

## Notes of the CamdenCEN Executive Board Meeting Held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008

### Present:

Shelagh O Connor (SO), Simone Hensby (SH), Hayley Watts (HW), Anju Bhatt (AB), Neil Roberts (NR), Pat Stack (PS), Lincoln Lim (LL), Ruth Appleton (RA)

### Also Present:

Donna Turnbull

### Apologies

Were received from Charlie Legg, Nasim Ali, Linda Fergusson, Aidan Moloney (resigning / leaving job at CIPF)

1	LSP Papers	LSP points
i)	<p><b>Item 2 – Preparing for an economic recession</b></p> <p>AB suggested that the paper should recognise that the voluntary and community sector (VCS) support people in getting into work. At a recent budget meeting worklessness was talked about in isolation. The pressure and impact of this on the sector needs to be addressed.</p> <p>NR pointed out that ‘Camden Working’ is the main focus for the council.</p> <p>SO was concerned that there would be less money next year as the credit crunch kicked in and this was not being looked at.</p> <p>AB explained tension monitoring to the meeting but explained that whilst people were making plans to address local issues there was no funding beyond March to support this.</p> <p>NR suggested that it would be possible to cut across all the themes in the report and show economic impact / change by using the LM3 tool. SH agreed that LM3 would be useful in showing the contradictions of having fewer and bigger contracts and the desire to support the local economy. The local VCS are competing with large private companies for contracts. LM3 would show what is really coming into (and leaving) the local economy. AB questioned local economic contribution of construction industry as Camden is a key area for migrant workers from the EU.</p> <p>AB questioned the cutting of red tape for business – red tape could refer to things like health and safety procedures, equal opportunities.</p> <p>NR explained the background to the Kings Cross Construction Centre which is now focussed on apprenticeships for Argent. He felt that in the current climate there would be higher demand for apprenticeships because they provide cheaper labour. SO asked how this connected with the disbanding of Central Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and their apprenticeship schemes. NR explained that local authorities would be in the driving seat for the whole apprenticeship agenda. SO</p>	<p>This is an interesting report but needs to look to the future and recognise impact on the VCS</p> <p>Tension monitoring is having an effect but initiatives need long term stability</p> <p>Highlight LM3 points for a more realistic picture of local economy</p> <p>Ask what cutting red tape means</p>

	<p>was concerned that after contacting construction firms about a recent lottery bid for apprenticeships she was informed the costs would be higher. Could the LSC help? NR felt that they could but the timescales might cause problems as apprenticeships need 2 or 3 year commitment.</p> <p>The meeting thought that the paper presented threats and covered work that is currently being delivered / was developed before the economic downturn. Threats always present opportunity and this should be looked for</p>	<p>Suggest January seminar is focussed on opportunity and future development</p>
ii)	<p><b>Item 3 Local Area Agreement (LAA) 6 month report</b></p> <p>AB suggested a community development approach to dealing with CO2 emissions. SH explained that the Climate Change Alliance were taking this type of approach.</p> <p>SH questioned the cost / value of proxy measures.</p> <p>AB pointed out that Social Cohesion Forum (SCF) had not discussed this basket of indicators</p> <p>NR asked what the large private organisations contracted to deliver on worklessness indicators were achieving? He also pointed out that new claimants losing jobs should not affect the targets in relation to local vulnerable people because of different procurement. AB also felt that residents with lower skills levels should not be affected, and asked whether the construction downturn would have much local impact due to high levels of migrant workers in the industry</p> <p>LL felt that annual measurements created a situation that could be difficult to correct . Monthly measurements would be easier for managing impact</p>	<p>Raise question?</p> <p>Ask who is developing this indicator</p> <p>Question level of impact on local figures by new claimants and construction downturn</p>
iii)	<p><b>Item 4 Community Strategy Progress report</b></p> <p>It was noted that the focus of this report had changed. There was no mention of housing advocacy and very little on support services. The main theme was housing supply.</p> <p>RA noted that developers get a good deal for their money in Camden and suggested that if large store like Marks and Spencers are moving to Kings Cross then they should be providing key worker housing.</p> <p>LL suggested a redo / re-use approach to housing and job creation.</p> <p>AB asked what Camden are doing in relation to working with new Housing and Communities Agency (HCA). DT said some local authorities are looking at acquisition of unsold and half built housing with the HCA</p>	<p>Are Camden engaging with private landlords in the borough?</p> <p>Suggest more responsibility on business to provide affordable housing</p> <p>Suggest redo / re-use approach and ask about HCA possibilities</p>
iv)	<p><b>Item 5 Feedback on Olympic Games seminar</b></p> <p>PS described seminar and discussion about promoting Camden in the Olympic</p>	<p>Stress volunteering promotion for</p>

	<p>context. The Olympics will mean loss of usual tourism. SO agreed that we need to be behind the promotion of volunteering, especially for young people and key opportunities for local residents.</p> <p>PS and NR described the restrictions on licensing and logo use</p>	<p>young people and residents</p>
v)	<p><b>Item 6 Feedback on joint LSP / SCF meeting</b></p> <p>SH explained background and progress on indicator and structural issues. There appeared to be no connection between this report and what was said at the last Strategic Liaison Group (SLG) meeting</p>	<p>Anju to raise SCF issues</p>
vi)	<p><b>Item 7 Draft minutes for 9<sup>th</sup> October</b></p> <p>NR raised points on para 4.5 – Adult and Community Learning (ACL) are bypassing procurement with contracts to colleges. College delivery of ESOL is partly responsible for delivery not meeting need. Colleges are not passing on funds for the community premises they use. It would make more sense to contract community organisations directly and cut out the costs of employing engagement officers</p>	<p>Stress need for ESOL in community settings</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>CCEN</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
i)	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting</b></p> <p><b>Accuracy</b> – Shelagh O’Connor was present at the meeting  <b>Matters arising</b> – none outstanding</p>	
ii)	<p><b>CCEN Review Day report</b></p> <p>DT went through recommendations and explained how they would be progressed. A Compact seminar will be planned for February after the first draft of the new action plan is complete. The meeting felt that people from all sector involved in the Compact group should attend</p>	<p>Invite Compact Group members / Compact champions from public sector</p>
iii)	<p><b>Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) seminar</b></p> <p>DT explained that she is arranging a date for this for February. Jackie Purcell Barry from the Audit commission will explain the CAA and implications for VCS. It will also be an opportunity for VCS groups to discuss monitoring / measuring added value issues. The meeting suggested that a (sympathetic) council officer involved in performance should be invited</p>	<p>Identify and invite relevant LBC officer</p>
iv)	<p><b>LDF event</b></p> <p>DT explained the interest in a housing focus for an event following on from the CCEN seminar.</p> <p>LL was concerned about the value / benefit of LDF consultation for VCS groups.</p> <p>AB suggested looking at what the LDF is and how VCS can be properly engaged.</p> <p>RA and AB suggested specific focus within housing context.</p>	<p>Board members to email DT with suggestions by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p>DT to email David Joyce with</p>

	AB suggested a half day event.	suggestions so far
v)	<p><b>Information Exchange</b></p> <p>SO told the meeting about New Horizon's 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Partnership Award. The consultancy support is very beneficial and has helped with achieving quality standards etc. They have also been successful with My Place funding. The CCEN board was invited to carol singing at St Pancras Station on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>HW informed the meeting about the focus groups being set up to feed into Camden's Volunteer Strategy</p> <p>NR described the consultation process for CTN's new business plan. This can be accessed online or in hard copy and will be followed up with working groups</p>	