

Minutes of the CCEN Executive Board Meeting Held on Wednesday 26th January 2010

Present: Francis Bacon, Shelagh O'Connor, Jan Knight, David Devoy, Lincoln Lim, Sarah Elie, Eleanor Botwright, Harunur Rashid

Also present: Donna Turnbull, Alex Charles

1. Apologies

Simone Hensby, Anju Bhatt, Ruth Appleton, and Peter Ward.
(Shelagh O'Connor chaired the meeting in Simone's absence)

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record with the following corrections:

Page 1, Item 1: Francis Bacon's apologies for the last meeting were not recorded

Matters Arising

Page 1, Item 2 GP commissioning- The future is still uncertain which continues to provide difficulties to those who are funded by the PCT. There are concerns about how local issues will be addressed with cross-borough consortia.

Page 3, Item 7: Camden & Islington will not be sharing a chief executive as previously proposed. Costs of implementation exceeds potential savings.

3. LSP Vision and Update

3.1 The restructure of the LSP is ongoing. VCS feedback has been received by CCEN and concerns will be further documented at the CCEN seminar on the 4th Feb. Other views include that the LSP will have a strategic role beyond Camden e.g. local enterprise partnerships. SH has already approached the Council leader regarding VCS concerns.

3.2 FB raised concern about councillor led-forums. DT highlighted that response from people attending CCEN LSP Vision seminar generally felt that Councillors should have a bigger relationship with the LSP

Action: DT to circulate final updates once they are collated.

4. Sustainability Partnership update

4.1 SO attended last meeting to discuss the 'draft environmental sustainability plan - green action for change'. The plan generally looks at future ways of improving the environment in Camden for all. Plan needs to incorporate a more practical approach than just consultation-organisations and individuals need to know how to become more environmentally sustainable. SE raised concern over VCS ability to make changes to buildings they don't own. Dean Spears (Deputy Head of corporate sustainability- Camden) has approached CCEN to discuss sustainability plan and has been invited to next CCEN Executive meeting.

Action: SO asked the board to review the green document and forward through any comments to feed back into the response.

Action: CCEN to discuss hosting future seminar on the Green Plan with DS at next meeting and combining with 'actions' e.g. 'consult and do' seminar.

5. Camden's Compact Action Plan

5.1 Compact Action plan to be reviewed on 27th Jan 2011 by the Compact Group. Government seem to favour compact principles, having recently published a new national compact. Aim for VCS with this review is to get Compact principles adopted in managing change

5.2 SE found the compact to be a useful tool and stressed the importance of ensuring Compact principles are implemented. SO highlighted potential role of CCEN in bringing the Compact back into the limelight and ensuring policies are thought through and Compact compliant, especially in terms of changes affecting the sector.

Action: CCEN / Compact Group to target specific groups e.g. VCS reps, VCS Executive Boards/Trustee's with Compact and Public Law training to help VSC groups understand the Compact's purpose and importance.

6. Responding to Financial Pressures: CCEN and LSP seminars

6.1 Responding to Financial Pressures: Friday 4th Feb at VAC. Attendees will be grouped thematically to build up case-studies of what's happening across the sector. Workshop will also cover how the extra demand on surviving organisations will be managed.

6.2 LSP Vision & VSC Reps seminar: All findings from this seminar contributed to the VAC/CCEN 'LSP Vision' paper. Report is available on the [CCEN website](#). VCS reps will continue to keep one another informed about sector issues via the various boards they sit on.

Action: main points from response to commissioning green paper to be published on CCEN website once available.

7. Localism Bill

7.1 1st reading before Xmas. DT summarised the 4 key areas of the Localism Bill. Likely to have implications all-round.

7.2 *Freedoms & flexibilities for local government*- concern surrounds accountability and ability of communities to challenge the council if the Bill goes ahead, especially regarding Council's 'general power of competence'.

7.3 *New rights and powers for communities*- appears to contradict 'general power of competence'. Issues with Equality- will be of benefit only to communities who have resources and capacity to engage whilst those who don't will be pushed out of the picture.

7.4 *Planning/Housing reform*- proposes 'open-sourced' planning with community defined neighbourhoods. Creates potential danger of so called 'un-desirable' services e.g. homeless hostels being pushed out of communities i.e. nimbyism. People may have limited assistance with planning applications as the organisation that currently advises on planning is losing its public funding.

7.6 SO/DD raised concern about the potential danger of restricted movement if borough boundaries are set up with funding only applicable to borough residents.

7.7 Other funding streams will filter out through the Bill

7.8 DT: expectation for Localism Bill to become law by December 2012.

Action: DT to write briefing for circulation next week.

Action: CCEN to host seminar addressing anticipated implications of the Localism Bill. Council officers and Councillors should attend to examine the different interpretations of the Bill

8. Information Exchange

- 8.1 EB - Castlehaven Community Association recently launched Time-bank volunteering scheme i.e. volunteering in return for non-financial rewards. 30th April- Fundraising for 'Alternative Royal Wedding'. Need 1000+ attendees for event to take place.
- 8.2 DD - St Mungo's have nominated their studio manager for the Mayor's Unsung Heroes award.
- 8.3 SO - Opportunities fair 25th Feb open to young people
- 8.4 EB - Castlehaven Community Association have 2 new apprenticeships and are recruiting for a sound engineer and ????
- 8.5 HR – 26th Feb Bengali Residents Association are hosting a 'Climate Change Surgery'.

9. AOB

9.1 SO added VCS Review to the Agenda which was discussed before Agenda Item 3.

9.2 VCS Review

DT- an overview of the outcome of Camden's VCS Review proposal is to go to cabinet. This only pertains to the Culture and Environment Directorate. DRR is covered in a separate email (available from DT)

- 9.3 In a nutshell, Culture and Environment budget has been slashed from £9billion to £6.5billion.
- 9.4 SE/EB raised concern over sustainability of community centres with many centres likely to lose some funding unless they are serving over 90% of Camden residents and all funding if serving less than 50% Camden residents. EB highlighted the arts have been drastically hit with little money allocated for arts funding.
- 9.5 EB lack of clarity over DRR. Poor full-cost recovery not addressed at yesterdays meeting.
- 9.6 SO questioned timescales. EB if community centres fold then organisations will need support with human resource management therefore appropriate time-scales need to be laid out. DD larger infrastructure organisations with resourceful HR departments may be able to assist smaller organisations if they go under.
- 9.7 LL Difficult for CCEN to formulate a response to the proposal as it is still too vague. Once cabinet has approved the proposal, CCEN will need to formulate a response.

Action: DT to update as and when developments occur.

10. Date of Next Meeting

CCEN seminar: Responding to Financial Pressures and Managing Impacts Friday 4th February 1:45-3:35pm at VAC

LSP Seminar: Responding to Financial Pressures Friday 14th February 4.30 to 6.30 pm at the Small Hall in the Camden Centre. Only LSP Reps need attend

CCEN Executive: 15th February 3-5pm at VAC (2nd floor)