

WYLDA Bulletin
Monday 12th July 2010

WYLDA AGM and Working Together Event

WYLDA held its AGM at Voluntary Action Kirklees on Monday 12th July 2010. The Annual Review can be accessed on the WYLDA website <http://www.wylda.org.uk/documents/>

Elected Members

WYLDA held its election for Executive group members. The following organisations were elected:

Fit4Funding: Jo Jones
Pay and Employment Rights Service: Fawzia Mir
Volunteering Bradford: Dave Forrest
West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service: Jill Jones
West Yorkshire Learning Consortium: Jean Morgan

There are 5 places remaining for co-opted members, please could any organisation wishing to be considered for co-option contact Lucy at lucy.beckingham@yorkshirehumberforum.org.uk 0113 3942315

Kirklees Commission

Val Johnson spoke about the Kirklees Commission. Kirklees Council have spent the last two years looking at commissioning out infrastructure services. Voluntary Action Kirklees were told in 2008 that infrastructure services were to be commissioned out and they have been waiting for a tender. Kirklees Council put out the tender for infrastructure services in February 2010.

There were three organisations competing for the tender. A consortium of organisations headed up by Voluntary Action Kirklees, Social Enterprise Support Centre and a group including Huddersfield University.

In June the council as part of their cuts decided that they no longer wanted to commission out infrastructure and would no longer support the infrastructure currently provided by Voluntary Action Kirklees.

Voluntary Action Kirklees will continue to operate but will need to rationalise its services to voluntary and community groups. These are difficult economic times with tough decisions to be made. It is evident that Local Authorities are not aware of the value of infrastructure, we need to evidence this better.

These tough times do create opportunities to do things differently, to work more cooperatively across districts to come up with an agenda based on the demands of the sector.

Each District gave an update on the position with their Local Authorities.

Wakefield: Two weeks ago VAWD received a letter to say the council would no longer be funding VAWD from April 2010. Since then there has been indication that the original cut would not be as severe, but cuts would be happening. They are looking to reprioritise services.

Leeds: Third sector review is to take place. The council funds the sector through a number of departments.

Calderdale: A 3 year rolling programme of funding but cuts expected from March 2012.

Working Together Better

Judy Robinson (Yorkshire and the Humber Forum) spoke about the uncertain, volatile and fast changing environment. She highlighted the 'fluidity of boundaries' for example in Essex the CEO of the council is also the CEO of the PCT. She also highlighted the importance of Local Economic Partnerships/ City Regions are expected to encompass skills, transport and planning, they will exist where big economic decisions need more than one local authority to make a decision. Big Society is about cutting the Regional and the national and handing power back to communities.

The Regional Alliance in its memorandum of understanding is about looking at quality issues for the sector, looking at competition, and creating opportunities.

Some of the things that the Yorkshire and Humber Forum are looking to develop in response to the governments Big Society are:

- A Yorkshire day, celebrating Yorkshire, we need to demonstrate how in the North we have different needs. Suggestions and input into this would be welcomed. Please contact lucy.beckingham@yorkshirehumberforum.org.uk with ideas.
- Big Society sub regional debates facilitated by the Yorkshire and Humber Forum, GOYH, including one with Urban Forum.
- Conference on November 11th with Nick Hurd MP
- In terms of commissioning and procurement, the mechanisms are for the big players we need to be influencing the processes to ensure that delivery can be local and creating opportunities a task and finish group are working on this.
- Collation of case studies to demonstrate the impact before 11 November.
- Online consultation through the quarterly confidence survey.

Some of the main papers we need to be aware of that are coming out in the next few months which will be shaping the environment the sector is working in are:

- White Paper on Health reforms (July 2010)
- White Paper on the Economy (September 2010)
- Public Health White Paper (October 2010)

Competition and Collaboration Survey

During May and June 2010 26 organisations in West Yorkshire were interviewed to help to produce a snapshot of what was happening in terms of competition and collaboration in the voluntary and community sector in West Yorkshire.

It is evident from the report that as funding reduces competition is expected to increase. There is also a threat felt by small voluntary and community organisations that national bodies will monopolise tendering processes.

* 78% of organisations had experienced another organisation offering the same or a similar service.

* 100% of organisations had collaborated and they had all experienced positive benefits.

The full report is available by clicking the following link.

<http://www.wylda.org.uk/documents/>

About this bulletin

This bulletin aims to improve communications to WYLDA members and other stakeholders. If you have found this useful, or if you have suggestions for improvements, please let us know by emailing your comments to lucy.beckingham@yorkshirehumberforum.org.uk.

To get in touch with any of the WYLDA Executive members, see.

<http://www.wylda.org.uk/admin/uploads/files/ISO-Group/Membership-docs/WYLDAAExec-Jan%202010.doc>