

VOICE TASK GROUP MEETING
1st April 2008
VONNE Boardroom

Present: Jane Cater, Julia Lyford, Suzanne Devlin, Liz Reay, Patrick Chapman, Justine King, Louise Evan Wong, Laura Mooney (minutes)

Apologies:

1.	<p><u>Introductions</u></p> <p>Julia welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
2.	<p><u>Aims and Objectives of the task group</u></p> <p>Julia expressed concern that although there is an action plan there wasn't a clear definition of the aims of VOICE. It was felt that the action plan needed additional outputs and ways to measure its achievements in increasing capacity and representation.</p> <p>It was agreed that VOICE task group can act as a reference for other task groups to get voice heard on other sectors.</p> <p>Patrick said that VOICE should act as Appreciative Referees.</p> <p>There needs to be a two way flow between task groups and we should look at key areas where influencing can be demonstrated within the indicators.</p> <p>The action plan highlights the need to increase community engagement and this group can measure how equality and diversity is used across other networks.</p> <p>There is an ideal opportunity to work with the Public Sector through the Duty to Involve and Principles of Representation papers and the emphasis on statutory bodies to work with representatives of the community.</p> <p>Julia suggested a 2-3 hour meeting to plan mapping in advance, focusing on one issue at a time. ACTION</p> <p>There is currently no link between the strands of diversity on the Coalition and mainstream organisations. The task must be to promote the Coalition and the role of the strands to access equality issues.</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>Another suggested output for the VOICE group was to produce good practice guidelines which could link to the Equality standards. The Coalition can help to develop this. ACTION</p>
3.	<p><u>Representation on Mainstream Task Group</u></p> <p>Patrick wants the mainstream group to stay focused, and therefore not to become too large. They have approached the coalition for representation and Anne is there to represent all seven strands.</p> <p>There are concerns as they don't want to tread on the coalition's toes or just have a one strand influence.</p> <p>It was the discussed by VOICE members that maybe the best thing</p>

	<p>would to give seats to two coalition members. This was agreed by Patrick. The task group needs to be accountable to the strands and the issue of scrutiny would be done by the coalition.</p> <p>Patrick felt that as they will be scrutinised and held accountable then maybe it would be best if he didn't have a seat on VOICE. The solution that was made was that there will be a joint meeting between the Mainstream Task Group and VOICE quarterly.</p>
4.	<p><u>Membership of the Group</u></p> <p>Julia asked the group where they thought there were any gaps in relation to delivering the action plan. Julia suggested that having TUC as a group member would be very relevant as there will be a link between the Public Sector and VCS and help with looking at diversity in employability issues.</p> <p>Patrick expressed concern that members from outside the VCS could make it diluted and Suzanne stated that the group currently has the luxury of focusing on the VCS.</p> <p>Patrick will no longer be a member of VOICE but will meet with VOICE quarterly as a member of the Mainstreaming Task Group. Liz stated that this would be the same for her.</p>
5.	<p><u>NEE&DB Meeting</u></p> <p>VOICE Task Group has the opportunity to put forward an agenda item for the meeting on 7th May. It was suggested that the item be that VOICE will be an Appreciative Referee for other task groups and that there will be scrutiny from the Coalition for the Mainstreaming Task Group.</p>
6.	<p><u>Budget</u></p> <p>The Strategic Health Authority has made available a budget to the Coalition via VONNE for mapping work around the equalities agenda. It was discussed as a good opportunity for strands to work collaboratively on a piece of work and this could result in a report on the journey for individuals seeking support from third and public sector bodies. This is the first time that public money has been used. Could use this as a pilot to see if it works or doesn't work.</p>
7.	<p><u>Summary of Action Agreed</u></p> <p>VOICE should act as Appreciative Referees to other task groups and Board.</p> <p>VOICE group will work with Coalition to carry out mapping exercise with funding from Strategic Health Authority.</p>

	<p>VOICE group will produce guidelines on Good Practice</p> <p>VOICE will invite representative from NEEP</p> <p>There will be a joint meeting between the Mainstream Task Group and VOICE quarterly.</p> <p>Patrick will no longer be a member of VOICE but will meet with VOICE quarterly as a member of the Mainstreaming Task Group. Liz stated that this would be the same for her.</p> <p>The Mainstreaming Task Group needs to be accountable to the strands and the issue of scrutiny would be done by the coalition.</p>
8.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>12th June at 12pm, venue to be confirmed.</p>