

Gloucestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services

Affiliated to



Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of GCVYS held 27th Sept 2010, at Chequers Bridge Youth Centre, Gloucester

Present:

David Wallace (Chair)	Cheltenham YMCA
Marilyn Jennings (Vice Chair)	Gloucester YMCA
Tracy Clark	Young Gloucestershire
Peter Guns	Gloucestershire Boys Brigade
Debbie Long	Girlguiding
Pauline Merchant	Girlguiding
Dawn Quest	Minute Secretary
Steve Robinson	Nailsworth Youth Club
Andy Stratton	Gloucestershire Boys Brigade

In attendance:

Lynne Speak	GCC Youth Support Service
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1. Apologies and Welcome:

Action

Terry Baddeley	Girlguiding
Steve Bullock	Diocesan Youth Officer/Uni of Glos
David Hall	Scouting

2. Declarations of interest: Andrew Stratton: Website design.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th September 2010

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

- a. **Website:** Awaiting more content. Andrew Stratton suggested linking a newsfeed form NCVYS, agreed. The domain had been purchased at £2.99 per annum. Lynne Speak suggested that Andrew link with Lisa Taylor who was doing the Youth Support Service website for further linkages. The portal name was 'What now Glos' serving young people interest items in Gloucestershire. Andrew would send the website link out to Committee Members to enable them to see the beta version.

All / AS

5. Reports

- a. **Youth Support Service:** Gloucestershire County Council were thought to be looking to cut £120 million from their budget following the Government spending review. All services had been asked to cut their budgets by 30%. The information about GCC cuts is expected to be made public by 2nd November. There was a discussion around budget consultation overload and how those affected could get their voice heard. It was suggested that, using the GCVYS brand, a senior level

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meeting should be held. Marilyn Jennings suggested we should pull in groups not usually engaged in GCVYS such as Young Farmers, and hear their views. Thoughts were expressed around the future of statutory youth services. Leadership and management functions of the YSS were already contracted out to Prospects and Connexions. Will some services become social enterprises or commissioned services? What would there to be contract out if there is no funding?! MJ wondered if GCVYS should consider becoming a social enterprise. It could join up efforts for fund raising and group work. What is the role of the Gloucestershire Assembly and GAVCA in youth work? Steve Robinson asked what happened to the GCC Scrutiny report. Lynne Speak said the report was well received, and had made similar findings to the Ofsted report.

David Wallace suggested that the GCVYS website should have a link direct to the YSS website. Lynne to provide information for Andrew.

LS/AS

LS said that YSS funding is likely to be come more targeted. MJ reported that she had been working with several parish councils to reduce duplication around children and young people issues, and thought we should have more local joined up working in this area.

- b. **Training and Standards:** The University now had the majority of students needed for placements/courses. A placement meeting was being held 28th Sept to match further students with organisations.

DW reported that GCVYS was pencilled in for a post graduate student, possibly for 6 months time. The intention was that the placement would look at what prospective members would expect to gain from GCVYS membership, and other issues to be defined (we need to make the placement useful, strategic, and meaningful for the student as well as GCVYS.)

- c. **GAVCA VCS Children and Young People Strategy Group:** Nothing to report.

- d. **GIG:** DW reported that the AGM had been held. Sue Barker was the new chair (Sally Pickering had stood down). A review was being undertaken of the GlosHub site (another link needed to the GCVYS website.) GIG was losing the funding for its admin person.

AS

GIG wanted a presentation from GCVYS in January 2010. DW was happy to do this unless anyone else wanted to?

DW

- e. **GHURC – Urban Youth Forum:** Nothing to report.

- f. **NCVYS:** DW reported that NCVYS are happy to make a presentation about its work to the Committee.

- g. **VCS Commissioning Board:** Nothing to report. Next meeting 27th October, 2010.

- h. **Regional Youth Work Unit:** DW is finding it difficult to obtain the information they require. Time and capacity are an issue.

6. Treasurer's Report

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Steve Robinson reported the following account balances:

Cash Account: £4,492.16

Gold Deposit Account: £4,776.77

7. Any Other Business

- a) David Wallace asked the Committee what they thought the future of GCVYS was? Where are we going?

Marilyn Jennings suggested the need to get the commissioners round the table and open dialogue with them. She said GCVYS should take the lead as the voice of the voluntary youth sector in Gloucestershire.

Tracy Clark asked what does GCVYS want to achieve? It brings people together but it doesn't feel dynamic.

Dawn Quest said that as a voluntary youth group it was only through her own networking that she had found about GCVYS and other support organisations for groups such as hers. Information was not shared widely if you were not in the loop. What were the roles of the YSS, Young Glos and GCVYS – who did voluntary sector youth groups go to?

Debbie Long said work had been done on the Strategy etc, but that we needed the website. How do we say 'We're here!'?

Pauline Merchant said that what Girlguiding gains from GCVYS and other committee members is learning, information sharing and networking. She wanted to get back to the networking of old when there were 60 plus members.

Peter Guns views were similar to Pauline's. GCVYS can be a good support group; it needs to build links, and have a good future and work harder.

Andrew Stratton said he didn't have much experience in planning youth work and getting funding etc, but he could see the group as a good opportunity for involvement and networking. The website was a good way forward.

Steve Robinson said local council grants opportunities were very useful his local clubs. What has GCVYS done to influence County Council Cabinet Members to improve things for voluntary youth groups? We should invite Will Windsor-Clive, the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Youth to a future meeting.

Marilyn Jennings said that the irony is that the economic disaster could be good for GCVYS.

Lynne Speak questioned the roles of YoungGlos and GCVYS. Which group should do what? Should we have a sub group to look at this? How can we support each other?

Tracy said YoungGlos had 90 members signed up and YG plans to increase infrastructure support.

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It would be useful to compare the roles and vision of YoungGlos and GCVYS. YG provide professional support for young people's groups and GCVYS provide networking, etc? YoungGlos do not support uniformed groups; they only support voluntary youth clubs. How does the County Community Project fit with GCVYS? What is the relationship between GCVYS and GAVCA? Bob Lewis is lead for Young People at GAVCA.

David asked each member of the Committee "In 12 months time where should GCVYS be?"

SR: GCVYS is recognised as a presence. Will Windsor-Clive would know that it existed.

AS: Unsure

PG: We need to get our identity and linkages clear and be ready to engage.

PM: A clear voice. We need to publicise GCVYS, have a clear membership list. GCVYS should be a learning place.

DL: Remove the fuzzy lines of infrastructure organisations. Everyone will know who does what, and the membership will come to GCVYS.

DQ: Similar views to what the others have said, but everyone had to contribute not just some.

TC: Was still confused about the roles.

MJ: being clear on the role of GCVYS, and building on it. GCVYS should look at funding opportunities, have an office base, a paid worker – financial stability is important. Ideally GCVYS would be able to support other groups financially, possibly in the form of a social enterprise.

LS: GCVYS needs a clear vision and purpose. She said GCVYS needs the leaders of all the big voluntary organisations to get involved. She thought it would be a good idea to bring back the networking lunches.

GCVYS could afford to do some lunches.

It was suggested that the meeting schedule should rotate each time between an Executive Committee only meeting and a full membership meeting the next time.

DW suggested that a small group should meet to look at all these views and take them forward as appropriate, and he would take responsibility for this.

DW

8. Date of Next Meeting (Executive Committee)

Monday 7pm, 29th November 2010 at Chequers Bridge Youth Centre (venue to be confirmed). Dawn to set dates for the next 12 months.

DQ