**Leeds Green Activity Provider Network (LGAPN)**

**Face to Face meeting Skelton Grange January 6th 2022**

**Present**

John Preston The Conservation Volunteers (Facilitator)

Lucy Wheeler The Conservation Volunteers

Isabel Swift Lemon Balm

Peter Murphy Groundwork Yorkshire

Alex Burgin Groundwork Yorkshire

Laura Smith Leeds Mindfulness Coop

Becky Mears Seasonwell cIC

Tanya Bish Living Potential Care Farm

**Apologies (some last minute Covid related)**

Sharon Bright Canal and Rivers Trust

Rich Warren Running Seeds

Pete Tatham Hyde Park Source (notes)

Karl Witty Forum Central

Adam Ogilvie Meanwood Valley Urban Farm

**This was a workshop to explore the benefits and potential pitfalls of collaborative working**

**Strategic Representation**

There are various meetings both standing and time limited where it is useful/helpful and sometimes essential for the voice of the sector to be represented and heard. This can be ensuring that environmental and climate change issues are included in the next “Vision for Leeds” or advocating for green social prescribing in health meetings. This all takes time’ and no-one is funded for it, also the voice carries more weight if it represents an group rather than just one organisation.

***Actions***

1. ***Those attending meetings to share key headlines via the periodic network meetings.***
2. ***Lucy is setting up a WhatsApp group called “I am going to a meeting” to share advance notification of meetings and urgent feedback or requests.***
3. ***To join the group (for those not at the meeting) email your mobile number to*** ***L.Wheeler@tcv.org.uk***
4. ***Those at meetings to support any calls for attendance to be supported IE Paid.***

There was some discussion about how best to share information when time is tight for everyone. Also making a list of who goes to what meeting (the Whatsapp group will start to do this)

**Sharing Information**

This was about interesting research papers and other stuff that could influence how we deliver (not just three interesting ways to make a DIY bird feeder)

***Action A second Whatsapp group was suggested, but not agreed, JP suggests wrap into the evaluation strand for now?***

**Shared Training**

This was about ensuring we have a well skilled workforce. Could sessionals and freelance staff work across organisations. We possibly need some minimum agreed training. Need to check where large organisations staff are required to do inhouse courses. LGAPN could have a skills bank of people available with cooking, mindfulness and other skills. Some members have done courses with Thrive in Reading, either day courses or the Diploma

***Actions***

1. ***Members could make spare spaces on existing courses available network members, these could be free or at cost.***
2. ***Might two or three people volunteer to have a separate meeting to think about what training gaps there might be and what a LGAPN training programme might be with costs? Offer to John please.***

**Shared Evaluation and Outcome measures**

Learning from good practice and building a Leeds evidence base of the effectiveness of what we all do to increase the confidence of commissioners in Leeds. Keeping things effective and simple.

***Actions***

***John follow up the national work by National Association of Social Prescribers and the new grouping of Environmental Charities***

***Have a small subgroup to look at this, offer to John (Isabel?)***

**Mapping the Network**

Looking to spread LGAPN work out to better serve the city and fill-in any obvious gaps where need is known to exist.

***Action***

***Thanks to those who have sent back the spreadsheet sent out by*** ***joe.Craig-Jackson@tcv.org.uk*** ***just before Christmas. If you haven’t it would be great if you could make time for this.***

**Joint delivery**

Some funders are wanting to give money out in larger chunks and sometimes to collaborative groups, but for the group to handle the division of the cash and the complexity of reporting. (Recent £22k award to TCV for LGAPN which is being delivered by three others organisations) but could be larger pots of funding. Also funder do expect similar organisations to be in contact and plan delivery so it is complementary (see above).

Bidding often happens on tight timescales, so the discussion on how schemes would work and consolidating trust and confidence between organisations needs to happen before this. This would involve some sharing of costings, models of delivery and agreeing policies.

Organisations would opt into the agreement for each specific proposal

***Action***

* ***John seek out examples of collaborative agreements e.g. the Climate Action one.***
* ***Karl Can you provide an example of a Terms of reference.***
* ***All Communicating in open and honest way, and working to deadlines (set realistically)***

**Next Meeting**

**To be arranged**

**It wasn’t possible due to the dark afternoon to do a tour of Skelton, so a return to Skelton, we also have an offer from Living Potential Care Farm near Wetherby**

Any thoughts anyone how about w/c 25th April one week clear of the easter holidays and after the scrabble of delivery and financial year end?