explained that serious case reviews are now known as Child Safeguarding Practice reviews. The structure of the Partnership was explained in the presentation and organisations are encouraged to join the Performance and Learning Group or join the four monthly learning cycle which operates on an open door basis.</p> <p>Like Heidi, Paula encouraged agencies to consider the training that is available through the DSCP website which includes 14 face to face sessions and 30 e-learning courses, in addition to bespoke chargeable training.</p> <p>The key messages of the presentation were</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I) the importance of information sharing, and the presentation contains a lot of information about this. II) encouraging professional curiosity and to explore rather than assume III) considering families who move boundaries, both in terms of location and health care providers/ services 	<p>Presentation</p> <p>All to note</p>
Right Care, Right Person	<p>Further work is needed to assist the police to determine when calls are identified as coming from the public, whether this categorisation includes from charity organisations. Members of the Forum were asked to consider their experience of the Right Care Right Person approach, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you had to make a call? • What was your experience? • What was the response? • Have you had to make any changes to your policies and procedures since making a call? <p>There was a brief discussion on this and members were asked consider those questions within their own organisations and feedback information back to Abby/Susan. The information will go forward to a police workshop to inform future practice and also feed into the next steps around considering support for individuals following hospital exits.</p> <p>Paula advised that the process for supporting adults through the RCRP approach also crosses over when welfare checks on children and young people are carried out, in terms of prior engagement with and knowledge of support agencies.</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <p>All to note</p>

	Kate suggested that the safeguarding sub group (those that come together regularly at the 'pre-meeting') could take these discussions forward and that a future forum 'roundtable' could be convened to focus on some of the issues raised with specific implications for VCS organisations.	
Durham Safer Communities	<p>East Durham Trust is currently the representative for the voluntary sector on the board of the Safe Durham Partnership. Representatives have been tasked to update the board at the next meeting on their governance procedures for adopting the Safe Durham Strategy (which was sent to the BTF for consultation 19th March). Whilst BTF members can share the strategy and work towards its principles to ensure our communities are safe, there was a discussion as to whether there should be additional representation on the board to strengthen the voice of the sector (particularly in areas such as hate crime, sexual violence and anti-social behaviour). The strategy is due for publication on the Safe Durham Partnership webpage (as above).</p> <p>BTF Members were requested to consider this request and consider how the strategy can be shared and adopted in their respective organisations. Any issues should be fed back to Graham/Kate in time for the SDP meeting on 16th September.</p>	All to note
Date of Next Meeting	<p>The date of the next meeting will be a forum meeting on Friday 11th October at Durham Town Hall.</p> <p>The date of the next ordinary BTF meeting will be Tuesday 3rd December – Foster Room, PCP Offices, Newton Aycliffe.</p>	