**VCSE Assembly**

**Tuesday 20th May 10am-1230pm**

**Forum@PQ, Princes Quay, Hull, HU1 2PQ**

**Attendees**

Pippa Robson (Forum CIO), Helen Grimwood (Hull CVS) Linda Conway (Forum CIO), Amy Hallett (Forum), Jenny Preston (Hull CVS), Kersty Smith (Hull CVS) Chloe Buckley (Forum)

Naomi Clark (Child Dynamix) Jan Boyd (EMS) Adam McWhannell (PAPYRUS) Laura Stead (Cash for Kids) Stacie Bentley (Pearson Park Community Garden) Lauren Saunders ( West Hull Community Hub) Jane Ingram (Age UK) Bridget Marvin-Smelt (Homestart) Mike Scott (Groundwork) Paul Spooner (Maxlife) Mel Whetton (St Johns) Luke Medcalf (Active Humber) Charlotte Denston (Hull Truck Theatre) Lianne White (CISS) Janine Badker (Hull KR Foundation) Luana Smith (HON LOK) Graham Armstrong (Model Railway Society) Zeki Tasdemir (Summit Education) Angela Murden (HACA) Nicky Cooper (Matthews Hub) Ian Anderson (HCC) Caroline Tomlinson (Humber Teaching Hospitals) Sadaaf Shaheen ( Humber Teaching Hospitals) Claire Balfour (Sight Support) Alison Stannard (Sight Support) Carl McGlone ( Impact Community) Shannon Hinchcliffe (Alzheimer’s Society) Karen Smith (Smoke Free Hull) Emily Bendelow (HCC TP) Helen Skinner (Hull 4 Heroes) Lionel Curtis ( Hull Diabetes Support) Anastasiia Kusiumova ( Ukrainian Society) Matt Wright (RSPCA) Representative (HANA)

**Apologies**

Diane Hamilton (Cash for Kids), Claire Champlin (Pickering & Ferens) Louise Shaw (BRC), Cat Bradshaw (HEY Smile), Fred Lazenby (Emmaus), Ian Judson (Jack Harrison Charitable Trust) Lyn Brown (Hull Women’s Aid)

1. **Welcome & Housekeeping -Pippa Robson**
2. **Check inactivity and discussion -All organisations**

* What are the challenges around recruiting fixed term contracts?​
* ​When a funding gap happens, what do you do with team members you don’t want to lose?​
* ​Could there be a benefit in a secondment process where good staff members could be shared to manage funding gaps/difficulties in recruitment?​
* How would this work in practice?

If you would like further advice or be involved with the HR work being done by Jenny please contact Jenny Preston, Hull CVS Head of Development

[jpreston@hull-cvs.co.uk](mailto:jpreston@hull-cvs.co.uk)

**Feedback from tables**

* People are afraid to apply for fixed term contracts as they are not secure
* Secondments work for certain roles like Volunteer Coordinator
* Fixed term contracts are definitely not attractive to job seekers
* It takes a lot of investment into a person on a fixed term contract as people generally apply as a stop gap
* A lot of cost implications for organisations as they have to train staff
* Organisations feel that haye have to jump through hoops for funders and don’t always have the resources for this
* It becomes difficult for organisations to let an individual on a fixed term contract go as they are part of a team and well trained.

1. **3-minute speakers from VCSE Organisations**

3-minute speakers from organisations gave a short update on what they do and their organisations

1. **Hull Afro Caribbean Association -HACA -**Angela Murden

<https://hullafrocaribbean.co.uk/>

HullAfroCaribbeanActivities@outlook.com

* HACA celebrating 40 years
* One of the oldest minority organisations in Hull along with Hon Lok
* HACA are going from strength to strength
* Have been supported by Forum and Hull CVS
* It has been a difficult time as we lost one of our founding members and as a mark of respect have not been able to have large celebrations.
* We would like to mark this anniversary and have sent out flyers to all organisations and if you would like a free key ring please contact us.
* Angela advised they have marked this anniversary with a song that has been composed and read the lyrics to the group before playing the song as the words reflect HACA.
* Link to song [20250507\_105627.wav](https://1drv.ms/u/c/d23f7f896d9b0aa6/ER7-1gYq_yVOu0fuXL3MU9QBgSoP3PWbTaQXEjUvRrje_w)

