



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at RISC on 9th July 2008.

1. Peter Burt welcomed everybody as the Forum Chair and asked the 57 attendees to introduce themselves.
2. **Apologies** had been received from Cllr Tom Steele, Angela Wills, Tomiko Morley, Cllr Mark Ralph, Jenny Cottee, Jean Jeffcoate, Eddie Winship, Joan Lewis, Susan Van Beveren, Cllr Bet Tickner, Bob O'Neill, Ben Cross, Peter, Beard, Tessa Dove, Claire Morgan.

3. Minutes of The Forum AGM 2007

The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the AGM held on 8th November 2007 in delegates' packs and asked if these could be approved as a true record.

Proposed: Steve Masters Seconded: Malcolm Stone AGREED unanimously

The Chair asked if there were any matters arising from those minutes – none were raised.

4. Annual Report and Accounts 2007-8

The Chair referred delegates to the Annual Report and thanked Kyocera-Mita for their support in its production.

In outlining the work of The Forum during the year the Chair also thanked The Forum committee members and The Stronger Together team.

The Chair highlighted some key aspects of the Annual Report:

- (i) The Stronger Together project, a consortium of The Forum, the Faith Forum, RCVYS, Sakoma and Reading Voluntary Action that had successfully bid for Lottery BASIS grant to support and develop the effectiveness of those forums. A full complement of staff for the Stronger Together team, which is based in offices at RISC in London Street, is now in place and already making a difference.
- (ii) Reading 2020 Local Strategic Partnership – the Chair outlined the brief history of the LSP, the organisational review that had taken place and its new structure. A key feature of the Reading LSP had

been the strong VCS contribution which, with representation from the sector on the strategic board reduced to 2 places, would present a challenge to the representatives to be elected for the coming two years.

Social Inclusion Advisory Group – the Chair highlighted the almost unique nature of this group, with the VCS leading a response through its pilot study to the Government’s agenda for the interface between young people and community safety issues. The Final Report from the pilot was accepted by the Local Strategic Partnership and by the Children & Young Person’s Strategic Partnership, now known as the Children’s Trust. The SIAG would take forward a new programme as detailed in the report recommendations through: a Management Group to steer the programme; and panels to implement the scrutiny of the individual Equality Impact Assessments agreed within the work plan. The Chair particularly highlighted the work of Tim Clewer throughout this process and Anne Laing for her work in bringing it into a new phase of full implementation.

There was a correction to the list of Forum representatives in the Annual Report: Jackie Overbuy was the representative on the 0-6 CYPSP sub-group, not Ruth Fleming.

With reference to the annual accounts the Chair noted that The Forum finances were healthy, with a reasonable balance in the bank.

There were no questions on the Annual Report and Accounts and acceptance of these was Proposed: Vic Hills Seconded: Malcolm Stone AGREED unanimously.

5. Election of Forum Representatives

Introducing the election of Forum Representatives, the Chair said he would deal with this item in sections, handing over to The Forum Co-ordinator Paul Harper for the ballot for election of the representatives to the Reading 2020 LSP.

The Chair highlighted the uncontested nominations and, where vacancies still existed, asked for any nominations from the floor – explaining the work of respective groups as requested with the assistance of others involved in them. In addition the list of nominees delegated to RCVYS, to be endorsed by The Forum, was considered.

The Forum was asked to consider the election of representatives collectively as set out in the schedule below.

Proposed: Bianca Gallipoli Seconded: Ruth Fleming AGREED unanimously

The Forum Chair	Rajinder Sohpal
The Forum Committee	Malcolm Stone - RFTRA Cecily Mwaniki - Utulivu Peter Burt – Reading Credit Union Steve Masters - BOLGaF Laura Johnson Collard - RCVYS Chris Turner - Reading CAB David Bertram - Reading Credit Union
Social Inclusion Advisory Group (SIAG)	Tim Clewer - RCVYS Nina Sethi – RCRE
SIAG scrutiny groups	Joe Akem-Che – SPAAK Educare Helen Arnold – St. Mungo’s Victor Koromo - RCRE
Compact Steering Group	Vic Hills -YMCA Bianca Gallipoli - BACYP Rajinder Sohpal – Chair of The Forum Mike Martin – Director RVA
Connect Reading	Karen Morton - Coeliac UK, Berkshire Richard Usher – Trustee Connect Reading
Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)	Helen Arnold, St. Mungo’s
Physical Disability and Sensory Needs Partnership Board	Steve Masters – BOLGaF
Reading Learning Disability Partnership	Helen Hart, Reading Mencap
Healthier Reading Partnership (HRP)	Chris Turner – Reading CAB
Reading Declaration Group	A further VCS place is reserved to Reading Council for Racial Equality.
Reading Children’s Trust (RCT) (formerly the C hildren and Y oung P ersons S trategic P artnership)	Karen Ross (Director of Relate) Dave Seward (Berkshire Association of Clubs for Young People)

