

Vice Chair's Report

Voluntary & Community Sector Forum held at The Hub Wednesday 25th May 2017

1. There was opportunity to network prior to commencement of the meeting.

Phil Mason opened the meeting and had brought along the Bolton Wanderers 2017 Winners Cup which was much admired and those present took the opportunity to take photographs.
2. Helen Tomlinson of Bolton CVS gave a Social Value up-date and State of the Sector launch. The aim of the Social Value Act is to gain a greater understanding of what social impact is and how to measure it and what it means for organisations.
A recent survey was conducted to ascertain the understanding of what social value means, the findings will be launched during Volunteers Week on 7th June 2017 from 1.30 – 3.30pm at The Hub, Bolton.
There is a free course: Making the Most Difference - An Introduction to Social Value 27th June 12.30pm - 4.00pm at The Hub, Bold Street, Bolton, BL1 1LS.

For more information: <https://www.boltoncvs.org.uk/civicrm/event/info?id=353&reset=1>
3. Helen also spoke of the scheme 'Fresh as a Daisy' and asked for donations of sanitary and hygiene products for vulnerable women and girls who cannot afford them. These can be placed in any Urban Outreach Grub Tubs (one available at The Hub) or the UCAN in Bolton.

For more information visit their Facebook page – [facebook.com/FreshDaisyBolton](https://www.facebook.com/FreshDaisyBolton).
4. Michael Carpenter explained how relatively new scheme known as 'Share Somewhere' operates. Suitable for anyone with space to share: schools, community centres, religious buildings, retail properties, businesses with CSR targets and the hospitality industry.
The scheme is a tool to help find regular and one-off spaces in the UK for your group, organisation or activity, whether a simple meeting room, specialist sports facilities or accessible features are required.
This is conducted through a listing/bulletin board on the site which also includes details of how to contact the relevant space provider. The space provider and the space user agree a separate contract between them for the use of the property or premises.

For more information: www.sharesomewhere.org

For entry to a prize of £500 donation to a Registered Charity - see the website Terms and Conditions.
5. Sharon Bolus encouraged members to get involved in the Volunteers Week Roadshow, promoting volunteering and outlined the various events to be held 1st – 7th June 2017.

Don't miss the large event taking place on Saturday 3rd June at the Market Place, Bolton

For further details of the Roadshow: www.boltoncvs.org.uk

To book, contact Farzana Patel: events@boltoncvs.org.uk
6. Mark Charnock, Managing Director of 'Gone for Good', explained his scheme which was piloted in 2016. The aim is to re-channel saleable items to raise income for important causes.
Large and small charities are involved e.g. Cancer Research UK. Mark is also at present in discussion with Miller Metcalfe, who are speaking to their clients.
Those interested can use the Gone for Good app to find a local charity to take away unwanted items free of charge e.g. clothes, furniture, ornaments, tools etc.
There are 8 categories to input information, then a list will be available showing the charities who will collect.
Using the app means that there is minimal cost to the Gone for Good scheme and it is free to donors.

More information: visit : <https://goneforgood.org.uk/> or

e-mail Mark Charnock on mark@goneforgood.org.uk

7. Mike Haworth talked about U3A (University of the Third Age), a growing, dynamic, outward-looking organisation which has a positive and creative approach to retirement.

Bolton having been formed in 1991, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2016.

Mike was keen to encourage new members (Bolton's aim is to have 400 members by October 2017), to come along to their meetings (normally 150 attend) which take place on the 4th Friday of each month 2 to 4pm at St. Andrew and St George URC, St Georges Road, Bolton BL1 2BS. Membership is £20pa plus £1 fee at each session of interest group.

Their unofficial motto is 'Live, Learn and Laugh'.

Guest speakers from all walks of life talk on a variety of subjects. Members contribute, either singly or in groups when, for example, their 30+ choir, helped by other groups, provide entertainment. Membership continues to grow and is approximately 350 at the moment. They have various interest groups including: Archaeology, Art, Indoor Bowls, Crown Green Bowling, Bridge, Cardcraft, Creative Writing, Digital Photography, European Studies, Folk Song Group, Languages, Gardening, History of Medicine, Local History, Mah-Jong, Music, Philosophy, Play Reading, Poetry for Pleasure, Psychology, Quiz Group, Reading Group, Saturday Ramblers, Scrabble, Singing for Pleasure and much more.

Most groups meet once a month (some more often), usually in the Town Centre or in Group Leaders' homes. No experience is required and the emphasis is on learning for fun.

For Bolton: u3a.sites.org.uk

8. Sharon Bolus reminded everyone that the CVS e-shot is issued each Friday listing various training courses. Also the May 2017 Funding Bulletin was available to take away.
9. Darren Knight: Locality Plan – keep looking out for events over the coming months as investment will be coming along.
10. Michael Kane, Bolton Council, gave an up-date from the Vision Conference re engagement with Voluntary and Community Sector i.e. what funding they require in advance of setting out their options. A short survey has been issued from which he asked for an urgent response as the timeline is short i.e. small groups set up along with a Consultation team by the end of June/early July to discuss various issues e.g. understand what is currently valued in the Voluntary Community Sector; when funded; help or other development; what's not currently happening; what members currently want to stop.

Bolton Council want to line up funding to 2030 and bring together various areas into one, to better help voluntary groups.

For further information, the Minutes of the Forum meeting will be available from:

www.boltoncvs.org.uk

email: info@boltoncvs.org.uk