**Unity in Diversity** Our new HACA Song

***[Verse 1]***

*From the islands to the shores, we rise*

*Under the Caribbean and African skies*

*Generations strong we stand as one*

*Every storm we've faced now overcome*

***[Chorus]***

*Peace and unity flow like the seas*

*In diversity we find the keys*

*Legacy of love we proudly hold*

*Oneness shines brighter than gold*

***[Verse 2]***

*The echoes of our ancestors, sing*

*Through the winds their voices ring*

*Islands and shores with stories to tell*

*Our unity’s a bridge that time can’t quell*

***[Bridge]***

*Through every storm we’ve weathered together*

*Our roots are deep they’ll last forever*

*Seas may roar but we stay true*

*In oneness we’ll always renew*

***[Chorus]***

*Peace and unity flow like the seas*

*In diversity we find the keys*

*Legacy of love we proudly hold*

*Oneness shines brighter than gold*

***[Outro]***

*Hull Afro-Caribbean standing tall*

*One voice one heart we answer the call*

*Generations bound by love and pride*

*Together forever side by side*

1. **Maxlife -**Paul Spooner

<https://www.maxlifeyouthproject.co.uk/>

[maxlifeyouthproject@gmail.com](mailto:maxlifeyouthproject@gmail.com)

* Speaking as a Chair of Trustees
* Youth project making a difference to young people in Hull
* Going through financial difficulties at the moment and surviving month by month
* We are doing a lot of fundraising – the staff team and the young people. All support is greatly appreciated
* We have been supported by Forum and it is appreciated
* Paul read a journey of a young person that uses Maxlife. McKauley gave Maxlife consent to share his personal journey in these minutes.

**McKauley’s journey**

Hello, my name is McKauley. I’m 15-year-old young person and I a proud regular at our local youth project (Maxlife), which I’ve been attending for over three years now. I’d like to share my journey with you, to show just how much of a difference this project has made - not just in my life, but in the lives of many young people like me. I first heard about the youth project in 2021 from a friend who had been attending for more than seven years Curious, I decided to check it out. My first session was a dance class led by holly Gibbs. From the very beginning, I felt welcomed and included. That day I learned that the projects offered even more - three additional weekly sessions. I've began attended all of them. What started as a place for fun quickly became something much deeper. It was here that I found the space and support to complete my homework, something I'd often struggled with alone. That same year I was diagnosed with dyslexia, dyscalculia and mearse-irlen syndrome - a combination that affects how I learn and process information. The youth project, especially the team at Maxlife, stood by me during this difficult and confusing time. They didn't just offer me a safe space they gave me practical tools and emotional support to understand my conditions, regulate my emotions and grow in confidence. Thanks to their help I've come to understand that my differences don't define me they're just a part of who I am. Now, I'm not just a participant I am someone who feels heard, valued and capable of helping others. The youth project is a place where young people like me are given the chance to thrive. It's more than just an after-school sessions, it's a lifeline. That's why I'm sharing my story today, to ask for your support. With continued funding the project can reach more young people who need guidance, community and hope. Your investment isn't just helping a programme - it's changing lives. Thank you for believing in us.

1. **Smoke Free Hull -**Karen Smith

SmokeFree Hull

If you know a smoker who would like some FREE support to quit then please give them our details:

T: 01482 977617

E: [hullstopsmoking.info@cgl.org.uk](mailto:hullstopsmoking.info@cgl.org.uk)

W: <https://www.changegrowlive.org/service/hull-smokefree/contact>

* This is the 6th year of Smoke Free Hull on the current contract
* 19% of Hull’s population smoke and this figure does not include vapes.
* We offer a 12-week course for individuals who want to stop smoking
* We do a lot of events
* Offer free training – F2F and online
* Please get in touch

1. **Speaker – Adam McWhannell PAPYRUS**

Papyrus presentation – <https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/VCSE_Assembly_20_05_25_PAPYRUS.pdf>

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

[Adam.Mcwhannell@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:Adam.Mcwhannell@papyrus-uk.org)

