

## The City Together Voluntary Sector Sub Group 2 December 2010 at St Magnus the Martyr

### Present:

Thomas Brettle, City YMCA, Finance Director, [thomas.brettle@cityymca.org](mailto:thomas.brettle@cityymca.org)  
Paula Graham, Fossbox CIC, [paula@fossbox.org.uk](mailto:paula@fossbox.org.uk)  
Lindsay Peniston, CITY.COMM Information & Communications Officer, [info@citycomm.org.uk](mailto:info@citycomm.org.uk) (notes)  
Davina Pilkington, City Action, [davina.pilkington@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:davina.pilkington@cityoflondon.gov.uk)  
Emma Plouviez, CITY.COMM, Organisational Development Officer [eplouviez@citycomm.org.uk](mailto:eplouviez@citycomm.org.uk) )  
Emma Sirett, City Action, [emma.sirett@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:emma.sirett@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### Apologies:

Afia Begum, Community Development Officer, Bishopsgate Institute, [afia.begum@bishopsgate.org.uk](mailto:afia.begum@bishopsgate.org.uk)  
Lorraine Butler, City Citizens' Advice Bureau, [lbutler@city-cab.org.uk](mailto:lbutler@city-cab.org.uk) (chair)  
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Action

1. Emma Plouviez welcomed everyone to the meeting and chaired it in the absence of Lorraine. Apologies were recorded.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (9 September 2010) were approved.
3. **Matter Arising not included on the agenda:**  
The Compact (minute 4) is now under review, pending changes by the Coalition Government. The group will need to review it again once the new National Compact is known. The subject was deferred until the new National Compact is published.
4. **CITY.COMM Update**  
Emma reminded the group that the only funding to continue for CITY.COMM from April 2011 is for 3 days of Organisational Development work per week.  
Lindsay circulated flyers about the next Funding Conference, hosted jointly by CITY.COMM and Voluntary Action Westminster on Thursday 27 January 2011 at Conway Hall. This was postponed from 25 November in order to meet the needs of Westminster groups.  
Organisational Development support had been given to FOSSBOX who had successfully gained two grants for IT projects.  
OD work at Portsoken continues and Emma is also helping a City church to establish good governance procedures.  
Davina sought help to support churches as many companies will not support organisations with a religious affiliation. Can we consider ways of promoting church-based projects to City businesses?  
FOSSBOX would welcome an opportunity to consider working with CAB.
5. **The City Together – 2007 LAA Reward Allocation**  
Emma explained that CITY.COMM would be applying on behalf of Portsoken but also for CITY.COMM to continue supporting the Voluntary Sector: providing bulletins, funding information, a website, database etc. She will check if it's possible to submit two bids for different organisations.

EP

EP

The Voluntary Sector's current representatives on the City Together Board are named as Loraine Butler and Mark Pudge. Due to Mark leaving, the group agreed that Emma Plouviez should represent the Sub Group at the next meeting. EP

The Voluntary Sector Sub Group needs to know what its role is with regard to applications, as all applications must be submitted through a Sub Group. Emma to clarify expectations of the Sub Group (ie is it required to filter or recommend projects to be supported?) EP

Alan Hughes is happy to be contacted to answer queries regarding bids. ALL

NB Since receiving clarification that this group is responsible for checking applications that are put forward to the Town Clerk's Department, a deadline for applications of 17 January has been set. Applications will be circulated by email to members of the group for checking and comment. ALL

## 6. Voluntary Sector Strategy

Members of the Sub Group had been invited to submit further ideas for the paper 'Big Society in the City – forward from 2011' following the September meeting and Emma P had completed the version circulated for this meeting. Emma P explained that, as this group also performs the task of being the ChangeUp Consortium (which ends in March 2011), this paper is based on outcomes that were defined as ChangeUp work for the City.

The Sub Group agreed unanimously that a bid for LAA funding to continue infrastructure support for the City's voluntary sector should be based on this document's future priorities. Voluntary groups will be increasingly seen as a way of delivering children's and young people's services. Infrastructure support, capacity building and networking will become even more essential than they are now. Groups need support to get funding, to enable networking, to build consortia, and to access information on policy and practice. Emma will develop a bid based on the future priorities. EP

Group members affirmed the need to refer to each other in funding bids so that we are seen to be sharing resources and delivering the strategy together. ALL

## 7. Issues and priorities for Sub Group members

### City Action

City Action is finding that community partners are under pressure so they are considering whether they have a role to play in that. A recent 2-hour workshop looked at Leadership and Management in the Voluntary Sector; Governance – the role of Boards; Big Society (summary and analysis). This was an event for Chairs and Directors of organisations.

170 businesses are registered with City Action and accounts are divided amongst the staff. They target businesses not currently involved in community engagement, providing information, resources and help in developing CSR policies.

From February 2011 the focus will be on cross-sector partnerships and innovative ways in which sectors can work together. They are undergoing a business planning process at present.

Davina explained how the CSR office and City Action are organised within the Corporation and highlighted its unique position in being both internal and external facing, but it is also a programme that is not found in other local authorities.

City Action also runs partnership schemes with the City Fringe

## **City YMCA**

Business planning is also being undertaken earlier than usual in order to try and understand what will be possible. The funding for many of the programmes run by City YMCA will end in the next 12 months. None of the funders is prepared to say how they will act after that.

## **FOSSBOX**

Paula had also begun business planning but had foundered quite soon, as it is not possible to know what state groups will be in. Groups are not yet able to say what they will need and we don't yet know what the Government's priorities will be.

### **8. Cabinet Office Survey – Supporting a Stronger Civil Society**

Members of the group were encouraged to complete the survey. Hard copies of the online survey were tabled. A more detailed introduction to the survey is available on the Cabinet Office website, along with a link to the online survey. This consultation is important as it will assess the need for infrastructure support of the Voluntary Sector. There is a focus on individual leadership rather than groups.

ALL

### **9. Any Other Business**

We wondered whether City Action and CITY.COMM could explore cross fertilisation of communications.

EP/LP/DP/ES

Is there an opportunity to set up a forum of Voluntary Sector and businesses? There are some very basic community needs. Can businesses be educated to help community groups with whom they are engaged to access support, resources and services?

EP/DP/ES

### **10. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 24 February 2011, 10.30am-12.30pm. In Committee Room 1 at the Guildhall. Names of attendees to be provided in advance.

LP