

CYP Voluntary Sector Reference Group Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 14th January 2025

Venue: Kendal Rugby Club

Present:

Co-Chair - Becky Wolstenholme – CYA (BW), Co-Chair - Lisa Handley - Family Action (LH), , Anna Witty – CYA (AW) Sarah Bowman – TNLCF (SB), Mary Biddle – Youth Presence (MB), Pragya Bansiwala – Anti Racist Cumbria (PB), Helen Carter – Francis Scott Trust (HC), Dylan Wilby – The Well Communities (DW), James Baggley – Northern Fells Group (JB), Rhys Toone – Carlisle MENCAP (RT), Guy Thompson – Cumberland Council (GT), Gillian Dickinson – Cumbria Police (GD), Mark Foster – Cumbria Police (MF), Eleanor Ball – Francis Scott Trust (EB), Jen Chambers – PAC Therapy (JC), Rachel Oddy – Remedi (RO), Lesley Ritchie – The Windmill Trust (LR), Lil May – Wave Forward (LM), Kellie Bradburn-Sims - Westmorland & Furness Council (KBS), Lyn Richardson - Westmorland & Furness Council (LR), Joanne Mills – Young Farmers (JM), Juan Shimmin – CYA (JS), Thomas Thorne – CYA (TT.)

1. Meeting Format and Introductions

- Lisa Handley (LH) commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone and outlining the format and ground rules.
- Attendees were asked to briefly introduce themselves stating their name and where they work, so people could make a note and connect at the networking session at the end of the meeting.
- Thomas Thorne (TT) informed the group that he would be taking some photographs and to make him aware if they would not like to be photographed.

2. Apologies

Clare Edwards – CVS, Catherine Coulthard - Prism Arts, Janet Gordon – Cumbria Cerebral Palsy, Tamzin Aitken – Women's Community Matters, Samantha Drude – We Are People First, Holly Wainwright – CADAS, Keelan Early – Cumberland Council, Mark Wear – TNLCF, Lynsey Buckle – Cumbria Family Support, Jade Clifford – iCan Wellbeing CIO, Sarah Penn – CVS, Hannah Wright – Growing Well, Maryann Liddle – Spiral, Kate Jenson – Wigton Youth Station.

3. Neglect Update

LH explained that Steph Smithson has sent her apologies and will speak at our next meeting on 1st April 2025.

There will be a scrutiny event on 22nd January 2025 and LH will represent CYP VSRG there.

4. Recap of last meeting.

The presentation will be circulated with the minutes

LH explained that in the last meeting, we had revisited the sectors represented at the group and identified gaps – the most common suggestions to add were 'neurodivergence', 'environment' and to change culture to 'arts and culture.'

A common thread from last meeting was discussion around information sharing in order to more confidently represent the VSRG at meetings. LH + Anna Witty (AW) introduced a draft webpage

that could be a useful tool for the group to see who the members are:
<https://www.cya.org.uk/voluntary-sector-reference-group>.

JC asked whether the page was for us (VSRG) or families and we suggested initially it is for members of VSRG.

A discussion followed around attending meetings on behalf of VSRG.

MB: concerned about trying to justify the time doing this when they are such a small charity.
LM: suggested a well branded, cohesive group would help build our confidence to do this and wondered how we could feedback to the group following meetings. A discussion happened around ways to do this including a simple form or WhatsApp as suggested options.

5. Stats / Recording

AW informed the group that at the last meeting, a discussion began around collective ways to record and share data. Following this discussion, we have arranged for Lin Wilson from Upshot to introduce Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) to the group with the offer of a free webinar to explore this further. The webinars cover the following topics: Workshop 1: Intro to MEL, Workshop 2: Planning your MEL Strategy, Workshop 3: Ethics of Data Collection, Workshop 4: Data collection during Delivery, Workshop 5: Storytelling. Lin will speak on the meeting on 1st April and the dates for the Webinar will follow.

6. Priorities

BW explained that the focus of today would be to determine what the group priorities should be in order to re-write the Terms of Reference. Members were asked to bring their own organisations top priorities and discuss these together, then as a group, choose the top 5 for VSRG to bring forward.

Groups worked together to produce these (**see photos.**) these will be sent out to the group.

KBS - thought it was great to see how similar everyone's themes were.
LM – wondered how to promote the group and suggested our own branding would be beneficial. She also questioned whether VSRG is the right name for the group – many people agreed.
MB: suggested it would be good for the local YW partnerships to all feed into this group.

Action: Please would you take time to read the priorities chosen and decide the order of importance.

7. Finance Update – Becky Wolstenholme (BW)

(BW) the funding balance for the Voluntary Sector Reference Group currently sits at £4558.70.

8. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. No amendments were suggested, and the minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the previous meeting's discussions and decisions.

9. Any Other Business (sent in advance) – Becky Wolstenholme (Co-Chair)

- PB - ARC is hosting black and brown young people on the 1st of February for planning and delivering a young people led project at the summit later in the year. I would like to reach out to as many people aged 12 – 25 and communities as possible to get more and more young people interested in the event. It will be held at the Pencil Museum and help with transport can be provided. (flyer to be circulated with the minutes.)
SB – suggested asking these young people to work on a VSRG Logo and branding as a starting point.
- BW Cumberland Public Transport Manager Leanne Beverley would appreciate you sharing the survey with young people around public transport:
<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/news/2024/all-aboard-change-shape-cumberlands-bus-routes-ps5-million-investment>. It is for the Cumberland Council area – hard copies are available in libraries and council offices. The survey closes on 31 January. Westmorland and Furness have already completed their survey, but the two teams work closely so if anyone would like to make contact, just ask.
- BW: CYA are completing a mapping exercise with Cumberland Council to establish a foundational understanding of service provision, identify critical gaps and provide actionable recommendations aligned with the NYA Toolkit and section 507B of council's statutory youth requirements. We will be asking for input from the sector, providing the opportunity to inform current and hopefully future provision.
- BW: Reminder that it is WAFs launch of their family Help Strategy this Friday 17th January from 2pm – 4pm at Kendal Town Hall.
- JS Youth Work course enrolment will begin again on 3rd February 2025 and close on 23rd February 2025. Applications are through the Youth Focus North West website: [Training - Youth Focus North West](#). Courses run online, term time only. The Level 4 qualification is also live; apply direct via the NYA website. It is for those who already have a level 3 or managers. Please get in touch with CYA if you would like to have a chat about it.

No further business.

Meeting closed.

Note: The above minutes are a condensed summary of the Voluntary Sector Reference Group Meeting and may not capture all details discussed during the meeting.