



**Steering Group Open Meeting
Monday 28th February 2011
10 – 12 noon
GVOC
John Haswell House
Gladstone Terrace**

Present:

Joan Moon (Chair)	Individual
Dave Morton	Gateshead/Ncle TUC – SG Member
Alan Witherington	Friends of Chopwell Woods
Dave Wallace	Turning Point – SG member
Tracey Wallace Member	SOFA Hermitage Com Garden– SG
Trevor Underwood	Vale Mill Trust
Bob Watson	Individual
Brenda Cawton	SIGN – SG Member
Joanne Willis	Hallgarth Tenants & Res Assoc
Hugh Kelly	Swingbridge Video – SG Member
Richard Taylor	Individual – SG Member
Irene Soulsby	Individual – SG Member

In Attendance:

Annie Murphy	GCN
Mark Shilcock	GCN
Diane Allan	GCN

1. Welcome and apologies:

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

Apologies:

Jean Reay	Victim Support
Valerie Ender	Gateshead Youth Association
Bill Llewellyn	Moving On -SG Member
Derek Carrott	NECA – SG Member
Tom Collins	Katregina/Portmeads TRA – SG Member
Andrew Moore	Sight Services – SG Member

Maria Hall
Ian Blake

Gateshead Autism Group
GCN

2. Minutes from last meeting: Agreed

3. Matters arising:

- Page 3 Dave reiterated lack of toilets in regeneration of Town Centre. Dave will bring this issue up at next meeting
- Page 4 Dave has emailed Viewpoint regarding 0845 issue unfortunately he has had no response. Dave will persevere and feedback. Chair mentioned how the Police have changed their numbers from 08456 to 0345 this is free to most packages or at very low premium. Project to monitor.
- Page 6 Acknowledgement to local people who signed up to the Forest Commission campaign. Alan explained that the turn around from Government was a success however the battle hasn't been won. The forestry Commission remain under threat with up to 40% cuts to staff. Suggestions that people could pledge 30p to Minister to pay costs. Alan will keep Network updated.

4. Junior Network:

The next network meeting will take place on Friday 18th March at the Dryden Centre. Agenda items are: production of council's achievement booklet, Children & Young Peoples Plan (looking to collect opinion of plan in consultation period), Our Gateshead web page specifically for School Councils to help share good practice, suggestions for a theme for October's conference. Mark and the team will be looking for volunteers to help out on the day. Richard asked to note the effect cuts will have in Council which could reflect on School Councils support. Chair reiterated that the team will continue to be committing to support the Junior Network. Current staff's job description will need to reflect changes in roles (this will be discussed under item 8).

5. Our Gateshead/Website Event Update – Mark Shilcock:

Mark gave a brief summary of the successful event held on 17th February, 26 people were in attendance from 17 organisations. A report has been produced which outlines the outcomes. Mark will work alongside Colin (GVOC) IT person to produce a new easier website which will incorporate all features groups have asked for. This will hopefully be completed by end of May, Mark will give a demonstration at next Network meeting, GVOC will also now host and maintain site. Irene asked to note that the tour of the newly refurbished library was excellent and mentioned that there were now free meeting rooms at the library open to the community. As the rooms are free, you will need to book well in advance. You can also contact the library if you would like a tour. Annie mentioned that Friends of Central Library are helping to design the garden.

Annie asked to note to minute thanks Mark for the sterling job with Our Gateshead website. Gateshead Council had done the bare minimum with the site. Since Mark has been involved there has been a steady increase of users. Chair endorsed thanks.

Hugh gave a brief summary on the DVD which will be ready to go out soon. The idea of the DVD is to explain clearly about GCN's prime functions, plus show partnership involvement etc. The DVD was shown to members for comments. Discussed options to put stories on to our new website on how members became involved with the Network and what difference it has made to them or their group. Hugh's work will be finished by end of week with DVD's available in two weeks time.

6. Work Related Deaths Memorial – Dave Morton:

Dave gave information on the memorial which is held every year on 28th April in the Rose garden at Saltwell Park. The memorial is open to everyone. This year they are trying to get a speaker from a different culture, unfortunately they have not been successful to date. Annie suggested to contact the Refugee Council.

7. Partnership/Area Forum Feedback:

West Area Forum:

Hugh Kelly - Discussed pending results of the review. Concerns as people are becoming more concerned on crime, community safety, housing repairs etc.

Richard Taylor – Reiterated Hugh's comments but added the importance of continuing partnership work but this will be hard to maintain.

East Area Forum:

Noted that Police have put apologies in at the previous meeting this has not happened before. Concerns that all forums will end up in the Civic.

South Area Forum:

Tom is the current rep at this forum unfortunately he has been unable to attend lately. Discussed option for a second rep to attend. Tracey Wallace put her name forward. Annie gave a brief explanation role. Papers would be posted out roughly 2 – 3 days before meeting. GCN Officer would then contact relevant rep to meet up 15 minutes before forum to discuss agenda and any issues to be raised.

Members reiterated again the importance of continuing partnership working.

Dave (Turning Point) gave a brief example of how he became involved with SIGN the gardening project through the network. This has led to both groups being involved with Our Gateshead which again has now injected interest from 5 surgeries who are interested in SIGN.

Annie gave a brief summary from the recent Community Development Community Cohesion event, which was well received. There was lots of good information gathered from the workshops. Annie will feedback when she has received information from Civic. Ian is currently attending the Gateshead Together meetings. This years events week will take place from June 20th – June 26th there will be lots of things happening across the borough. If anyone would like to become involved please contact Ian.

8. Future Work:

Annie gave information on current discussions with Gateshead PCT in conjunction with Gatnet – GP Consortium around consultation on prospective changes to dermatology services. Unfortunately we have had to produce an indicative proforma charge for this work. As the project will have a 15% cut this year and a further 15% cut the following year we do not want to lose staff therefore future consultation work will need to be charged for.

9. AOB:

- The allocated pot (small grants fund) is now spent, however there is an underspend from previous year. There are a couple of applications currently pending agreement would be needed to allow some underspend to top up grant. Chair and members agreed, however Chair reiterated that there would not be any further grant available from April.
- Brenda: SIGN held Dignity Day which raised a fantastic £680.00.
- Suggestions that GCN could contact Community Foundation to inform them that we no longer have the Small Grants Fund for small emerging groups. Chair and Annie to follow this up.
- Dave Morton Crown Prosecution Service will hold a consultation event on 7th March at Tyne & Wear Fire Rescue Headquarters. The event is around Prosecution of Preventing the Course of Justice re: rape etc would like reps from Rape Crisis centres to attend Dave is attending this as a GCN rep.
- Tracey Wallace - SOFA would like to take this opportunity to thank GCN for their support through the Small Grants Fund. Tracey circulated a letter expressing delight from the young people.

- This years Fire Service open day will take place on 10th July at Dryden Road Low Fell Fire Station. Both Ian and Diane are attending the planning meetings.
- Both the Chair and Annie will need to re visit the current job descriptions for both Ian and Mark. Chair and Annie will meet to draw up draft descriptions which will then be ran past Gev. Once Gev has agreed the new jd's they will be circulated to sub group who are Dave Wallace, Dave Morton, Ray, Andrew. Irene, Tracey also to be added to list.
- Chair has been asked to attend a potential meeting with Nick Hurd (Minister for Civic Society) on the 10th March.
- Chair reiterated our involvement in helping to set up the current Police Cadet scheme. There are currently 18 cadets at a presentation evening on 10th March Chair will be in attendance.

Date and time of next meeting: Monday 4th April here at GVOC from 10 – 12 with lunch to follow.