

Spring conference

Approaches to empowerment

Thursday, 16 March 2017

9.30am – 4.00pm

Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton BN1 1YD

Arrivals and networking from 9.30am or 1.00pm

Learn • Network • Influence

‘Approaches to empowerment’ is a way for us to come together to ensure our services are empowering for service users, staff and volunteers alike.

Programme

9.30 – 10.00	Arrivals and refreshments
10.00 – 10.40	Welcome and plenary
10.50 – 1.00	Morning sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning Network or • Small Groups Network or • Children and Young People Network
1.00 – 2.00	Free networking lunch and market place
2.00 – 4.00	Afternoon sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities Network or • Volunteer Co-ordinators’ Forum or • Open Session: Digital Inclusion

Book your place by Friday 10 March, via Eventbrite:

<https://cw-members-spring-conference-16-march-2017.eventbrite.co.uk>

Please choose one session in the morning and/or one in the afternoon. See our website for full details: <http://bhcommunityworks.org.uk/members/services/events-networking/>

For assistance with booking, contact us at: events@bhcommunityworks.org.uk or 01273 234023.

Session descriptions

Plenary

10.00 – 10.40

All welcome

Larissa Reed, the new executive director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing services at Brighton and Hove City Council will present her vision of the local community and, what it means to be an empowered citizen in Brighton and Hove. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

The plenary will bring attendees together and will provide an introduction to the day along with a brief exploration of what empowerment means in the current climate.

Morning Sessions

10.50 – 1.00

Commissioning Network:

This session is for senior managers of medium-large voluntary organisations.

The session will look at the current commissioning climate and will examine how the commissioning process can be empowering for both managers and service users. The session will include:

- A summary of commissioning opportunities and challenges
- Information about Accessible Information Standards

Children & Young People Network:

This session is for those involved in delivering services for children and young people in the city.

The session will look at how to engage and empower young people. It will focus on how to ensure that young people are empowered throughout the design and delivery of services in the context of significant budget reductions. The session will include the following:

- A discussion about the Hangelton and Knoll Youth Manifesto
- A presentation from the Local Safe Guarding Board entitled “Hearing Voices across the Safeguarding Partnership”
- A solution focused discussion about the impact of budget cuts on youth services

Small Groups Network:

This session is for small groups (income below £35k per annum)

This session will look at how small groups can ensure that they are sustainable and resilient by looking at their strengths and their current assets. It will explore:

- What do we mean by discrimination and why should we be worried about it?
- What are the challenges around challenging discrimination in small group settings?
- What do we mean by empowerment (peer support)?
- How do we empower people to challenge discrimination in this setting (Peer Support)?

The second part of the session will concentrate on fundraising news and tips for small groups. Attendees will be provided with updates from the most popular funders and tips on how to submit a good application.

Networking lunch

1.00 – 2.00

This is a great opportunity to meet with a range of organisations and colleagues and hear about some of the work happening in the city while enjoying a buffet style lunch (a range of vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options will be available).

Afternoon Sessions

2.00– 4.00

Communities Network: What changes for the better when everyone is included?

The Community and Voluntary Sector has a rich tradition of collaborating with people from Brighton and Hove's diverse communities and working creatively to ensure everyone is included.

This workshop led by Yvonne Rivers is an opportunity to build on your work; discuss the challenges and explore the potential to include everyone. What helps? What hinders? What can we do more of?

Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forum: from service user to service volunteer

This session is for those with a responsibility for managing and supervising volunteers

Much of our work aims engage people, who may be marginalised or considered as vulnerable to give people a voice, to empower and enable. In this session we will explore how to include service beneficiaries within volunteering programmes, as volunteers including peer supporters or services user groups.

Open Session: Digital inclusion

This session is open to everyone.

This session will be led by Judith Field and Richard Denyer-Bewick from Digital Brighton and Hove. It will examine the various ways that organisations can ensure digital inclusion:

- Is digital inclusion a real issue for individuals and community groups?
- Is the trend towards online services an opportunity or a threat?
- How good is your own digital offer?
- Where will the money come from? Savings, grants and free resources.

The small print

Attendance is **free** for all our members. Booking is **essential** as space is limited. Please note that places are restricted to **2** per organisation in each session, unless spaces are still available nearer the day.

Expenses are available for small groups (under £35k per annum) and volunteers; just bring your receipt or ticket on the day.

For more information visit <http://bhcommunityworks.org.uk/> for assistance with booking, contact us at: events@bhcommunityworks.org.uk or 01273 234023