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**Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough  
Community and Voluntary Sector Panel  
Meeting Notes**

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**DATE:** Monday 20 August 2018 **TIME:** 6 pm **VENUE:** Lakeview 2, Craigavon Civic Centre

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**Community and Voluntary Panel Attendees:** – Brownlow Ltd – Brendan Curran, TADA Rural Support Network – Brendan McCann, Craigavon Area Food Bank – Chris Leech, LLTCA – Claire Patience, ABC Senior’s Network – David Hammerton, P2000 – Geraldine Lawless, Banbridge Twinning Association – Gilbert Lee, Richmount Rural Community Association – Joe Garvey, ABC Community Network – John McGuinness, Mourneview & Grey Estates Community Association – Jonathan Mercer, Regenerate – Keith McCann, City of Armagh Rugby Football Club – Ken Redpath, Waringstown Together – Lenny Deans, Mencap – Liam Burns, NIACRO – Edell McKee, Lislea Community Association – Sheila McCreech, Obins Street Community Association – Vincent McAleenan

**Others in attendance** – ABC Council – Jennie Dunlop, Michelle Markey, Carmel Taylor, Southern Health & Social Care Trust – Jacqueline Connolly

**Apologies:** – Youth Sport Trust – Amanda Mogeey, Ulster GAA – Anne Garvey, County Armagh Community Development – David McMullen, Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau – Donna Stewart, Volunteer Now – Eamon Murphy, Women’s Aid – Eileen Murphy, Barnardo’s NI – Eugene Mone, Brownstown Owners & Tenants Association – Gordon Blevins, REACT NI – Marion Jamison, SLNRA – Mary McAlinden, IncredABLE – Nigel Hampton, The Right Key/Recovery Café CIC – Sheila Smyth, Powered By Sport – Stephen Lynch, Supporting Communities – Siobhan O’Neill Friends of Vietnamese Craigavon – Annie Burrell, Pontzpass Community Regeneration Company Limited – John Waddell, Clanrye Group – Liam Devine, , West Armagh Consortium – Stephen Fields, Donaghcloney Community Garden – Walter Ferris

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Jennie Dunlop, Community and Strategic Planning Manager, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel.

Jennie went on to introduce John McGuinness as the Chair of the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel following the recent online election and would be chairing the meeting.

John McGuinness welcomed everyone to the meeting. John advised that a number of apologies had been received. He explained that there would be no formal minutes recorded at the meeting but a brief note would be captured and circulated.

John advised that the meeting would be facilitated by Anna Clarke.

**ACTION:** Code of Conducts to be signed and returned to Community Planning Team, these will be reissued to panel members who have yet to sign.

## **2. Update on CVS Panel meeting with Carnegie UK Trust**

### **a. Feedback from meeting**

Jennie provided a brief background to the Carnegie UK Trust. The Trust is an operating trust which works with organisations and provides support they do not offer or issue grants. A large part of their work is taking a holistic approach to wellbeing. Carnegie convened Roundtable discussions in Northern Ireland in 2015 and were central to the development of the Draft Programme for Government shift to an Outcomes Based Approach which looks at outcomes and impact rather than outputs. Carnegie UK Trust have designed a programme for wellbeing in Northern Ireland where all eleven community planning partnerships were invited to express an interest to work with Carnegie on this programme. There was an opportunity for three community planning partnerships to avail of this support and our partnership has been lucky to be one of the selected partnerships. It is still early days for the project. Two staff members from the Carnegie UK Trust came over at the beginning of August on a study visit to learn about how Community Planning is working in this area. They met with 12 members from the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel on 5<sup>th</sup> August. As not all panel members were available to attend, the Chair proposed this meeting would be an appropriate to look back at involvement to date. There were several key strands within the discussion with Carnegie around:

1. Formation of the CVS Panel
2. Communication
3. Engagement with the wider community
4. Wider buy in
5. Collaboration (quick wins vs Longterm)
6. Capacity building/Team building

### **b. Group discussion on what has worked with panel and what would be useful for future development**

Anna led a facilitative discussion in which tables were asked the following questions:

- What has been good about the process so far?
- What would help to make the engagement/recruitment process even better?
- What will help moving forward

**Feedback from Discussion included:**

#### **What has been good about the process so far?**

- Communications from the team have been clear and consistent.
- There is a positive approach in what has been taken forward so far
- Good that there is longer term and forward thinking – feel we are able to be part of influencing into the future

- The engagement process for recruitment was well measured and well paced
- Approach is user friendly and understandable

### What would help to make the engagement/recruitment process even better?

- Make the information for people being recruited more specific so they know exactly what it's about
- More face to face engagement with S75 groups/communities to build inclusive involvement
- Focus on people's strengths as they join – what they can meaningfully contribute – might be useful to present the skills areas that everyone indicated on their EoI forms? These are the skills/interests people identified – how can utilise this?
- Also raised issue of geographical/faith based/agricultural representation on the panel – sense that it is more Craigavon than Armagh or Banbridge. It would be useful to do a status report on this so everyone can see exactly what membership looks like and this would help collectively to identify areas for further engagement and lead to a discussion about what they as members can then do to support this wider engagement/recruitment. Some training/capacity building around engagement processes and methods would also be useful
- Take care not to overload people as process moves forward – many are voluntary
- Engagement with TAP teams so far for some has been a bit frustrating because some of the statutory partners are not attending and therefore Panel members are not able to fully engage with these stakeholders.

