



VCS

15 July 2009

PCAE

**Present:** Richard Astle (RA), Chair  
Ed Murphy (EM), Gladstone Connect  
Denise Radley (DR), Director of Adult Social Services & Performance  
David Birch (DB),  
Jean Hunt (JH), Senior Citizens Forum  
Maheebub Ladha (MJ), Director, Peterborough Racial Equality Council  
Pat Murphy (PM), Family Mediation  
Sue Rampal (SR), GPP Asst Cohesion Manager  
Alan Lord (AL), Family Care  
Maureen Jobson, Minute taker, GPP

### **1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from: Lindsay Burrows-McGill, Adrian Chapman, Jane Darling, Hilary Geisow, Cate Harding, Chris Harper, Louise Harrison, Keith Jones, Naomi Jones.

### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting:**

Previous minutes from the meeting held on 8 May 2009 were agreed as accurate.

### **3. Performance Update from Partnerships**

A presentation was given by RA showing the performance against the National Indicator Set.

- The red status showed serious acquisitive crime (SAC), was up.
- There was a danger that the partnerships could end up becoming more concerned about the actual statistics rather than in searching for solutions.
- There was evidence that recycling levels had fallen. It was not clear whether people were just becoming more complacent or that because of the economic downturn people are not throwing as much away.
- The overall employment rate was down and it is unlikely that earnings of employees will rise.
- IPerformance was not being achieved regarding carers. There was however a 16% reduction in under 18 conception rate but the data is 2 year behind.
- Cessation of smoking had exceeded target.

It was suggested that we need to be better at changing plans if the original is not working and to do this we need to scope the problems and information gathered has to be accurate to reflect problem areas.

We need also to show the voluntary sector how, if their work is structured in specific ways it can help us achieve targets. It should also be explained that where work may not have a direct impact on targets, information they gather could.

#### **4. Questions to be raised by VCS representatives for future board meetings.**

This item was deferred to the next meeting

#### **5. Future Job Fund**

Peterborough has been badly affected by downturn and we need to assess the effect. A Matrix was being developed.

There are 2 key areas. The number of Job Seekers reached a plateau in April however predictions are we will see further increases. Private housing has stopped although affordable housing is increasing.

There are support mechanisms and children services already in existence in deprived areas for families with children between 0-8/9 year old.

The government launched Future Jobs Fund to create jobs for young people unemployed for 12 months. It is expected that jobs created would give skills/experience to individuals creating better opportunities to secure gainful employment. The age criterion does not apply to areas of hotspots. 27 partners have bid for jobs. A central support team will be created to support individuals. A bid will be sent in today for £1million to create further opportunities.

#### **6. VCS Strategy Group**

The terms of reference and format of meetings had been discussed for the new group with membership being open to any voluntary sector. A summary of actions/questions to be raised within partnerships included:

- Attendance of meetings
- Being properly prepared
- Representatives from sector as a whole
- Being properly informed
- Provide feedback.

Suggestions of a web site was raised which would be from the voluntary community sector.

There was further discussion about the respective roles of the VCS Group and the PIC. It was agreed to defer further discussion until the next meeting.

#### **7. Any other business**

There was no other business brought to the meeting

#### **Date of Next Meetings:**

18<sup>th</sup> November 2-4pm at Bridgegate

26 January 2pm – 4.30pm ASBAH