

# Community Southwark Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2016 | 4.00pm to 6.00pm | Cambridge House, 1 Addington Square, SE5 0HF

## Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Aarti Gandesha	Healthwatch
Ade Adebambo	Director - Local Accountancy Project
Adrian Greenwood (AG)	Deputy Chair - Link Age Southwark
Alison Ewart	Community Southwark
Angela Egonu	
Angus Lyon	Commissioning Officer - Southwark Council
Beccy Allen (BA)	Outgoing Trustee - Community Southwark Trustee Board
Bron Thomas	(Minutes) - Community Southwark
Catherine Negus	Community Southwark
Chithmini De Silva	Community Southwark
Clare Birks	Chair - Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Choral Choir (3)
Clare Chamberlain	Community Southwark
Conor Cregg	Community Southwark
Deborah Hayman	Community Southwark
Gordon McCullough (GM)	Chief Executive - Community Southwark
Helen Atwood	Community Southwark
Herbert Kandeh	Community Southwark
Ian Redding	Community Southwark
Jo Palmer	Community Southwark
Kemi Oyenuga	Vice Chair - Lant & Bittern TRA
Khosi Manaka	Trustee - Community Southwark Trustee Board
Magda Oldziejewska	The Feminist Library
Mariana Meirelles	Community Southwark
Marissa Charles	Community Southwark
Mark Parker (MP)	Acting Chair - Community Southwark Trustee Board
Matthew Sheldon	Community Southwark
Michael Bukola (MB)	Trustee - Community Southwark Trustee Board
Naima Barre	
Nathan Lewis	Community Southwark
Robert Jamieson	Community Southwark
Steve Smith	Community Southwark
Stephanie Lodge	Southwark Friends of the Earth
Verinder Mander	Outgoing Trustee - Community Southwark Trustee Board

## **Apologies:**

Alex Margolies – CEO, Thames Reach Employment Agency  
Jacky Bourke-White (JBW) – Chair, Community Southwark Trustee Board  
Karin Woodley – Vice Chair, Community Southwark Trustee Board  
Matthew Guest – Treasurer, Community Southwark Trustee Board

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

In JBW's absence, MP assumed the role of Chair and welcomed the audience to the Annual General Meeting for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016, noting that a number of apologies had been received (listed above).

### **2. Minutes from Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2015**

Copies of the previous year's AGM Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and handed out during registration. The Chair invited questions, but none were raised. The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the discussions that had taken place on the day – proposed by Mark Parker (Community Southwark Trustee) and seconded by Verinder Mander (Outgoing Community Southwark Trustee).

### **3. Chair and Chief Executive Reports**

GM explained that, following the merger of Community Action Southwark with the Volunteer Centre Southwark on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2015, the organisation's name was changed to Community Southwark on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016.

Community Southwark has three main strategic priorities:

- Supporting voluntary/community organisations and groups in a variety of ways, including providing 1:1 advice on governance, planning and fundraising
- Training to promote well run organisations and groups; 332 groups were supported last year (as compared with 331 during the previous year) – that's almost one per day
- Supporting volunteering and organisations who recruit & manage volunteers in the borough.

One of the things we hear so often is that Community Southwark only works with big organisations. This certainly is not true! 88% of the groups we support have less than £100,000 in annual income and, of these organisations, 70% actually have less than £1,000 of annual income, i.e. 'grass roots' organisations.

Funding is an important topic for everyone; stakeholders include organisations and groups, charitable funders, the council and the general public. Community Southwark works hard to ensure that organisations have the skills and competencies to write and

submit funding applications and, during the last financial year, were instrumental in unlocking £750,000 of funding for local organisations and groups.

Community Southwark is also one of the few CVSs that still provides free training to its Members. Organisations would otherwise typically need to pay between £300 to £400 per day to attend courses of similar content and duration. During the last financial year, 348 people attended training and, from feedback forms received, 81% stated that they left their course feeling more confident and able to utilise the information they had been given.

Community Southwark will always protect free training in governance, fundraising, finance, impact measurement and volunteering. This is core to what we do and is a very visible part of the services we provide.

A less visible, but equally important aspect of our services is the work we do with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Southwark Council, including helping to shape the CCG's five-year view, supporting the Southwark & Lambeth Early Action Commission's initiatives on prevention, rather than crisis management and launching the Southwark Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy: 'Common Purpose Common Cause' and steering its implementation.

A very big thanks was then extended to all who participated in these initiatives during the year.

