



**Steering Group  
Open Meeting  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011  
10 –12 noon  
GVOC  
Gladstone Terrace  
Gateshead  
NE8 4DY**

**Present:**

Andrew Moore	Sight Services – SG Member
Bob Watson	Individual
Alan Witherington	Friends of Chopwell Woods
Dave Wallace	Turning Point – SG Member
Bill Llewellyn	Moving On – SG Member
Joanne Willis	Hallgarth TRA
Christine McDarmont	St Chads Community Project
Richard Taylor	Individual – SG Member
Shaun Kelly	Tyne & Wear FRS
Richard Jenks	LINKs
Dave Morton	Gateshead Newcastle TUC – SG Member
Brenda Cawton	The Whinnies – SG Member
Tracey Wallace	SOFA – SG Member
Maria Hall	Gateshead Autism Group
Ray Venus	Individual – SG Member

**In attendance:**

Annie Murphy	GCN
Diane Allan	GCN
Ian Blake	GCN
Mark Shilcock	GCN

**1. Welcome and apologies:**

As Joan Moon (Chair) had sent in her apologies Richard Taylor agreed to chair this meeting.

Chair began meeting with introductions and apologies received are listed below.

SG Mtg – 21/1/11

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**Apologies:**

Suzanne Gower	Citizen Advice Centre
Tom Collins	Katregina/Portmead TRA – SG Member
Hugh Kelly	Swingbridge Video – SG Member
Joan Moon	Individual – SG (Chair)
Irene Soulsby	Individual – SG Member
Derek Carrott	NECA – SG Member

**2. Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed

**3. Matters arising:** None

**4. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Richard Jenks - Gateshead LINK.**

Richard gave a brief explanation of the JSNA. The council is currently consulting on the JSNA priorities. Richard had placed large copies of the priorities around the room (email version available on request). Members were asked to look at key priorities and make any comments. The closing date to gather this information is 7<sup>th</sup> February. Steering Group members expressed concern about the short timescale plus the methods of consultation that were being employed. The information collected will be transcribed and then sent to council. Suggestions that there was a need to ensure service providers/people who have knowledge in this field are included in preparation of consultations. Richard agreed to come back after lunch to collect all comments and answer any queries. Annie queried how people who were visual impaired could access the document.

**Action:** Richard will check this out and feedback.

**5. Small Grants Fund Report – Ian Blake**

Ian gave an update on uptake of funding following the changes in criteria agreed by Steering Group. A graph was circulated which showed both the current spend and the areas of spend. We currently have three IT applications pending plus two new applications outstanding. This will not leave a great deal of funding, as we are currently awaiting this quarter’s grant allocation. Confirmation that

there will be no small grants fund in the future due to cuts to the projects budget.

**6. Junior Network:** - Deferred

**7. Our Gateshead Website – Mark Shilcock**

Mark circulated his summary report, which gave an update on new groups, the forthcoming development event and future plans (copy available on request). Mark has a survey on the site which is asking for comments on how useful site is etc. All comments captured on survey will be taken along to the development event on 17<sup>th</sup> February, venue still to be confirmed.

Mark and Colin have developed the site to a certain level but they may have to look at a third party being brought in to help further develop the site. Suggestions that we contact Universities who could be less expensive. Tracey Wallace asked to note her thanks to Mark for the work carried out with her group.

**8. Crown Prosecution Service Report – Dave Morton – Community Panel**

Dave gave a brief summary on how both Dave and Ray had been selected for the panel following a rigorous selection process. However, their exact function is not clear at this stage as they have only met once for an induction and training session. It is thought the panel will meet three times per year. Dave will continue to feedback.

**9. Partnership/Area Forum Feedback:**

This is an opportunity for members to feedback from any meetings they have attended.

