

West Cheshire Poverty Truth Advisory Board

Monday 17 August 2020, at 1 – 2pm

Online Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Clare Roberts, Cllr Mandy Clare, Mark Grady, Debra Webb, Barbara Dean, Gus Cairns, Emma Bibby-Cheshire, Susan Whitfield, Kay Finnerty, Liz Dickinson, Cllr Rachel Williams, Antony Spurway, Clare Harrison

Apologies: Susan Taylor, Steph Ellis, Wayne Gayle, Alexis Redmond, Tracy Goodwin, Shirley Rigby, Alison Dimelow, Linda Brooks, Tyra Goodwin

Item 1: All welcomed and apologies noted.

Meeting to be facilitated by Mandy and Clare until co-chairs are in place.

Item 2: Review TOR

Agreed it would be beneficial to have a visual (diagram) to illustrate TOR.

Membership – it was agreed:

that a stakeholder analysis would be useful.

It would be good to have a rep from Public Health and/or Exec. Director from health sector.

Inviting too many people would make the Board unmanageable and may be overtaken by professionals.

Co-Chair – A short description of what this involves would be useful and then all interested Inspirers to submit a short-written statement to Board members and then vote via email for their preferred choice. The Inspirer with majority vote would be elected for 12 months.

Meeting format – Agreed to meet monthly on last Tuesday of month and extend to 1.5 hours. It was commented that the Board should scrutinise and make recommendations and keep voting to a minimum. Agreed a code of conduct would be helpful; a working together model which reflects the principles of PTC.

Item 3: Communication

Mandy updated the Board on plans to have a dedicated web presence for the Poverty emergency.

Agreed the best way to share information outside of meetings and keep in touch was via email.

Once the co-chair is in place, she would like to have regular catch up with them.

Item 4: Setting priorities

Agreed the Board need to develop these collectively and are not at the stage to do that yet. However, there are a few things happening which the Board need to influence. It was agreed to form three small sub-groups:

Transport review – the Council is undertaking a whole review of transport across the Borough, including local bus contracts, community and rural transport, school transport, park and ride. A number of Community Inspirers volunteered to share their experience to help influence the review and inform evidence gathering.

Data Collection and analysis – it really important that we use a very data and evidence-based approach to shaping our ‘recovery’ within the council and working with other councils to drive change nationally if necessary. This sub-group will look at what data we may need, what’s already available and any gaps.

Use of any remaining Council Tax COVID-19 hardship fund – CW and C received this fund to help support economically vulnerable households. Grants have been awarded to those eligible for Council Tax reduction and the PTAB task is to develop a policy for the use of unallocated funding to support work to tackle poverty locally, under the terms that the funds were received.

Item 5: Updates from Mandy

Before each meeting Mandy will share an update on various things she’s been doing as part of her role as Leader Champion for Poverty and Equality. This will be shared via email. To listen to podcast click <http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Poverty-and-inequality/poverty-emergency-cllr-mandy-clare>

Agreed actions:

1. Begin to develop a “visual” TOR and code of conduct. (Clare R and Steph)
2. Complete a stakeholder analysis (Clare H, Clare R, Mandy)
3. Once membership is agreed a list of everyone and who they are to be circulated.
4. Produce brief outline of co-chair role. Inspirers to submit written statement if interested. (Clare R and Inspirers)
5. Sub-group leads to arrange meetings and update at next meeting. Clare R – Transport review, Mark – Hardship fund, Mandy – data collection.
6. Mandy’s podcast to be circulated (Clare R).

Dates of next meeting:

- Tuesday 22 September 2020 3pm – 4.30pm
- Tuesday 3 November 11am – 12.30pm