



WEM PARTNERSHIP MEETING 16/09/24

At The **Venue, Balmoral Rd**, Morecambe / Via Zoom / 6 PM

Item 1. Welcomes/Apologies/Matters Arising Not on the Agenda/Minutes of the Last Meeting/Conflicts of Interest.

Present: Viv Brunsdon, Glen Duckett, Janette Edwards, Chris Greenwood, Yak Patel, Chris Price (Chair).

Johnny Bean (Secretary), Joe Robinson (Development Worker).

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Yvon Appleby and Kat Jaxon. N.B. Both have read through the outline paperwork and leant their supporting votes to all of tonight's funding decisions.

Matters Arising: There were no Matters Arising.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The Minutes of the Last Meeting were not reviewed, and will be circulated again for approval via email.

Action: The Secretary to circulate the MOLM for approval via email.

Conflicts of Interest: No Conflicts of Interest were noted, at this stage, some raised as items came up.

Item 2: Stanley's Project Update.

Discussion: The Development Worker and Yak gave an update on how the project is progressing. An exchange of contracts is imminent, and we aim to transfer over the remaining support budget to LDCVS, as landlord, to cover spent and future incurred costs in the next 6 months.

Decision: All present agreed with the proposal to transfer the remaining support budget to LDCVS. A launch for PR purposes will be arranged, and Local Trust will be invited to attend.

Item 3: Mental Health Project Update.

Discussion: Round 2 Youth Grants/Spend Transfer. The update from the Development worker confirmed that the youth panel is now sitting and the project is progressing well, and we shall begin publicising grants shortly. To assist with the anticipated spend, a proposal was made to transfer the entirety of the project fund over to LDCVS to administer the grants. We expect Catherine from Lancaster District CVS to attend the next meeting for a fuller update.

Decision: All present agreed with the proposal to transfer all of the funds.

Discussion: Round 1, two projects and second year. The Enable project has delivered its three scheduled sessions and submitted evaluation information. The second year's funding has been released. The Edwards project has faced first year delays for various reasons, but has returned information on some sessions. An update suggests things will be back on track by December.

Item 4: Local Trust Oversight on WEM Spend.

Discussion: Local Trust have suggested renewed concerns on spend out. However, as we hope to sign off on a number of projects this evening, we anticipate they will be less concerned.

Item 5: Children's Environmental Project Update.

Discussion: We are now working with Calico to design and deliver the hub project, which feels like a better fit, especially as Calico are likely to bring in additionality to the project. To expedite the project, it is proposed that we transfer the budget now to Sandylands School, with WEM maintaining a hold on decision making until the final design is approved.

Decision: All present approved the proposal to transfer the full budget to Sandylands School.

Item 6: Family and Support Project Update.

Discussion: The Development Worker reported that due to timing, the project (as was) is no longer feasible within WEM's spend time frame. We are therefore proposing a move to the previously suggested Plan B concept of a Solidarity Fund (involving a small grant scheme to aid families and individuals). This will be operated through the Lancaster Food Poverty Alliance who have the knowledge, experience, network and partners to facilitate such a process. The proposal is to allocate £40k and transfer this to the project shortly. Detail on the processes involved can be developed and agreed in the coming weeks.

Decision: The proposal to allocate and transfer the £40k was agreed by all present.

Action: Partners to clarify their definitions of wider support criteria within next 7 days.

Item 7: Housing Project Update.

Discussion: The “West End Housing Initiative” document was shared prior to the meeting and reviewed. The Chair gave an overview of the project which has been in development since 2019 when we met with the Academy of Urbanism and later the New Economics Foundation. £27k has already been allocated to this project in our current Action Plan. The project proposes that WEM support a part-time Housing Community Coordinator who can facilitate individuals and small groups to work together, to campaign, or to link with other resources for an improvement in their housing and immediate environment. The Coordinator would be employed by and based at Eggcup in the West End, with independent support and supervision linked back to WEM and Eggcup.

Decision: All present approved the proposal’s overview and direction, with detail to be defined later. Yvonn sent her approval and comments by email. It was noted that both Chris Price and Yvonn Appleby volunteer at Eggcup, but are not involved in the finances of the project, and do not receive any financial gain from it.

Item 8: Celebrating Community/Underspend Budgets.

A document outlining the various projects was circulated prior to the meeting to facilitate discussion. We have some existing financial obligations to meet from part of this project's total budget. Several smaller initiatives have been discussed previously and received favourably, each supporting our strategic goals, have partners primed to deliver and some likely to pull in additional match funding. These projects and their budgets require ratifying now, so that more detail can be worked up and returned to WEM for agreement in the coming months.

Discussion: Community Fair/Health Fair. Budget £9,000

Decision: After discussion, it was agreed to shelve this project.

Discussion: Youth Conference. Budget £9,000

Decision: All present agreed the spend on this project, with detail to be confirmed later.

Discussion: Primary Schools Career Project. Budget £1,500

Decision: All present agreed the spend on this project, with detail to be confirmed later.

Discussion: WEM Legacy Publication. Budget £5,000

Decision: All present agreed the spend on this project, with detail to be confirmed later.

Discussion: Post-WEM, Web Legacy. Budget £4,000

Decision: All present agreed the spend on this project, with detail to be confirmed later.

Item 9: Community Network/Unity Projects.

Discussion: Yak has been putting in a lot of work to develop this proposed project and gave an update on current thinking. The proposal is to develop a sustained investment in local capacity building via a partnership building/learning network in the West End, pulling in residents, voluntary and public sector organisations, local council and health services etc. and using participatory budgeting to involve the wider community in decision making, offering great impact for WEM legacy.

Decision: All present were happy with the preliminary presentation, but wished to see a full outline/budget before the next meeting.

Item 10: AOB. Worker Salaries.

Action: Salary discussion (Workers) to be added to the October agenda.

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING

- Monday 14/10/24 at The Venue, Balmoral Road, at 6pm