



Black Country Empowerment Group Reference Group Meeting

**Tuesday 8 December 2009, 10.am-12.30pm
Wolverhampton Partnership, Wolverhampton**

Participants

Name	Organisation
Madeleine Wilson	Heath Town Community Forum
Eileen Ward-Birch	Wolverhampton Pensioners Convention
Geoff Hopkins	Tettenhall Tenants and Residents
Katherine Rogers	Dosti
Dana Tooby	Wolverhampton Adult Education Service
Martha Cummings	Wolverhampton City Council
Dean Hyde	Portobello Tenants and Residents Association
Keran Douglas	
Andy Bekken	Dudley MBC

Facilitators

Sam Axtell	Wolverhampton Partnership
Lorna Prescott	Dosti
Richard Ashwell	Wolverhampton Learning Partnership

1. Welcome and overview of the session

Lorna welcomed everyone and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to identify, develop and share ideas around appropriate information tools (e.g. printed and e-based publicity) and information providers (people who make information useable to communities they work in/with) which can be utilised by the Take Part Pathfinder in 2010.

2. Introductions and outline of the Pathfinder elements

Participants introduced themselves and Sam gave an explanation of different parts of the Pathfinder programme.

3. Workshop discussions

Sam, Geoff, Dana, Dean and Eileen grouped together to discuss some general frustrations around involvement, and then they looked at the civic roles initial poster designs.

Lorna and Katherine worked on Voice facilitator and learning programme publicity.

Richard, Martha, Andy and Keran discussed Echo training.

The following is a reflection of key points discussed.

General Frustrations

- Involving young people is an issue. Older people tend to have more time available.
- Involving people for specific positions e.g. treasurers.
- Intergenerational work a way forward? Multi-generational. Youth work - building communities for the future. Don't criminalise young people if just being noisy on a bus.
- Is there a sense of community anymore? Fragmented Families. New technology, fragmented communities social mobility.
- Volunteers for youth clubs needed but C.R.B checks cause problems. Put off volunteers, particularly people who have been volunteering for a long time. Inform people about purpose. Dispel myths. Encourage people to be truthful and make it clear effect if its minor it won't be barrier.
- Lack of provision for communities and young people.
- Community 'gate keepers' stop real engagement as do cliques. Be passionate but not are no more important than anyone else. Share information and act transparently. Try and share the work load (i.e. not just you).

Civic Roles poster designs

*Didn't really like any.

(3) Not diverse. Aspirational Like 'lead the way'

(1) Prefer foot steps. Hated it. Dirty foot prints. Leading nowhere. Term 'community' not understood, might be doing for self not community, might be doing for self.

(2) Like steps progressing but 'step up' suggests you need to 'raise your game'

TEXT	IMAGE
(1) I	
(2) II	I
(3) I	I

Voice Facilitator Training Promotion

Ideas for text for a flyer or promotion in newsletters etc.

Do you facilitate discussions with communities?
 [For people who identify themselves as facilitators]
 OR - alternative version

Do you lead discussions with communities?
 [For people who are active in groups, but don't use language like 'facilitation']

***We're offering a FREE 4 day Voice facilitator training course.
 (With an optional 6 days of general facilitation skills available.)
 It will add to your toolkit and help you to support communities to develop their
 influence.***

This training is for: volunteers, VCFS employees, public sector employees

***Dates of sessions
 To request more information***

Learning Programme promotion

- Keep it simple.
- A4 colour
- Photograph and quotes on the front
- Taster booking/further info details on the reverse

A3 folded information pack and application pack for those who attend tasters/express an interest.