



Special SCEN Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Ideas Test

10 am – 12 pm

**Present:** Sophia Ramm, Samantha Griffiths, Lauren Mounsey, Linda Brinklow, Mark Hinton, Bill Ronan, Lance Phillips, Lesley Nowell- Hitchcock, Mima Vicentijevic, Bethan Tomlinson, V. Black, Robina Maslen, Daisy Littlemore, Whitney Henry, Jane Reynolds, Sandy Hammock, Zoe Deveson, Chris White, Lola Oyewusi

**Apologies:** Chris Twydell, Bobbie Walkem-Smith, Lynne Murphy, Krishna Devi, Sam West

Chris White opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming to this informal networking SCEN meeting. She explained the main reason for holding the meeting was to give members the opportunity to vote on the dissolution of Swale Community and Voluntary Services (SCVS) as a charity, in order that it can become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Chris White invited introductions around the room and thanked Ideas Test for once again offering a great location for the SCEN meetings, which had proved to be a mutually beneficial arrangement. She also extended her thanks to Sandy Hammock for doing a great job in collating and disseminating information to members in the Bulletins and for arranging interesting speakers for the meetings.

Chris White continued to explain that SCVS had been a charity for 45 year since 1973. The Trustees now wish to transfer to a CIO which requires the existing charity to be dissolved. In accordance with the current constitution of SCVS, the members (SCEN members) must vote positively for the dissolution with a two thirds majority. The outcome of this vote will then be sent to the Charities Commission with the CIO application.

Bethan Tomlinson asked for more information on Benefits of being a CIO and why the Trustees wanted the change. Chris explained that with a charity the trustees have personal liability and with a CIO the liability is limited.

Sam Ithell, a new trustee with Swale CVS said that the aim was to be a CIO in time for the AGM on 25th July. The process will take a minimum of 40 days once the result of the vote and the draft constitution is sent to the Charities Commission. It is hoped that Swale CVS can then go forward in the most appropriate structure.

Chris White Formally asked for a show of hand of those in favour of dissolving Swale CVS as a charity. Sandy Hammock counted hands and the vote was unanimously in favour.

Sandy Hammock spoke about the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which is coming into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and that we now require written consent to hold member's data. Sandy explained that we now have a membership form that must be completed to enable members to still receive the SCEN Bulletins and invites to meetings. Sandy Hammock said that she had some forms with her and would also email them out again.

## **Hot Topics**

Daisy Littlemore from Optivo is working on a project for any one of working age that has a passion or idea that they could turn into a business opportunity. They are offering training on branding, finance, legalities etc.

Whitney Henry from Optivo is working on a project called Employment Matters. They are recruiting 16-24 year olds interested in Multi trades. They are also liaising with local businesses to find out about opportunities before they are advertised. They can also provide support to anyone trying to get back into work.

Jayne Reynolds from Expert Patient Programme spoke about programme running from St Michaels Church Hall for people with long term health conditions.

Mima Vicentijevic from Adult Education Sittingbourne manages Response courses and can delivery free courses in the community for groups of 8 or more people over 19 and on a low income.

Linda Brinklow from Aspirations over 50s said that the group has been going for 10 year and they are currently looking for funding to hold events on the Isle of Sheppey.

Sandy Hammock spoke about Big Local Community Chest which is now open to applicants with project ideas to directly benefit residents of Eastern Sheppey. Groups can apply for up to £500.

Lesley Nowell - Hitchcock from Mindfulness 4 life is currently working with Optivo, the Quays and Healthy Living Centre. She is currently looking at the possibility of setting up a relaxation group in Sittingbourne.

Lauren Mounsey from Sheppey Matters is working on Sheppey Lifestyles which is aimed at promoting Healthy Lifestyles from Plot to Plate.

Sam Griffiths from Crossroads Care Kent said they have 75 support workers offering respite to carers. They are always open to referrals to enable them to help more people.

Mark Hinton from CAB said they have 40 volunteers offering free impartial advice they employ 2 specialist debt advisors and 2 specialist benefit advisors. They finally moved into Swale House in December which has been very beneficial. Mark emphasised that they are still completely independent from Swale Borough Council.

Sophia Ramm from Swale Borough Council explained they are currently revising their grant forms to make them easier to complete. Grants open on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Zoe Deveson from Swale CVS spoke about the project in partnership with Diversity House, Black and Ethnic Minorities Can Volunteer. This project is offering free volunteer training for 4 weeks one morning a week starting 28 June. SCVS are also having an outdoor event on 5<sup>th</sup> June for Volunteers Week; organisations are welcome to attend, along with prospective and current volunteers. We will also be counting the hours again this year. Contact Zoe for more information.

Bethan Tomlinson spoke about the new Director Lucy joining them. She spoke about three projects Celebrating age, a new production they are recruiting a local coordinator for raising the Barn at Milton Creek.

Robina Maslen from Diversity House spoke about their Life Skills Fair on 8<sup>th</sup> June they have a variety of speakers and stall holders and have one stall still available.

Bill Ronan from Kent County Council explained he looks after the KCC member's grants. There are 7 members with £20,000 each to distribute among community groups. The minimum grant is £300. Please contact Bill for more information.

Lance Phillips from Physical Folk said they offer free drama and film production skills courses for young people up to the age of 24. It is also an employability programme and runs from the Avenue Theatre in Sittingbourne.

Sam Ithell said as a newcomer to a SCEN Meeting, it was great to hear about all the good work going on.

Lola Oyewusi from Optivo is recruiting mentors for people starting up their own business.

Chris White thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for networking and refreshments.