

Minutes of Reps Meeting

Southville Centre Beaulley Road

Date: 4 June 2008

Attending:

Name

Simon Bale

David Maggs

Elaine Flint

Halina Pasiecznik

Wendy Stephenson

Matthew Symonds

Billy Odilmuzor (sub:Solomon Fubara)

Mike Timmins

Mike Shotter(Sub: Alex Raikes)

Debbie Clark

Annie Danes(sub: Liz Potter)

Caroline Casswell

Ruth Pitter

Stephen Hewitt

Henry Lawes

Organisation

Churches Council for Industry and Social Responsibility (CCISR)

CCISR

Social Enterprise Works (SEW)

Vivid Regeneration

Voscur

Voscur

Centre for Employment and Enterprise Development(CEED)

Training Learning Consultancy (TLC)

Support after Racist Incidents (SARI)

Care & Repair

West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL)

Bristol Shopmobility

Voscur

Bristol City Council

Fairbridge West

Apologies

Phil Morgan

Alex Raikes

Heather Malcolm

Tony Gosling

The Care Forum

SARI

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (LGB) Forum

1.	Welcome and Introduction	Action
	<p>Wendy Stephenson introduced Simon Bale and gave a brief history of Voscur's relationship with the Bristol Partnership. Voscur elects and supports reps to the Partnership.</p> <p>Matthew Symonds has circulated the proposals to restructure the Bristol Partnership. It will become a much more streamlined structure. There are concerns over what will happen to voluntary sector representation on the Partnership, as it would seem to be much reduced.</p>	
2.	<p>Simon Bale</p> <p>The Peer Review of the Bristol Partnership was published in March / April 2008. Prior to the review the Partners had attended an away day to give everyone a chance to say how they felt and to ask questions.</p> <p>The Partnership as an idea has great potential but all the Partners agreed it was not working to achieve its aim, to benefit Bristol.</p>	

The Peer Review is a very important tool, although it is not going to be easy to reform the Partnership. A meeting to discuss the proposals for reform is to be held on 16 June.

SB went through the proposals, as detailed on the hand-out. Originally there had been 85 partners, this has been reduced to 31 and the proposal is to reduce this number again. This will make the voluntary sector representation smaller.

Bristol City Council has a big role, but not the core role in the proposals for the Bristol Partnership. The new Chief Executive of the Council, Jan Ormondroyd wants the council to be involved but not in control of the Partnership.

SB has suggested that Voscur should be an agency that is on the Executive Board of the Partnership, as Voscur is an umbrella organisation. There are concerns that when the new Executive Board is created then the voluntary sector will be excluded.

This meeting today is a chance for those present to formulate something that is fit for Bristol.

3. Comments invited

David Maggs:

The narrative of power is important, there needs to be reassurance that the Bristol Partnership will have power restored. The structure of the Partnership is something to be considered once the role and power allocated to it is discussed.

Wendy Stephenson:

Agrees with DM (above). Key questions such as how will the Partnership allocate spend to priorities and how will it make decisions need to be answered. People have dedicated vast resources and time to the Bristol Partnership and are now asking to what end?

Halina Pasiiecznik

The first issue is what is the sphere of influence on the Partnership? The second issue is that there needs to be a broader representation in terms of neighbourhood working and linking with residents' voices. The current LAA targets are set and there seems to have been no collective vision from the Partnership.

Stephen Hewitt

There needs to be clarity on the purpose of the Bristol Partnership before deciding if it is fit for purpose.

Halina Pasiiecznik, David Maggs and Simon Bale will be present at the proposals discussion on 16th June 2008.

The point has been raised by Voscur that there has not been a general invitation circulated. Simon Bale as the Chair of the Partnership invites everyone present at this meeting.

23 June 2008 – a briefing will be held at 8.30am at the Council House on the outcomes of the proposals meeting on 16 June.

4. Discussion Groups

Please see attached notes.

It was decided that instead of discussing the questions on the agenda, there would be general discussion in groups over the input for the proposals meeting on 16 June.

5. Reps Training Needs Questionnaire

Ruth Pitter explained that Voscur had received funding from the Equalities and Human Rights Forum to offer training to Reps. Previous training has identified that people have specific knowledge on areas of equalities rather than a broad knowledge. Voscur want to help expand on this knowledge and asked all reps to complete the form. The questionnaire will be available in an online format, the link to which will be circulated this afternoon.

6. AOB

Simon Bale thanked those present as he feels more encouraged to carry on being Chair of the Bristol Partnership by the views he has received today.