**Minutes of Third Sector Investment Co-production meeting 28th April 2022, Sands End Arts and Community Centre**

**Attendee list:**

Michael Angus, Baron’s Court Project

Carol Allen, Cat’s Whiskers

Katie Bareham, Doorstep Library

Naima Bouchalma

Phil Boye-Anawomah, HF Volunteer Centre

David Buxton, Action on Disability

Peggy Coles, H&F Dementia Action Alliance

Fiona Cook, Upper Room

Charlotte Cooper

Gerard Darby, Hammersmith United Charities

Frank Fallon

Frank Finn

Cheryl Gale, H&F Credit Union

Nandini Ganesh, H&F Mencap

Clare Hirons, Sands End Adventure Playground

Pauline Hutchinson, Maystar Residents Association

Steven Hyndman, Cat’s Whiskers

Adam Matan, Anti Tribalism Movement

Tina Mayers, Shepherds Bush Families Project

Vivienne Mitchell, Open Age

Hawa Mohamud

Mick Morell, Bishop Creighton House

Moya O’Hara, Urbanwise

Henry Skinner, Royal Deaf Society

Sulaiman Othman, Our Story

Anna Porta, Westway Community Transport

Rebecca Rawcliffe, H&F Mencap

Sue Spiller, SOBUS

Flora Taylor, H&F Giving

**And from LBHF:** Johan van Wijgerden, Tara Flood, Marcus Robinson, Katharina Herrmann

**Agenda covered:**

**Feedback from 1st meeting (Katharina & Tara)**

**SOBUS event feedback (Sue S. and Michael A.)**

**Borough data presentation (Johan), presentation attached**

**Setting Funding Strategy priorities discussion (in groups, introduced by Marcus & Tara)**

**Feedback - Strategy priorities discussion**

**Setting the scene for 3rd meeting / what is happening after 28th / resident coproduction / loop back to points made in the beginning (broader vision and conversation, Johan)**

**Feedback from the Discussion Groups:**

**How can LBHF work with VCS to achieve priorities?**

* One problem: priorities not arrived at in co-production, are these priorities the same as VCS’s ?
* Most organisations intrinsically deliver most of these priorities and agree with them, but it is hard to be ruthlessly efficient and compassionate, good to offer value for money, though
* It feels like it is a given/expected that organisations will deliver the priorities
* Communication with council is usually the main problem, digital technology has in some ways led to poorer communications with residents
* LBHF should be better at listening to organisations who are trying to support residents
* More/better training should be available to enable H&F services to be more sensitive and accessible, eg around disability, culture, faith etc
* A meeting panel or forum of VCS and LBHF could look at particular services or decisions to determine whether priorities are being well delivered (like the Healthwatch model).
* LBHF is good at cost reduction – the VCS is good at delivering on a shoe string
* Big question – how can H&F work with VCS to support delivery of the latter’s priorities? Such as accessibility, opportunity, equitability. “Doing with, not to” could be an inspection or assessment of LBHF decisions to ascertain quality of engagement and consultation.
* Important to have a mix of core and project funding
* Need more help for emerging groups to become “commissioning ready”
* Need to create meeting places and events to support growth and transition
* Improve communications – posting information on Council website, keeping it up to date
* Are we post-pandemic? Need to build on local responses for future capacity for future responses
* Would like a small grants scheme with really fast turn over
* Need to help residents to meet the rising cost of living
* Need greater involvement of residents, they should be stakeholders in the decision making process; this should not be tokenistic, there should be a clear process on how it is done. Examples are: factoring in the cost of going carbon neutral and installation of bicycle lanes that are affecting journey times and increase pollution from stationary traffic
* Help the voluntary sector to reduce their cots
* Improve communications and accessibility of services, to avoid duplication and promote shared prosperity and equal access
* Collect accurate data
* Be responsive to emerging priorities and flexible in approach
* Treat the voluntary sector as a partner in practical ways – be responsive to emails and phone calls
* Council should avoid operating with a view of “what can we get out of the voluntary sector” and move to a “how can we work together” view.
* “Ruthlessly financially efficient”: difficult, as there is no accounting for inflation for the third sector, while council staff funding takes inflation into account.
* No consideration of energy cost hike, National Insurance and business rates increase. This makes it impossible to achieve targets, how can the sector cope and deliver services?
* Sector needs funding to cover core costs, this will help to be financially ruthless.
* Pandemic has forced organisations to work in new ways
* Support a vibrant third sector
* Is compassionate a good word? (for the priorities)
* Aim to do things efficiently and make sure money is well spent
* Housing crisis presents big problem
* Council staff should go out into the community more, missing the Community Engagement Officer, to both hear from residents and she what happens the sector
* If VCS puts forward ideas that link to LBHF priorities, it constitutes a partnership so H&F needs to communicate with VCS to determine next steps.
* Need clear and honest dialogue, compromise, and an attitude shift – reaching out to users and VCS. Help VCS do the work as the sector is close to the needs.
* Have themed forums
* Employments support should include: Training that improves employability; local employers should be incentivised to employ local people (including the council); VCS should be supported to bring finding into H&F).
* Create more awareness amongst organisations of the work they are doing. This will avoid duplication, make us more financially efficient, solve problems.
* More opportunities needed for 16-24 year olds, apprenticeships, training, experience (ie KickStart), particularly for climate change related jobs. Need to pay the minimum wage.

**Next steps, timelines and date of next meeting.**

Council officers will start to pull feedback together and work on draft priorities for the strategy.

Next meeting is proposed to be held on 23rd May, 12.00 – 14.30pm at Edward Woods Community Centre.

Invites and agenda to follow.

**The council’s team would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their time and contributions. We are keen to reach an even wider share of the community at future events, so please share information and invitations with other people from the third sector.**