

5

FACTS ABOUT VOCYPF 2016/2017

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



293 people signed-up to
our fortnightly newsletter

146 voluntary sector organisations
being kept informed

TALKING TO YOU

22

visits made to voluntary
organisations in both local authorities



REPRESENTING YOU



46 local authority meetings attended

17 statutory and non-statutory
agencies engaged with



LET'S
TALK

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

LET OUR VOCYPF OFFICER KNOW IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE VOCYPF
CONVERSATION ON FACEBOOK

VOCypf OUR AIMS

- To **identify** the needs of children, young people and families in the local community
- To **assist** local voluntary and community organisations working with children, young people and families to work effectively and deliver quality services
- To **facilitate** effective communication, networking and collaboration within the sector and with other sectors
- To **inform** voluntary and community organisations by disseminating information on sector developments and opportunities for funding and training
- To **advocate** on behalf of the sector and enhance its role as an integral part of local planning, policy making, commissioning and service delivery
- To **encourage engagement** between local voluntary and community organisations and statutory partners

Who Are We?

Voluntary Organisations for Children, Young People and Families (VOCypf) is a network of voluntary and community organisations who work with children, young people and families in Bedfordshire. We exist to champion the voluntary and community sector in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire.

Message from Len Simkins, VOCypf CHAIR

I am very happy to report on **another successful year for VOCypf**. In 2016/17 we continued to provide a **wide range of quality support services** for the local authorities and the voluntary children's sector in Bedfordshire.

In last year's report I welcomed **Gemma Williamson** who joined us in April 2016 as VOCypf officer. Gemma has settled in very well and is now the recognised, frontline face of VOCypf. I would like to thank Gemma for her committed input.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank: **Helen Hall** (VOCypf's Communications Officer) for her sterling work on our fortnightly newsletter and other communications; **Linda Bulled** (our previous VOCypf Officer) who provided a very effective handover to Gemma last spring; our **Executive Group** (see page 2) who oversee VOCypf; our funders, **Central Bedfordshire Council**, **Bedford Borough Council** and **Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board** and the **CVS** who provide hosting services for VOCypf.

Funded and supported by:



Working in partnership



BEDFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



Bedford Borough
Safeguarding Children Board



Community
Voluntary Service
Strengthening local social action

Looking back: Key achievements in 2016/17

- ◆ Induction for new VOCypf Officer, including visits to local voluntary and community groups and meetings with key local authority (LA) professionals.
- ◆ Contributed to key meetings and events in both LAs including: Safeguarding Children Board's and sub-groups; Acting Early, Children's Trust Board, Support and Aspiration Board - for Central Bedfordshire; Child Health and Well-Being Board, Domestic Abuse Delivery Group - for Bedford Borough.
- ◆ Reviewed VOCypf's communications as a result of a communications survey, and implemented improvements including:
 - ◆ the redesign and updating of VOCypf web pages;
 - ◆ the creation and promotion of a new VOCypf Bedfordshire Facebook Group;
 - ◆ distribution of VOCypf's re-designed, fortnightly newsletter.
- ◆ Undertook a training needs survey within the VOCypf network to inform use of the VOCypf Workforce Development Fund.
- ◆ Actively engaged with both LAs on safeguarding and quality standards and accreditation for voluntary and community groups.
- ◆ Actively engaged with both LAs to provide a VOCypf perspective on each agenda affecting children, young people and families.

VOCypf Executive Group

Members 2016/17:

Caroline Barkham Angela Foll
 Michael Howe Tracy Jones
 Wendie Harvey (was Lovatt) Len Simkins
 Natalie Sutterby Martin Trinder
 Gemma Williamson

Our thanks to Tracy Jones, Caroline Barkham, & Natalie Sutterby who are no longer part of the group; & welcome to Diana Hedley (Groundwork) and Paul Chandler (YMCA) who join us for 2017/18.

Looking forward: Priorities for VOCypf 2017/18

- ◆ Continue to offer our two local authorities a voluntary sector perspective and look for opportunities for VOCypf to contribute through consultation and service delivery.
- ◆ Provide regular newsletter updates to keep the sector informed of national and local news, local events and training opportunities with a particular focus on safeguarding training.
- ◆ Launch and promote VOCypf's Bursary Fund for training which aims to help voluntary organisations in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire to access training for staff and volunteers.
- ◆ Continue to use social media to increase communication with the sector and encourage a more interactive approach to communication between VOCypf and VCS organisations.
- ◆ Undertake a new safeguarding project for Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board.
- ◆ Seek to bring child poverty back onto the LAs' agendas.

VOCypf Officer

A TYPICAL WEEK'S WORK SCHEDULE

TUES	<p>AM: Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Meeting (CBSCB). This includes presentation of a report from the Local Authority Designated Officer which will be of interest to VOCypf membership.</p>	<p>PM: Selection and preparation of items for the VOCypf newsletter as a result of the morning's meeting.</p> <p>All Items to be included are emailed to the VOCypf Communications Officer for collation.</p>
WED	<p>AM: Bedford Borough Domestic Abuse Delivery Group Meeting</p>	<p>PM: Proof read draft VOCypf newsletter before it is sent out by the Communications Officer.</p> <p>Prepare for SLA meeting on Thursday.</p>
THURS	<p>AM: Service Level Agreement meeting with officer from Central Bedfordshire Council to discuss VOCypf's work in Central Bedfordshire during the last quarter.</p>	<p>PM: Work on presentation for the Bedford Borough Voluntary Sector Provider Forum.</p> <p>Visit to a voluntary organisation in Central Bedfordshire to get an overview of services provided</p>

Contact VOCypf: Gemma Williamson, VOCypf Officer

@: gemma@voc-ypf.org ☎: 07496 63893 🌐 voc-ypf.org.uk
 43 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2AA

Subscribe to mailing at www.cvsbeds.org.uk/vocypf-updates