



WEM PARTNERSHIP MEETING 14/10/24

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

Item 1. Welcomes/Apologies/Matters Arising/Minutes of the Last Meeting/Conflicts of Interest.

Present: Yvon Appleby, Kat Jaxon, Glen Duckett, Yak Patel, Chris Price (Chair).

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

Guests: Charlotte Rawes (Lancaster & Morecambe College) and Catherine Westwell (LDCVS).

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the guests.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Viv Brunsdon, Janette Edwards and Chris Greenwood.

Matters Arising: Youth Conference update (see item 3.2).

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The Minutes of the Last Meeting were reviewed, and approved.

Action: The Secretary to publish the Minutes of the Last Meeting on the WEM website.

Conflicts of Interest: No Conflicts of Interest were noted.

Item 2: Mental Health Youth Grants update.

Discussion: Catherine Westwell from Lancaster District CVS gave an update of the project progress so far. "Minds within the Bay" is a young person-led grant opportunity funded by West End Morecambe. Small grants up to £1,000 and large grants of up to £4,000 are available to charities and community organisations which support young people living in the West End of Morecambe. The fund's priority is to support young people with improving their mental health. A great group of young people from across varied West End groups has now been formed, and the funding programme has been launched. A [video for "Minds Within The Bay"](#) has been created and has already had over 2500 views.

Decision: Projects will need to be completed by Autumn 2025. The partners requested to see some case studies along the way. The partnership asked Catherine to pass on their thanks to the young people. It's hoped that we can invite one of the young people to a future meeting.

Action: Johnny to promote the Youth Mental Health grants project on the WEM website and on social media.

Item 3: College and Digital Inclusion Project update.

Discussion 3.1: Charlotte Rawes from Lancaster & Morecambe College gave an update on the project progress. 11-12 people have been in so far and of those, 50% have signed on for qualification courses. More marketing is due to spread the word. Mark from LDCVS is also operating Volunteer drop-in sessions from The Link. The Link has now been open on West Street for some weeks and has had wi-fi installed (courtesy of the Truth Poverty Commission and a good supply of laptops and other devices for people to access. A member of LDCVS staff works out of The Link two full days a week (every Tuesday and Thursday).

Decision: We need to further promote the project on the WEM website and socials. It will also receive a full page in the next WEM newsletter.

Action: Johnny to promote the Digital Inclusion project on the WEM website and on social media.

Discussion 3.2: At the last meeting we talked about the possibility of funding a Morecambe-wide Youth Conference, using LDCVS to facilitate, and possibly including the College also. The vision is for it to be a Youth Summit celebrating young people in our community and an opportunity to have their voices heard, based on topics of their own choice.

Item 4: Stanley's Project update.

Discussion: Thanks to a lot of hard work from LDCVS and all involved, we can finally reflect on the fact that the building has now been purchased! Lancaster City Council have put in £75,000 for repairing and renovating parts of the building, and an application to Groundwork's Energy Efficiency fund is being worked on. A media launch event and press release will take place before Christmas. A big community launch will then be arranged for early 2025. This will be a 1 hour targeted event - an opportunity to invite CEO's from Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council and Morecambe Town council.

Decision: The partnership expressed their thanks to all involved for all their hard work on this project.

Item 5: Local Trust oversight.

Discussion 5.1: Feedback: Big Local remain pressing on spend. The Chair, Development Worker and LTO rep met with a Big Local representative last week to report back that we have now signed off on a large amount of spending, and caught up to plan.

Discussion 5.2: Additional Support: They have asked what support they can help us with and we have requested quarterly reports moving forward rather than twice yearly.

Decision: The Chair will follow up with Big Local to see if their support can be in the form of money to buy in local support.

Discussion: 5.3: Financial update: Some headings on the finance spreadsheet need updating, but will be ready for an update at the November meeting.

Action: Johnny to add Financial Update to the November agenda.

Item 6: Community Network/Unity Project update.

Discussion: Yak gave a brief update on the project and will prepare for a fuller update and proposal for the November meeting.

Decision: The proposal will require signing off in November, so Yak will share the proposal 1 week before the November meeting.

Action: Yak to prepare and share the Community Network/Unity project proposal by Mon Nov 4th.

Action: Johnny to add Community Update/Unity Project Proposal to the November agenda.

Item 7: Staff Remuneration.

Discussion: Two decisions to be made regarding staff. End of programme details, and one-off office costs payment.

Decision: Yak will sort out details and refer back to the partnership.

Item 8: AOB.

Discussion: The partnership discussed arranging a Xmas meal.

Decision: It was agreed we should find a venue, date and book a table.

Action: Johnny to find the best date for everyone and book the restaurant.

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

- Monday 11/11/24 at The Venue, Balmoral Road, at 6pm/Zoom
- December - No Meeting (TBC)