**Dave Morton - Economy Skills Housing & Transport:** Tesco development will begin soon with an estimate of 450 new employees taken on there will also be a further 100 jobs made available in the surrounding retail stores. Work will hopefully be completed by 2014. Discussed the prospect of a new *Walk In* centre but Tesco have said they would prefer a public house on the site. This still continues to be under negotiation. Other agenda items, the Government have abolished Local Area Agreements (LAA). These involved a maximum

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of 200 targets with councils deciding which ones they would be measured against. A proportion of these targets were mandatory and Councils received Reward Grant if they met specific targets. However, councils can decide to keep their LAA's, but they will not be monitored by Central Government. And there will be no further Reward Grants. Gateshead Council are currently reviewing their Partnership Working and Tom Smythe is seconded from Government Officer North East to undertake this short term piece of work. Gateshead has applied for City status.

**Ray Venus - Inner West Area Forum:** Dunston rocket has been empty for two years will be demolished within the next 18months. Ray circulated for information a Tyne & Wear Rescue Service paper called, Prevention Protecting Responding.

**Richard Taylor – West Area Forum:** Partnership working also discussed at the Forum. Concerns raised that the Council cannot afford to continue with the forums. This was discussed as an issue that GCN must be vigilant on.

**Maria Hall – Gateshead Autism:** Maria had attended a Learning Disability Partnership meeting. Maria also highlighted a Council service which gives information on financial issues to people with mental health problems. The contact at the Council is Manminder Singh. The Financial Inclusion team is holding an event in March re: loan sharks, high credit rates.

**Dave Morton – Viewpoint:** Concerns about the future of telephone enquiries to Council as a % of redundancies are staff who do this. Suggestions that 0845 numbers might be used by the council, Dave gave information on 0345 numbers which are cheaper. IT access in local libraries will be charged in the future. Joanne gave information on how to access the 0845 number at a cheaper rate.

**Bill Llewellyn -** Mentioned a campaign currently under way against Esso and BP asking people to stop using these two companies. This is hoped will help bring prices down

**Ray Venus – Health & Social Care Meeting -** concerns about the PCT as they are going to be abolished by 2013. Ray concerned that

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important meetings are being cancelled at short notice plus confusion of future dates for meetings. Annie agreed to monitor this situation.

**Andrew Moore – East Area Forum:** Andrew raised concerns that meetings are chaired by portfolio holders and not voluntary sector representatives.

**Annie Murphy:** - Annie gave information on the Communities Together Stakeholder Event which will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February at Dryden Professional Development Centre from 9 – 4pm. The event is part of the refresh of the community development and community cohesion strategies.

Annie has also attended the opening of Gateshead Central Library. The day was a great success Councillor Linda Green spoke at the opening and thanked Gateshead Community Network for their invaluable input and support to the Library on community engagement and involvement. Annie also met the Author David Almond. David wrote **Skelig** plus other children's books. Annie mentioned the Junior Network Conference in October hopefully David may be able to attend.

**10. AOB:**

Diane had produced excel sheets of quarter 3 spend and balance, plus current spend of quarter 4. Circulated for comments. There were no comments or queries. Annie reiterated that we need to make sure that there is no underspend at the end of the financial year.

**Sean Kelly – Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service:**

Sean gave a brief summary of his role as a Community Relations Officer. The Fire Service is trying to create better links with the community. As future cuts (30%) will affect the Fire Service they are committed to retain priorities. Sean is open to any ideas which will help him achieve this. Unfortunately they do not have money, but lots of resources. Sean's contact details are available on request.

**Dave Wallace – Turning Point:**

Dave gave a brief summary on how working with the Tyne & Wear Firs Service has worked in conjunction with this group. Through helping vulnerable individuals build self esteem and confidence partnership working has helped in this instance.

**Maria Hall – Gateshead Autism Group:**

Maria gave information on setting up this group that has developed from a recognized need that there is a lack of services appropriate to adults with Autism. A launch of the group is planned in March. Maria has no official contact at moment.

**Alan Witherington – Friends of Chopwell Wood:**

Alan asked to raise attention to the recent protests in Chopwell Woods around the proposed sale of local forests across the country. One protest had already taken place, another one will take place on February 13<sup>th</sup> from 1pm. Any one interested can turn up on day and/or sign a petition against the sale of forests on [www.friendsofchopwellwood.org.uk](http://www.friendsofchopwellwood.org.uk) or [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) .

**11. Date and time of next meeting:**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at GVOG from 10 – 12 with lunch to follow.

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