

**BLACKPOOL FAIRNESS COMMISSION EXECUTIVE BOARD
THURSDAY, 14th JULY 2016
TRINITY HOSPICE CONFERENCE ROOM, LOW MOOR ROAD**

MINUTES

Present: Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health Blackpool Council (Chair)
Andy Charles, Business in the Community Connector
Marcus Beasley, Blackpool Council
David Houston, Trinity Hospice
Jane Hugo,
Ashok Khandelwal,
Tracy Hopkins, Citizen Advice Bureau
Helen Fairhurst, Tesco/Morrisons
Paul Greenwood, CVS Chairman
Amanda Bennett, Bay Housing Association
Matthew Burrow, NHS
Melanie-Jane Ryal (Minutes)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Neil Jack, Stuart Noble, Alan Reed, Jake Adams, Mike Crowther and Wendy Swift.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th May 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

- 'Inside' a Cage' presentation – AK has written to Warner Brothers regarding the use of the Nickelback track. There was a brief discussion about how best to progress this. JH suggested that AK email her as Amurco can licence music for use and she will look into it.
- Community shop update - AB spoke to Homebase about obtaining the racking, but was told it was to be sent to another store.

All other items were covered under the Agenda.

4. Update on the Community Shop/Farm CLC Re-development

A discussion had been held previously with colleagues from the estates department regarding the development behind the CLC and the farm. The farm was originally to be on Bathurst Avenue, but feedback from the

Action

AK/JH

community showed they wanted to keep the green space. The alternative area suggested was the space behind the CLC which is fenced off directly behind the café. Originally this space was earmarked for the school. It was agreed that MB would email Estates for an update. PG asked if it had been established if the community were happy to have the farm in this area – it had. There was a brief discussion about what could be done if the farm hit a no go in the new area and it was agreed the farm fits better within the CLC. AK noted it would provide a hub for the community. It was mentioned that MC was considering moving his staff team to the CLC to make operating the farm and the shop a more seamless operation.

MB

It was noted there were various plans regarding the re-development of the City Learning Centre which included adding in retail space. AR has secured the room next to the library to run the shop in the interim. This will be moved once work starts on the re-development. It was reported that Groundwork will run the shop along with the farm to avoid the need for another legal entity, it will also make trading between projects more straight forward. AR explained the original reason for keeping the two projects separate was in case only one was viable. The Commission agreed that the farm would not have progressed if MC and Groundwork hadn't pushed it forward.

5. **Options for the future management of the FC - Update**

PG presented a paper on the options available for the future management of the Fairness Commission. There was a brief discussion regarding the merits of setting the Fairness Commission up as a legal entity or nominating a lead organisation. Personal liability was briefly discussed. It was agreed to put a bid into the Tudor Trust. AB noted a decision needed to be made on who would put together a bid for a coordinator that would report to the Commission.

It was felt the Tudor Trust had an interest in Fairness Commissions and it was agreed that AB would speak to them.

AB

TH reported the Citizens Advice Bureau operates on this principle as they are not a statutory service. A discussion about full cost recovery took place. Other business models were also briefly discussed.

It was noted that the Fairness Commission was about the needs of Blackpool and was believed to be a hugely important project for the town. It was felt that the money raised for the Fairness Commission should be not be used to fund the running of it. TH raised concerns about the sustainability of the Commission. AB noted that she had picked up the project again when it stalled despite her no longer working at the council. DH clarified that the business plan should include a contingency plan for if the members of the Fairness Commission changed.

PG noted the Fairness Commission works because it doesn't suffer from

having an agenda that is pushed on it from elsewhere and it's not a business worried about targets set by others. It has the freedom to test new ideas and to truly work for the good of the communities across Blackpool.

6. Blackpool Fulfilling Lives/Cameras - Update

It was reported that Camerados opened on the 19 May and has been a great success. AR mentioned there was money available from the Police and Crime Commissioner that can be utilised for Camerados during out of hours and periods of low footfall. It was stated Camerados currently only opens the same hours as the library as it is not financially viable outside of those times. When it opened at the weekend there hadn't been a huge footfall, but it was felt it would be helpful for lonely people. MB noted he had a meeting with Darren from Time To Change to discuss starting up the champions again and putting them in Camerados.

There was a brief discussion about free breakfasts for primary school children. It was agreed that Camerados would work with Fairshare to provide breakfasts. AR noted two children's centres would offer free breakfasts and it would be publicised. It was agreed this would help the parents who are just below the poverty line. AK suggested that it would be helpful if free parenting education was available at these places. The Commission noted that parenting education was already provided by Better Start.

It was suggested there should be a link to allow the families who claim the free child breakfast to obtain debt advice. TH noted the profile of their clients was that many of them had nothing left after paying all the bills.

It was suggested that Better Start needed to work with Citizen Advice Bureau – AR would ask Merle Davies to make a link with TH.