RCT Agenda Setting group	Dave Seward (BAYCP)
RCT Joint Commissioning Group	Laura Johnson Collard (Children's Information Centre)
RCT Early Years Group	Jackie Oversby (Home Start Reading)
RCT 14 -19 Group	VACANT
RCT Integrated Youth Prevention Group	Chris West (Reach Team)
RCT School Improvement Group	Jo Akem (SPAACK Educare Learning Centre)
RCT Children with complex needs group	Leah Cripps (Dingley Family and Play therapy group)
RCT Emotional Well-being group	Rose Blackadder (No 5 Youth Counselling and Information)
Children's Workforce Development Group	Dave Seward (BAYCP) Ben Cross (RCVYS)
Locality Steering Groups	Cathy Lamsdale (Caversham Hill Toddlers) Alison Steedman (Duke of Edinburgh's Award)
	Karen Ross (Relate Berkshire)
	VACANT
	Dave Seward (BAYCP) Sarah Mayhew (Communicare)
	Tim Clewer (Mustard Tree Foundation) VACANT
Local Safeguarding Children Board	Tim Clewer (Mustard Tree Foundation)
NEET Taskforce	Nick Wooldridge (Vinvolved/BAYCP)

The Chair handed over to The Forum Co-ordinator, Paul Harper, for the conduct of the contested election to the two positions as Forum Representatives on Reading 2020, the Local Strategic Partnership.

PH drew the attention of delegates to the candidates' statements in their packs, explained the ballot process and said that each of the three candidates would have the opportunity to address the meeting for 2 minutes each in support of their candidacy.

The candidates, Tim Clewer, Mike Martin and Rajinder Sohpal were invited in turn to address the meeting.

Representatives were asked to cast their votes, which were then counted and reported to the meeting as follows:

Tim Clewer: 34 votes Mike Martin: 22 votes Rajinder Sohpal: 16 votes

Tim Clewer and Mike Martin were therefore elected as The Forum Representatives to the LSP for the period 2008 – 2010.

PH explained that there were two places available as deputies for The Forum's representatives; Peter Burt had indicated his willingness to stand for one and

Rajinder Sohpal indicated his willingness to stand for the other. Their election was Proposed: Mikko Summala Seconded: Vic Hills AGREED unanimously

In addition to the printed election schedule it was now known that the 50++ Partnership Group would be formally constituted later this year. Janet Brown and Steve Masters had indicated a willingness to stand as Forum representatives and their election was Proposed: Mikko Summala Seconded: Vic Hills AGREED unanimously.

This concluded the formal business of the AGM.

6. Workshop on Voluntary & Community Sector Priorities

The Chair outlined the background to the workshop and the purpose in identifying the sectors' own priority aims for action alongside those arising from the formal partnership agendas.

Delegates broke up into groups for facilitated discussion and identification of shared priorities as follows:

Children and Families: facilitated by Rachel Spencer
Community Safety and Inclusion: facilitated by Joanita Lwanga
Elderly Persons, Disability and Mental Health: facilitated by Malcolm Stone
Environment, Culture, Leisure and Sport: facilitated by Mikko Summala
Voluntary Sector Infrastructure and Support: facilitated by Anne Laing

Rapporteurs from each working group reported back on their identified priority issues as set out in the attached notes from the sessions.

A plenary discussion was then led by the Chair – see notes attached – and volunteers from the groups were then identified to help take forward the development of the priority themes with a view to developing the rationale for these, providing substantiating evidence and refining the VCS position and aim alongside The Forum Committee members.

Names: Alan Magness (CCA), Robert Paice (RVA), Karen Morton (Coeliac UK, Berkshire), Bianca Gallipoli(BACYP), Oliver Parris (BACYP), Neville Wheeler (YMCA)

7. Conclusion and date of next Forum meeting

The Chair expressed his thanks for the participation of delegates and for the successful organisation of the event by Paul Harper and all the volunteers who assisted.

Peter Burt then handed over to the new Chair of The Forum, Rajinder Sohpal who offered his sincere thanks to PB for all his hard work and dedication as Chair, in particular his approach to inclusion, which he had acted on in practice.

The next Forum event would be on 15th October 12 – 3.00 pm at RISC.

The meeting ended at 7.00 pm followed by networking and light refreshments.