

## VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM

12 May 2009

(7:00pm – 9:09pm)

### Present:

**Chair:** Councillor J. Gray  
**Vice Chair:** Sarah Humphries (ELOP)

**Councillors:** E. Sizer  
L Wedderburn (arrived 7.35 pm)

**Officers in Attendance:** Connie Mante

**Voluntary Sector:** Ann Gay – Volunteer Centre Waltham Forest  
Enrique Saenz – VAWF  
Barbara Bishop – VAWF  
Neil Collins – VAWF  
M Y Qureshi – The Seniors

### 1 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBER ARRANGEMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B. Wheatley, S Lambert (Hornbeam Environmental Centre) and A Carton (Disability Action Waltham Forest).

### 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 were approved with the following amendment:

**E. Saenz** the title of the appendix attached to the document should have read *Housing strategy*, not *Accommodation strategy*.

### 4 REVIEW OF VSF ACTION PLAN – THEMES FOR 2009/10

It was agreed that the following themes would be discussed in 2009/10:

Accommodation Strategy (as part of the wider | 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009 consultation)

Other themes to be discussed included the Olympics and Employment.

The Chair pointed out that the themes and schedules could be changed subject to members' agreement.

## **5 UPDATE ON THE CHANGE UP – TO INCLUDE SUCCESSFUL BASIS BID AND RESILIENCE GRANT**

**E. Saenz (ES)** gave an update on the Change Up programme, a Government initiative. Change Up was a consortium which included the Primary Care Trust, Volunteer Centre, BME/African Forum, Ascham Homes, and Oregon. It was envisaged that the programme would be based at the Women Design Centre.

**ES** explained of the partnership work and the successful bid to the Lottery fund. The amount obtained would help employ a Business Development Officer – the post would be advertised on a national newspaper.

The work of the Business Development Officer would include: commissioning the Frontline Online, which would develop and improve resources for voluntary organisations; helping voluntary organisations to obtain quality achievements; working in partnership with voluntary groups in order to develop their back office services.

A resource pack for voluntary groups has been developed. **ES** requested whether members could give their feedbacks on the first draft of the resource pack.

**C Mante** praised Change Up as a good example of partnership work, and emphasised that all members of the Voluntary Sector should be aware of its benefits.

The presentation was followed by questions and answers.

## **6 UPDATE ON LINK**

**N. Collins (NC)** gave an update on the development of a local LINK – Local Involvement Network.

LINK was a body set up in order to involve the public to shape health and social care issue. The membership included individuals and representatives of organisations within the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

**NC** explained that LINK's work was funded by the Department of Health and was budgeted for three years (reviewed annually).

Voluntary Action was the host and it was formally launched on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

The first meeting would take place on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 6.30, Walthamstow Central Library.

Link would have an intra governance arrangement which would be reviewed periodically. They opted for a business group type of approach rather than having an executive structure. LINK would also set up internal special interest groups.

He said that the membership was very flexible and he hoped it would remain as such: the aim would be to attract people able to do different pieces of work.

The staff consisted of a Coordinator, an Information & Outreach Worker and an Administrator.

LINK would have statutory powers such as referring items to Scrutiny committees and enter and view social care facilities.

The presentation was followed by questions and answers.

**7 UPDATE ON COMPACT**

**C Mante** gave an update on commissioning an independent consultancy/organisation to develop an action plan for the development of the Waltham Forest Compact.

**The meeting agreed the recommendations given and to start the commissioning process.**

**8 AOB**

**M Qureshi** requested to give a presentation at the next VSF meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be agreed at the Annual Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009