AR

TH noted that many people assume that the Citizens Advice Bureau is a statutory service, when in fact it's a charity. The advisors are often like counsellors and she noted that they were doing exceptionally well in the GP surgeries. TH noted that she wanted to get to people at an early intervention stage, before the bailiffs were knocking on the door. She reported having staff in the GP surgeries had allowed them to do this.

AC asked which children's centres were being used and suggested that they link up with 'His Provision' in Revoe.

PG noted that the hard to reach individuals would be at these venues. It was noted that the 'hard to reach' individuals were only hard to reach for public sector, not for the third sector such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and others.

TH asked if Camerados had long term sustainability. It was reported Camerados was now looking to pay rent and employ a member of staff and was financially sustainable. It was stated that the project had been

able to break even after 6 weeks, which was hugely impressive. AR noted that lots of people had seen a huge amount of value in the project. It was felt that Camerados had worked due to the partnerships and networks involved.

7. Jobs Friend's Houses

JFH has a good reputation for the work it is doing around recovery communities. The work on the business model is a little more complex and is currently being worked on. JH asked why these updates were being brought to the Fairness Commission and AB reminded the Board that JFH started out as a Fairness Commission project.

8. Peace Centre - Update

AK reported that MC had provided three volunteers to help with the gardening.

Six sessions had been delivered about resilience in the community. This had been publicised to GPs and with printed leaflets. It was reported there had been a good response as it was self-referring. Approximately 30 people sign up. A cut-off point had to be applied of 15-20 people due to the size of the room and the time available. AK reported 20 people started and 16 completed all the sessions.

As part of the project each person was given a plot of land to grow things in. Part of the project was to help them create a dish from the vegetables they had grown. AK stated he wanted someone from Public Health to do a scientific report to ensure there is no bias. It was suggested AR could bring in Liz from his department to put together a evaluation report.

AR

AK suggested these services should be commissioned. He stated if this project goes into the Community it will benefit the local surgeries as those individuals on the trial now have coping strategies.

AR noted there was a need to look at things like resilience and social isolation. He mentioned the CCG only works with a medical model which makes it challenging when trying to discuss things like this with them.

There was a discussion about CCG services. TH noted GPs are now working with their service. There was also a discussion regarding Citizen Advice Bureau's work in the Community. TH reported that for every £1 invested in the service they provide £11 of public value.

TH reported advice sessions had been offered at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and that 60% of staff had attended. TH noted the Citizens Advice Bureau team had found this quite shocking.

9. Blackpool Youth Voice - Update

As JA was not at the meeting this item was deferred.

10. **Fairtrade**

MB noted that he was struggling as there was currently no Chairperson to drive the project forward. He mentioned that Mark Fitzgerald of Sainsbury's appeared to have disengaged with the project.

AR mentioned they were so close to applying for Fairtrade status, it would be a shame to have to start over again. There then followed a discussion about appointing another Chairperson. It was agreed to offer HF the position to Chair the project.

MB to email Mark Fitzgerald.

MB

11. **Blackpool Dementia Alliance**

MB stated a report had been written to raise awareness and get strategic stakeholders involved, improve quality of service delivery and set up a user's voice. DH noted this was not a quick fix. He also remarked they were trying to get all the organisations involved, but there was a lot of volatility in the sector. He noted that the Dementia Alliance grass roots groups were not always the right people in the right places and that buy in at a strategic level was also required.

DH noted that Simone Anderton of Blackpool Victoria Hospital had drafted a dementia plan that was due to be signed off. He also reported Helen Smith was on board from CCG and key representation was coming together. He reported the steering group idea had not yet been discussed with all involved.

DH reported the not for profit and third sector input was still disjointed. He noted there is a need to show that the Blackpool Dementia Alliance could work before the CCG would become involved with the project.

MB reported on the 2020 conference he attended. He also mentioned the Blackpool Boys and Girls Club had completed a Dementia Friends session which went exceptionally well.

A poster to highlight alcohol awareness was shown to the Commission. DH asked if there was any information for the children at school. AR noted extra help was available in the schools.

AR noted there was lots of positive things going on and thanked both MB and DH for their contribution.

12. **Children's Summit/Fairness Awards**

Fairness Awards – It was agreed to bring this to a couple of schools and youth clubs. How it progressed would be determined by the children. It was suggested the children come up with a criteria for the award by the

next meeting which is in September.

Action

Children's Summit – It was suggested that the children who won the Fairness Awards attend the Children's Summit. MB asked if the same model was to be used. It was noted there was a need to ensure that Park School are involved as there is a long-standing relationship between Park School and the Fairness Commission.

13. Any Other Business

AC presented a paper on the business connector role and what he had achieved during his time in post. AC reported he was moving to Danbro and if they were amenable he would love to still be involved in the Fairness Commission. He mentioned that there was a possibility there could be another business connector, but nothing had been confirmed yet.

It was reported that MB leaves at the end of the month. There was a brief discussion as there was still money available for the post until the end of October. It was agreed that a short term solution was required, AR and AB would work on this.

AR/AB

Date of Next Meeting

14th September 2016