Community Southwark also has a role in holding the council to account. We gather evidence on topics as varied as procurement, personal budgets, premises and mental health, and feed the results of our investigations back to the council for follow-up action. We also sit on the Local Care Networks (LCNs).

Community Southwark provides secretarial support and grant assistance to the Southwark Safer Neighbourhood Board, a body that brings the community and police together to help shape policing and crime prevention priorities and ensure the public is involved in community safety decisions.

During the past year, we have increased our social action activities, particularly through creating four Community Action Networks (CANs) across the borough, to promote knowledge sharing and gain access to resources available within the borough that support a wide variety of causes and interests.

Our volunteering brokerage service that came across from our merger with the Volunteer Centre Southwark (VCS) in 2015 saw over 650 people attending volunteering advice sessions, with just over half of these are still volunteering in some capacity in the borough. There has been a big year-on-year increase in the number of individuals accessing this service.

This year's Southwark Stars volunteering awards were held at the Coin Street Conference Centre on St Patrick's Day. This was a great event celebrating the

contribution that volunteers and volunteering organisations had made to local communities during the past 12 months.

We have continued to grow our 'Involve' corporate employer supported volunteering programme, where we act as broker for and facilitator of practical team challenges and increasingly, skills based activities across the borough.

GM then asked if there were any questions from the audience and there were none.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report on the Accounts and Financial Statements**

GM stated that income for the full year to 31/03/16 was £1.3 million, an 8% increase on the previous year. The main revenue components included core funding from Southwark Council, the one year volunteering and specialist services contract and assets that transferred over from the VCS, funding to cover Healthwatch Southwark, income to pay fulfilment partners under the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme, consultancy fees (currently 16% of income) and support from grant making trusts.

Support costs totalled 10% of total costs incurred and the bulk of funds spent last year went towards capacity building. A small deficit of £6,000 had been reported for the year and reserves at year end totalled £342,000 (sufficient to meet the needs of working capital requirements and continuity of current activities, in the event of a significant drop in funding received).

GM then asked if there were any comments on the annual accounts and there were none.

#### **5. Resolution 1: to adopt the annual accounts for the year ending 31 March, 2016 and Treasurer's report.**

The resolution was proposed by AG and seconded by BA. The members unanimously adopted the annual accounts.

#### **6. Resolution 2: to appoint auditors for the year 2016/17.**

GM stated that the current external auditors, Haines Watts, had been in place for 5 years and that the work would be put out to tender during the next financial year.

The resolution was proposed by MB and seconded by MP and accepted by all members present.

#### **7. Any other business**

GM stated that Community Southwark's Trustees were able to serve two terms of three years and that this sadly meant that the Board was today saying goodbye to two trustees, Verinder Mander (who had previously served as both chair and trustee) and Beccy Allen. On behalf of the Board and staff of Community Southwark, GM extended

his sincere thanks to both for their dedicated service to the organisation, and wished them well in their future endeavours.

GM further thanked everyone: trustees, staff and volunteers, for all their dedication and hard work during the past year, the results of which had made a significant contribution to the borough.

## **8. Close**

There being no further items to cover, MP closed the formal AGM part of the meeting.

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GM then made two further presentations to the members:

- An overview of Community Southwark's strategic priorities for the forthcoming year, including:
  - Further developing the 'franchised model' that included the VCS and CAS coming together to form Community Southwark, the launch of Community Waltham Forest on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2016, building on Healthwatch Southwark's continued success (despite being the third least well-funded HW in London with three world class hospitals to monitor) and leveraging Community Southwark's consultancy and training offerings to include Lambeth organisations and groups
  - Focusing particularly on implementing the 'Building Stronger Foundations' three-year strategic plan (2016/19), continuing to develop the Southwark CANs, relaunching Southwark Voice and forming more Provider Led Groups (PLGs)
  - Taking Southwark Giving from an incubator programme to a fully operational entity with its own Strategic Partnership Board and remit to fundraise and target funds towards addressing local disadvantage, create employer supported and community based volunteering opportunities and form a network of fundraisers and donors; this will be underpinned by completing the research and launching Southwark Giving's report: 'A Tale of Two Southwarks'.
- An update on the Southwark Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy: 'Common Purpose Common Cause', a five-year strategy for the borough that was designed to change the relationship between the voluntary sector and the public sector. This would include the establishment of longer term grant funding 'pots', better use of community assets and initiatives designed to make communities more resilient. Four working groups had been established and implementation of the strategy's recommendations would be a key focus for the coming year. GM then thanked everyone involved in this collaboration.