

## VCFS Commissioning Workshop at MIG, Wednesday 19 September 2012 at Furniture Matters

Numbers agreeing	Role and purpose of VCFS – what does it need to be doing – will it be doing anything different or differently to what it is doing now?	To work towards this, what can we do to make this possible?
7	Centralise database for volunteers in the district – volunteer bureau	<p>Lots of co-ordinating and talking            Constant updates + communication            Be honest about what we can share!            Have a "skills bank" of those with expertise in certain areas so we can actually help each other            Simple, assemble leaflet of basic info about the support and networking structures available for small organisations that may not even realise there is a "sector" they belong to!            Each organisation to compile a list of voluntary opportunities within their organisation with job description (roles) and disseminate to other agencies or to one database for all to access</p>
8	Resource Sharing (rooms, vehicle use)	<p>Information sharing between services. Lessen the divide between Lancaster and Morecambe            Map of the current voluntary sector – what they do – what they have – what they share            Communicate – more effective communication            Communication with other agencies – find out what funding/information is out there</p>

		More forums – relevant and focussed!
2	Reduce costs for services to rent rooms etc	Empty offices buildings identified and negotiate reduced rents – better than being empty Council could make a list of suitable properties that are empty (possibly at reduced rent to VCFS)
0	VCFS do a brilliant job – they are inspiring – they fill gaps	
0	They need to co-ordinate more	
0	Monitor and promote	Disseminate info about local services/service changes to other agencies (Help Direct)
13	To fill/replace the gaps left by other services closures	Research and identify needs ID needs Talk to other services and work together Clear direction – not too many leads etc... Better partnership working to identify service gaps and/or needs – tell Help Direct Feed back service gaps to Lancashire County Council service commissioners whether they want them or not! Work together as a community to keep services provided in the voluntary sector funded FEAR – don't expect VCFS to pick up all the work of the

		frontline services without £ (The obvious) Funding Support and develop good work already being done
0	Pick up the pieces	
4	Smaller/specialised support rather than wide ranging – due to lack of funding	
1	Chase ever diverse/changing funding streams	
1	Need to be more cost effective and possibly streamlined	Do yourself out of a job
0	Info sharing	
2	Encourage involvement and independence/personal responsibility	
10	To get more people in the community involved, with less funding more help is needed	Raising more awareness about where people can help – promote these areas
0	Supporting those who are falling through the “net” (safety net and welfare state)	
1	Provide opportunities for all	

2	Maintain communication between those who feel increasingly disempowered → hope	Invest time in meetings like MIG so that we build relationships which can become a basis for networking, cross referral, joint enterprise etc
2	Young people	Give more opportunities to young people – use their thoughts, ideas – future service users
5	Leading role in innovating and initiating social solutions eg local currency, food banks	Links with Lanc Uni initiatives eg Catalyst project, Chris May work
1	More professional	Define more professional
3	Will be attempting to fill an increasingly wide gap between need and provision as centralised services decrease	
0	Still exists	Capacity support VCFS to do some income generation to then provide services rather than always relying on grants Politicise
1	Possibly diversified to include social enterprise! etc in structure	
3	Organise! Agitate! Campaign!	
1	Will it/can it maintain it's independence? Still needs to challenge/campaign	Organise
0	Less direct work, more paperwork?	Be transparent with each other Joint bids/tendering
0	Compete! (limited funds, many agencies...)	Don't work in isolation

		Avoid localism (1 spot) Level playing field
1	To help people from reaching crisis point	
6	Campaigning/awareness raising	Communication – listen to people's needs and what they want Ensure VCFS is independent enough to challenge policies/statutory bodies

Organisations represented (numbers of people if more than one)

Morecambe Interagency Group:

Barnardo's Lancashire Young Carers (x2)

Catalyst, Lancaster University

Community Fire Safety Practitioner

CVS (x2)

Furniture Matters

Galloway Society

Health Trainers

Help Direct (x2)

Home Start

i 2 i, Lancaster

Lancashire Link

Lancaster District Homeless Action

Ludus Dance

Morecambe Bay Food Bank

Morecambe Churches Forum

North Lancs CAB

Olive Branch (x2)

Peer Support (x2)  
Phoenix and Butterfly Projects  
Red Rose Recovery, CVS  
Youngaddaction North Lancs.