

Minutes of the Stronger Together Consortium Committee and The Forum Committee Joint Meeting

Monday 15th March 2010, 4.00pm - 5.30pm, Room 3
 RISC, 35 - 39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

Attending

Rajinder Sohpal (RS)	Chair
Steve Masters (SMa)	The Forum
Eddie Winship (EW)	The Forum
Deborah Wilson (DW)	The Forum
Cecily Mwaniki (CM)	The Forum
Sarah Morland (SMo)	Stronger Together Consortium, RVA
Ruth Spicer (RSp)	Stronger Together Consortium, RVA
Nigel Hardcastle (NH)	Stronger Together Consortium, RFF
Tim Clewer (TC)	Stronger Together Consortium, RCVYS
Anne Laing (AL)	Stronger Together
Anna Fowler (AF)	Stronger Together

Apologies

Peter Burt (PB)	The Forum
Nick Wooldridge (NW)	The Forum
Mrs Mignon Michael (MM)	Stronger Together Consortium, Sakoma
Alan Magness (AM)	Stronger Together Consortium, RFF
Chris Turner (CT)	The Forum

Summary of Actions

No.	Agenda Item	Action	Allocated to
1.	1	Amend the minutes of 7.12.09	AF
2	2	Investigation of Performance Reward Grant issues	AL
3.	3a	Distribution of statutory sector stakeholder survey	AL
4.	3b	Organising a sub-committee meeting to sign off BLF end of year report	AF
5.	4	Investigation into VCS representation on the Crime and Disorder Partnership now known as the Community Safety Partnership	AL
6.	4	Planning and organisation of Forum AGM an Annual Report	AF

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Ruth Spicer as a new committee member.

1. Minutes of the joint Stronger Together Consortium/Forum Committee Meeting, 7th December 2010

SMA requested that pg4, item 7 of the minutes of last meeting be amended to rather reflect his dissatisfaction of statutory partners responses to SIAG on TVP Training for officers in police custody suites.

2. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes

The Christmas Lunch did not provide the anticipated opportunity to meet with local councillors, and a meeting has yet to be arranged. It was felt that this would now not be possible until after the general election. It was suggested that local councillors with the VCS portfolio or those with particular interest areas should be invited to the Forum AGM.

AL reported that the continuation strategy had now been submitted to the BLF, but not to the LSP as yet and would be part of the Performance Reward Grant debate. RS requested that the capital spend on PRG should be looked into further.

AF reported that the vacant Forum Voice position on the Healthier Reading Partnership had yet to be filled, but recommended that this be done at the Forum AGM, when all rep positions are up for re-election.

Part A - Stronger Together Business

3. Stronger Together Manager's report

a. Year 3 Programme

AL discussed the planned activities for Year 3, and highlighted key activities including: the Visioning feedback from the Vision and Voice event; Independent Safeguarding Authority Vetting and Barring Scheme (ISA VBS) information sessions; facilitated workshops using the new 'visioning toolkit'; the Sakoma Safer Communities event and the ongoing First Aid courses.

The Partnership Involvement Programme has been delayed, but is now scheduled to start on 19th April 2010.

NH reported that the Faith Walk will now take place in the second week of September, and that the Faith and Friendship conference has been postponed. This will probably be replaced by a Faith and Mental Health event. The 'Faith and Fear' themed event has been dropped due to a similar event having taken place recently.

AL will distribute this year's statutory sector stakeholder survey.

There was a brief discussion on the theme for October's joint event. RS suggested commissioning, and AL suggested following up on the last year's personalisation event with a link to commissioning.

b. End of Year Report for Year 2

AL is currently working on the BLF end of year report, which needs to be submitted by 22nd April 2010. A sub-committee meeting (suggested date of Friday 16th April at 10.30 at RISC) will be held to sign off the report.

c. BLF Update on Year 4 Proposal

Stronger Together's application to use the project's underspend to fund a Year 4 has been accepted, although it will have to be resubmitted in the middle of Year 3 when there will be a better indication of the total underspend anticipated.

d. Financial Report 3rd Quarter

There is an underspend on salary due to maternity leave, and there is currently no part-time cover for this position. The funding has been used to buy in support in planning the Vision & Voice Conference content. Current unrecorded staff training costs will be included in the end of the year figures. There is also an underspend on committee expenses, although this year's events programme is closer to a full spend.

AL reminded committee members to submit any representative claims forms by the end of the month to be included in this financial year.

Part B- The Forum and Wider Network

4. The Forum AGM

The date and venue of The Forum AGM was approved - June 30th at RISC.

Content was discussed, with a preference being shown for a post-election themed AGM. It was felt that the AGM could present a networking and 'listening' opportunity for new councillors, and that the AGM should include a Q&A panel made up of local politicians.

AL reminded the committee that some of them will be approached for content for the Annual Report.

AF reminded the committee that all Forum Voice (including LSP Reps and Deputies) positions, The Forum Committee Chairmanship, plus any vacancies on the Forum Committee are up for election at the AGM. Members were asked to submit nomination forms, as appropriate, should they wish to stand.

In response to a question from TC, AL suggested a formal letter to the Crime and Disorder Partnership, now known as the Community Safety Partnership, enquiring about VCS representation. TC also suggested raising it at the LSP management group.

5. Issues from the Wider Network

EW informed the committee of developments within Reading Community Radio, including the provision of a new accredited training course, in conjunction with Berkshire Scout Enterprises and the planned 24-7 internet streaming of broadcasts. Although supported by a wide range of local community organisations, funding is still an issue for RCR. It was suggested that ST look into ways of supporting RCR.

DW suggested that RCR and Reading CAB work together on 15 minute broadcasts giving debt advice, as they are currently overwhelmed with debt enquiries.

TC raised the issue of reduced funding from Berkshire NHS West's Partnership Development Fund, in particular concerning ongoing project costs which may have been funded for the first year, but then had funding declined for a year 2 or 3.

SMo confirmed that with the departure of Jeremy Sandell from Reading Voluntary Action, that Hazel Broad would be the new VCS LSP rep (moving from her deputy rep role).

RS informed the committee that there will be a South-East region conference taking place in Reading Town Hall on 17th May on the subject of BME issues within the VCS.

RS closed the meeting by remembering Forum Committee member Malcolm Stone, who died at the beginning of March. The committee joined him in expressing their appreciation for the time and dedication he devoted to Reading's voluntary and community sector.

6. Date of Next Stronger Together Consortium Committee and Forum Committee Joint Meeting

Tuesday 15th June 2010, 16.00 - 18.30,
Room 3, RISC, 35 - 39 London Street, RG1 4PS