

Notes

NGO Forum Steering Group meeting  
6 September 2007

### **1) Welcome**

#### **Present:**

Karen Bollan, NGO Forum / Royal Society of Health  
Nigel Carter, British Dental Health Foundation  
Kostakis Christodoulou, Society for Health Education & Promotion Specialists (SHEPS)  
Martin Gibbs, Department of Health  
Jo Guest, National Healthy Living Alliance  
Richard Parish, Royal Society of Health  
Robert Pickard, Chair  
Steve Shaffelburg, British Heart Foundation

#### **Apologies:**

Julie Jay Charles, Equalities National Council  
Paul Scourfield, Faculty of Public Health  
Duncan Tree, CSV  
Phillip Woodward, Royal Society of Health  
Roz Godson, Unite  
Ian Gray, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

### **2) Notes of the last meeting**

The notes of the last meeting were agreed without correction. All matters arising were covered by the agenda for this meeting.

### **3) National Conference**

It was noted that the next conference will be free to all delegates. Exhibition space and sponsorship opportunities would be available at reasonable cost.

Several issues were discussed about content for the day and possible areas to be covered. These included:

- community development approaches
- local government
- Our Health, Our Say

It was agreed that this conference could give the Forum a chance to engage with NGOs beyond to individuals.

A focus for some interactive sessions could be joint strategic needs assessments and looking at how can communities engage with this process.

It was suggested that there be a sustainable development workshop.

Possible areas to explore included the new tool for the NHS about being a good corporate citizen, carbon footprint targets, and positive sustainable change.

The panel debate should ensure people can engage. It was felt important to find enough spaces and for people to work and engage with each other

There was an emphasis to try and make it cross government – transport/ Office Third Sector/ C&YP/ Skills and employment.

**ACTION: KB to issue invites to appropriate government departments.**

The overall purpose of conference is to consider and promote the Third Sector's role in social determinants.

Liam Hughes – Healthy Communities at IDeA – invite to spearhead local authorities with public health role.

**ACTION: KB**

Also it will be an opportunity to look at how the Third Sector is responding to challenges such service delivery re: public health, health inequalities/ social determinants, delivery structure of government.

#### **4) Commercial Opportunities**

The paper was discussed and the various options talked about in detail. It was agreed that the NGO Forum should follow an ethical policy, case by case, independence not to be compromised. Principles include; involvement not endorsement, no anti-health association. All areas of the work must be in the public interest.

Any decisions made must be transparent and should not influence the NGO forum work plan.

It is important that we show due diligence by making things public and published. Engaging with the private sector provides an opportunity to bring change from inside.

The process ensure that funding does not become or replace core costs. As part of the ethical principles it must be considered how funding and sponsorship can give extra leverage and offer some independence for NGO Forum.

It was agreed if straight forward approach is made Karen B / Robert P will make joint decision. If any approach is made which might possibly be controversial or complicated it will be taken to whole steering group for a decision.

## **5) Regional workshops**

CSV remain committed to supporting these workshops via the media supporting and will aid with involving government offices.

## **6) Any other business**

24 September will be lunch with Sir Michael Marmot to discuss interim report on social determinants.

**ACTION:** KB know if you want to attend.

The merger of the Royal Society of Health and the Royal Institute of Public Health will not have much effect on the NGO Forum. The NGO Forum manager will continue to report directly to Chief Executive RIPH and RSH are both very supportive of Forum.

There is a plan for a fund for charitable purposes. Pennies for change – uses small amounts on credit cards, extra amounts rounded up and subscribers give rounded up and given to a charitable fund. Several things still unknown, do people nominate own charities or does it go to a general pot? Will Gift Aid be applicable?

Sustrans short listed for final six for People's Millions. Members of the public will vote for their favourite option.

**ACTION:** KB to publicise.