

WAVOCC NEWS – Message from the Chair – September 2009

Dear Member,

Firstly welcome to the new look WAVOCC News which we hope you will find interesting and informative. My thanks to Kate who has worked really hard to implement the changes and we would welcome your comments about both the style and the content so that we can continue to develop this newsletter.

Thanks also to everyone who attended our AGM in July, I hope you found it an interesting morning – we certainly had some excellent discussions about Choice & Control and the Joint Commissioning unit which will be useful in the coming months as the relevant work develops. As usual, we'd welcome more members on to the Executive committee so do please consider getting involved – it's really not that onerous!!

Since the AGM, the Executive have met once whilst VCS reps. including WAVOCC, have met with Eddie Clark and Catherine Driscoll in the quarterly VCS Forum meeting. These very useful meetings give reps. the opportunity to raise 'general' issues with the Director as well as find out about issues from the WCC perspective.

Over the summer, the theme groups of Worcestershire Partnership were kept busy looking at the applications for funding for the AOHN (Areas of Highest Need) as well as the many applications for other LAA reward funding. It is important that members are aware of this work so that we can ensure that the work of the VCS is properly recognised – and rewarded!!! If anyone doesn't know who to contact within their particular theme group, do contact Jim who has details on most VCS reps at county level.

For the future, we are looking at further developments in our relationship with Worcestershire PCT especially if the Swine Flu pandemic escalates as some have predicted. We also need to ensure that as many VCS organisations as possible respond to the Deloitte survey on the work of Worcestershire Partnership so please return your questionnaire if you have been sent one. The work of the Intergenerational Steering group and the implementation of Compact will also be 'on our agenda' in the coming months. The development of the Children's Trust will continue to be important for those members working with Children & Young People whilst we hope that members have been able to promote the Trustees events which have been organised by WCC and WIC for the end of September. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss anything mentioned above.

To close, I'd just like to thank all our members for their support and to encourage you to contact Jim, Kate or me if you have any questions or queries about any items in this newsletter.

Sally Ellison
Chair