* Organisation raises awareness of young suicide for under 35 which is the biggest killer in the UK
* We have spoken to parents of young people aged 13-34 hence the age group bracket
* From all the families I have spoken to, the one recurring theme was that there was not enough discussion or suicide awareness, or suicide was not spoken about.
* 1 in 5 statistically have thoughts of suicide
* We are able to support, offer training, equip with resources for organisations with regards to awareness and prevention of young suicides.
* We also run HopeLine 24/7 – a suicide support line which is an intervention service with fully trained staff, can be accessed via text, telephone, email-24 hours. It can be accessed through different languages.
* We offer suicide prevention training – to find out more please check our website
* Further information on resources can be found PAPYRUS resources - <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/help-and-advice-resources/>

1. **Use of Image Software -Jenny Preston Hull CVS**

Use of images presentation link – [https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-](https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/VCSE_Assembly_20_05_25_Photo_Copyright.pdf)

The thing to remember is make sure you have consent for any images you use.

1. **Speaker -Alison Stannard -Sight Support**

Sight Support presentation link - <https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/VCSE_Assembly_20_05_25_Sight_Support.pdf>

<https://www.sightsupport.org/#content>

Alison presented on all the services offered by Sight Support (all on the presentation):

* Community Support
* Training Officer
* Resource Centre
* Telephone Befriending
* SocialEyes
* Children & Families
* Partnership Projects
* Events
* Outreach
* Volunteering
* Fundraising

Sight Support are not Government funded and rely purely on donations and wills as well as applying for grants. If you come across any person who is visually impaired and requires support please contact Claire Balfour Services Manager [cbalfour@sightsupport.org](mailto:cbalfour@sightsupport.org)

1. **Speaker -Sadaaf Shaheen -Interact2 Loneliness Study**

Interact2 presentation link - <https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/VCSE_Assembly_20_05_25_Interact2_Study.pdf>

* Sadaaf advised that she is at the Assembly today to promote and get support for a Loneliness Study that is being undertaken in Hull.
* 12.5% of the adult population in Hull experienced loneliness in Hull in 2020 and is rising. This figure is highest out oof London that is why Hull has been chosen.
* The presentation shows statistics and QR code to the presentation and would appreciate you sharing

1. **Networking Event-Pippa Robson Forum CIO**

* We have taken on board what was discussed at the last Forum that you all wanted to find out more about each other’s organisations.
* **We will be holding a networking event on 17/7/25 10-1230 Forum@PQ**
* You will be able to book on via Eventbrite when we send out the invitation.
* We will be limited to 40 people only, one per organisation

1. **Kersty Smith Hull CVS**

* Kersty Smith went through Sector Connect funding opportunities and training.

Kersty went through:

* Volunteering
* Work Placements
* Training
* Community Centres
* Funding – all available on slides.

Sector Connect presentation link – <https://northbankforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/VCSE_Assembly_20_05_25_Sector_Connect_Updates.pdf>

If you would like further information on any of the points discussed please contact Kersty Smith, Hull CVS [ksmith@hull-cvs.co.uk](mailto:ksmith@hull-cvs.co.uk)

1. **VCSE Organisation Updates**

* **Model Railway Exhibition:** We will be holding an exhibition 31/5/25-1/6/25 at the Princes Quay event space on the ground floor. If you would like to drop of leaflets on your services, we will be happy to have an information table. So please drop off on 31/1/25.
* **HEY Smile:** We have the Vault services where you can hire all sort of equipment and have just introduced sports equipment. https://hull.smilevaults.org/
* **RSPCA:** Quick reminder we have a community Fun Day 14/6/25 11am-2pm. If you would like a stall, please contact Matt - matt.wright@rspcahull.org.uk
* **Pearson Park Community Gardens:** We will part of the Avenues Open Gardens which is taking place 29/6/25 an 6/7/25 11am -5pm. We will have plant sales which will be donation based.
* **Hull 4 Heroes:** We are opening a new shop on the ground floor of Princes Quay opening in June. We also are holding a soap box derby on 14 June.
* **HACA:** For Refugee week we will be running 2 activities we would like to invite you to. 14/6/25 – we will be doing a walk and food session. A walk from HACA to KC Stadium for some exercising and then back to HACA for food, and on 21/6/25 we are holding a Refugee Interactive Social and would like to invite you all as it us about community cohesion.

**Date of Next Assembly:**

24/6/25 10am-12.30pm Forum@PQ

**If you would like to speak at the Assembly either a 3- minute or 10 -minute presentation slot please contact Linda Conway,** [**linda@forumcio.org.uk**](mailto:linda@forumcio.org.uk)