

**East Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)
Area Network**

Minutes of the Meeting held on: **Thursday 8 September 2016 1.00 p.m. at Ryhope Cricket Club**

1. Introductions and Apologies

Attendees

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|------------------------|---|
| 1. Cllr Ellen Ball | Ryhope Ward (co-Chair) |
| 2. Lisa Wilson Riddell | The Box Youth Centre (East VCS Rep) |
| 3. Hazel Clark | Hendon Young Peoples Project (East VCS Rep) |
| 4. Jen McKeivitt | Back on the Map (East VCS Rep) |
| 5. Eddy Moore | Long Streets Action Group |
| 6. Jackie Pitt | Gentoo |
| 7. Elaine Harbron | Sunderland Council |
| 8. Lesley Errington | Young Asian Voices |
| 9. Nicol Trueman | Sunderland Council |
| 10. Joe Lemon | Ryhope Sea Angling Club |
| 11. Jackie Kent | Access Counselling |
| 12. Cllr McClennan | Hendon Ward |
| 13. Cllr Paula Hunt | Ryhope Ward |
| 14. Cllr Betty Gibson | Doxford Ward |
| 15. Steven Rylance | Blue Watch Youth Centre |
| 16. Susan Ferguson | Blue Watch Youth Centre |
| 17. Tony Kenny | The Boars Head |
| 18. P Smith | The Boars Head |
| 19. Lynn Summerside | Sit N B Fit |
| 20. Dean T Huggins | Sunderland BME Network |
| 21. Steve Donkin | The Young Foundation |
| 22. Rebecca Ball | Sunderland 2021 |
| 23. Allison Clarke | SCC Libraries |
| 24. Marie Brett | SCC Libraries |
| 25. Janette Hilton | Living History NE |

Apologies

- | | |
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| 1. Ross Wares | Ryhope CA (co-chair) |
| 2. Angela Sinclair | Gentoo |
| 3. Cllr Marshall | Doxford Ward |
| 4. Cllr Dixon | St Michaels Ward |
| 5. Cllr Wood | St Michaels Ward |

6. Martin Dent	Sunderland Maritime Museum
7. Pam Jameson	Sunderland Floral Art Club
8. Cllr Alan Emerson	Ryhope Ward
9. Trish Cornish	VCAS
10. Sgt Tom Connor	Northumbria Police
11. Dave Lynn	ASB Team, Sunderland Council
12. Bobby Surtees	Ryhope Sea Angling Club
13. Dave Burke	Bethany City Church
14. Paul Baker	Thornholme Residents Association
15. Angela Sinclair	Gentoo
16. Cllr Kay	Millfield Ward
17. Peter Curtis	NE Sports

1. Introduction and Apologies

Cllr Ball made the Network aware that Ross has had a serious operation last week. The Network wished Ross a speedy recovery and agreed to send a card.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: 8 September 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016 were circulated and agreed a true record with no matters arising.

This item was not on the agenda, but due to its importance the Chair agreed to add it.

3. Library Review

Marie Brett and Allison Clarke, Sunderland City Council, Library Services

Marie explained the purpose of her visit and thanked the Chair and Network for allowing her to come along. It was noted that libraries are a statutory duty, and authorities must provide a comprehensive and efficient service. However, the terms comprehensive and efficient have not been defined. A review is currently on going which will be informed by a data driven mapping exercise. To complement the review two online questionnaire are 'live' for children and adults to complete. Hard copies are also available.

The current model consists of one library hub in each of the five wards, with an outreach service provided. In the East the hub is the City library with the outreach service being provided in Ryhope. The service is supported by 147 book collection points which work extremely well.

The review has been brought on due to the financial position of the authority. Already £237m had been saved, with a further £74m saving target to reach by 2019 / 2020. From the cultural budget £2m needs to be cut from 2017 / 2018. We need everyone's help to make sure the right decisions are made. To support the review we are going out to shopping centres to reach people, especially non users. We are wanting suggestions on how we can deliver public library services in the future. We

are happy to attend other meetings, or arrange 1-2-1 with groups.

The library service is recognised at a national level and consists of five elements, these are: i) health, ii) quality assured information to contribute towards self help, iii) digital, iv) learning and iv) reading.

It was noted that many VCS Sector buildings have information points, IT suites, book collection points and a clear want to help continue library services in the future.

Everyone was asked to complete the questionnaire and encourage others to do so.

The survey is accessed via

http://sunderland-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/city_services/culture_and_tourism/library_review_consultation

The consultation closes on 21st October 2016. If you would any further information between now and then about the review please contact Marie Brett, Assistant Head of Service (Library Services) on 0191 561 7570 or at marie.brett@sunderland.gov.uk

4. UK City of Culture 2021

Rebecca Ball, Sunderland 2021

Rebecca explained that the deadline for the UK City of Culture 1st round of applications is March 2017. 2nd round earlier Autumn with an announcement in November 2017.

Currently the City lever in £1.26 per person, per year from the National Arts Council which is way under the national average. If Culture status was granted to the city it could generate future investment. For instance, the last city to be awarded the status generated approximately £100m investment.