### What will help moving forward

- Would to see more committed engagement from statutory partners
- Would like to see/have some engagement with senior Council officers (some members wanted to see them show an interest in the Community Panel) - suggest maybe inviting CE/Councillors to a future Panel meeting for a round table type conversation rather than expectation that they start attending the meetings. This way we could ensure there is a clear purpose for the discussion? This might also pick up on the point about wanting greater clarity regards role of elected members in relation to CP.
- Visits to other Councils/Community Sector Panels (or equivalent structure) to see how process is working elsewhere, share/explore ways of working and share ideas – this might be within NI and beyond inc RoI, Scotland, England etc.
- Exploration/discussion around measuring progress/indicators – question here was 'How do we know when things are working in terms of implementation'? Some forward visioning around this might be useful so that members have something of a shared understanding albeit hypothetically. So could maybe take one action plan and use it to do an imagined walk through in terms of how the process might look for the next 3 years?
- Another question posed was 'How can the panel exercise a scrutiny role?' the reference to wanting to see how Section 75 groups are benefiting from the implantation of the agreed actions. I think this links the immediate point above but also would need to consider how the Panel can raise a concern if they feel those who should be benefiting are not being reached.
- Want to see the Community Plan positively impacts right across the borough, not just certain postcodes – how can this be ensured/demonstrated?
- Promote and maintain an open/rolling recruitment process so people can join at any time (following EoI process)
- Development support around HOW Panel members communicate back to groups and wider community – need a shared understanding of how, what and when for this so there is consistency
- Use of own social media platforms and connecting that with Council/Community Planning platforms etc. Some general social media training would be good especially for members

who are not so familiar with using it and then also a session around an agreed social media strategy for the Panel.

- Some awareness raising/capacity building around how local and regional government works – some people seem less aware of this and expectations are unrealistic. Suggestion of a ‘crash course’ in this was made

### 3. Thematic Action Planning feedback from panel members who have taken part in action planning workshops

Anna explained, this part of the meeting was for panel members to hear from the action planning reps sitting on each of the Thematic Action Planning (TAP) Teams.

Discussion ensued and feedback as follows

#### Skilled and Enterprising Economy

- Young people into work – ‘Schemes’
- Role of central government –
  - passing the buck to Community Planning
  - influencing unemployment figures
- aspiration/Self-esteem – ideas for building this but nothing concrete yet in terms of actions
- Can feel a bit like headless chickens – not quite sure who all is doing what
- recognise there is already a lot of work going on but needs to be more joined up and need to focus on getting better/more value from this
- Action to set up performance management framework to monitor progress

#### Healthy Community

- Experience of engaging in TAP team pretty positive
- Observed ‘a lot’ of Council staff attend meetings
- 3 thematic sub areas set up – with very specific actions – focus on early intervention/prevention and mental health and well-being
- Several actions identified are dependent on EA participation but EA had not attended the 3 meetings at that stage – Concern expressed by Community Panel members
- Recognise it is still early days in process of community planning – still finding way
- Acknowledgement that participants don’t all know what each-others’ agencies do – still learning about each-others roles
- Panel participants still unclear about how this level of work can be fed back meaningfully to other organisations and communities
- Panel members expressed importance that new research that gets produced (from the sector as well as statutory) is fed into the TAP team work – new knowledge and data must be regularly incorporated and people need to know a way to feed it through

#### Confident and Welcoming Community

- Recognise still at an early stage
- Good opportunity to meet people from CV sector – supports making links and connections with and across sectors around themes and common areas of work
- Helping to foster better understanding of who is doing what and recognise opportunities for collaboration
- Sense that we are sitting round the table as equals
- Felt the facilitation of this TAP team was excellent and really helped to draw out information and action points

- Concerns that what emerged as a result though was an ‘academic and ethereal’ document contents of which were hard to recognise from the concrete discussions and actions of the meetings. Language of document did not reflect experience of the discussions.
- Consequently the end result felt ‘stale’

#### 4. Matters Arising

##### a. Meetings – how, where, when?

Discussion took place about how the meetings where run, where and when. The following decisions were made:

- Moving around the Borough would help with promoting the Panel and Community Planning
- Next round of meetings should move around Banbridge and Armagh and then back to Craigavon – use Council buildings and keep to same catering arrangements
- Future meetings after that can consider community venues
- Frequency of Panel meetings – Quarterly in between Partnership meetings
- Capacity building/development sessions in between the quarterly meetings

##### b. Membership and contact list

John advised that Peter Wilkinson from Armagh Traveller Support Group had stepped down from his role and would no longer be a panel member.

Discussion ensued around the need to be able retain the relationship with the organisation if a panel member was not able to fulfil their role.

**Agreed:** The panel member could nominate a substitute to take their place subject to completion of the Expression of Interest Form that all panel members completed.

#### 5. Close

John closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time. A Doodle poll would be circulated for the next meeting early November and the next meeting would be moved to a council venue in Armagh or Banbridge area.