Over the next four/five months further consultation will be carried out, around five pillars which has come from the public consultation carried out too date, via roadshows, Sun FM, launch night, events and activities across the city. The five pillars are:

- i) Profile and Reputation: shining a light at a national and international level
- ii) Desire for young people to benefit: aspire, empower, leadership – how do we get young people involved?
- iii) Health and wellbeing: get active – singing, writing, reading, sport – whatever it is that makes you happy
- iv) Cohesion: connecting communities and reducing isolation.
- v) Creative economy: supporting space, training and investment.

If anyone is interested in the five pillars 2021 are keen to work with you.

The Network acknowledged the importance of raising the profile, pride and reputation of the city and were pleased to see this included. Also, there were four youth providers in attendance at the meeting, all of whom were keen to work with 2021 to ensure that young people were involved in the process and their

views/thoughts reflected in the bid.

It was noted that the contribution the BME community bring to the city should be acknowledged, and many good examples exist which can be built upon e.g. journey to justice, our journey, our roots, our city.

A successful bid needs to express three elements:

1. Passion: the Want
2. Need: the impact and difference it will make
3. Capacity: what's brilliant that we already deliver and can build / expand upon

It was agreed that everyone in the Network had to get involved.

There was a challenge set by the Chair, Cllr Ball. This was for all of us to get behind the UK City of Culture 2021 bid for Sunderland.

To do this:

- Check out their website here: <http://www.sunderland2021.com/> and see what you can do
- Like and Share the videos on Facebook accessed from youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDLtD1cnz5OHXl7YfqNWk3Q>
- Talk about it to your work colleagues, family and friends – get excited.

If you want to find out more contact the Sunderland 2021 Team, via Email: info@sunderland2021.com Tel: 0191 566 0974 Sunderland 2021, St Thomas Street Office Centre, Suite 19 4 St Thomas Street, Sunderland, SR1 1NW, United Kingdom

5. Celebrating the East's heritage and historical assets

Nicol provided the Network with an update on the area priority and promoted a workshop being held on the 12 October 2016, 12.30pm in CHANCE. The workshop will discuss suggestions to date, with an opportunity for Network members to add new ideas. The proposals include:

- a) Celebrating the 300th anniversary of the River Wear Commissioner in 2017.
- b) Subject to agreement, work alongside the Sunderland Heritage Forum and deliver the 2018 History Fair with a ship building / tall ships theme.
- c) Dress the East with hand knitted decorations for the Tall Ships to welcome visitors to the East. See images.
- d) Support existing heritage themed events or the creation of new events.
- e) Develop and promote blue plaque trails, possibly including digital versions or guided walks delivered by costumed actors.
- f) Engage schools, youth groups and uniformed groups in heritage led projects specifically relating to the history of East Sunderland.
- g) Establish a 'heritage reward and recognition scheme' to acknowledge the outstanding achievements and dedication of history volunteers and groups in the East.

- h) Influence the visitors attraction brown signage plan to include the wealth of heritage assets in the East area.

6. Area Committee Feedback

The representatives provided an update on the Area Committee meeting held on the 3 October. Issues raised on behalf of the Network were the Youth Zones and Youth Contracts. The Committee confirmed that the proposed Youth Zone for the City Centre was no longer going ahead. In terms of the Youth Contracts it was noted that the current contract is ending in March 2017 which will impact on four youth providers in the East area. The providers are meeting up with Alex Hopkins, Director of Children Services soon to promote the good work they deliver across different work streams, such as, employment, homeless, mental health, substance misuse, sexual health, etc. The Youth Service provides a much valued service. The Network expressed serious concerns about the impact of losing such a service and were worried about the effect it will have on young people and communities post March 2017.

Lisa agreed to update the Network on the outcome of the meeting with Alex at the next meeting.

A report on self-harming was discussed and it was noted that the East area has the highest number of reported self-harm, the highest age group is the 15-24 year old bracket, with a clear indication that the majority of self-harming relates to self-poisoning by using prescribed drugs.

7. Information sharing

Steve Donkin circulated information on Communities Can, reminding people the deadline was 31 December 2016. Further information can be found at communitiescan.org.uk or by contacting 07867787142.

Jen McKevitt, Fourteen small grants deadlines for applications. Hendon: 22 November, Ryhope: 23 November. Grants are between £250-£3,500.

Lisa Wilson Riddell, Doxford Community Connectors meeting is scheduled next week and groups are meeting on the 13 October to discuss a possible Doxford community clean-up.

Cllr Hunt, Ryhope Community Connectors meeting is scheduled for the 13 October at the community centre, and on the 26 November a big celebration event is planned to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the pit closure.

8. Issues effecting the East VCS Area

Youth Contracts, as mentioned earlier in the meeting.

Nicol provided an update on East CA. A meeting has been held with the management committee who have agreed to host an AGM on Monday, 28 November, 6.30pm at the centre.

9. Date and time of the next meeting

Thursday 3 November 2016, 1pm at St Nicholas community hall, St Michaels