



Supporting the voluntary sector
working in the criminal justice system

Member advisory forum meeting notes

Tuesday 31 May 2022, 13.00 – 15.00 via video call

Attendees

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| Chris Stacey | Clinks (Co-chair) |
| Anne Fox | Clinks |
| Janine Alcantara | Employment 4 All |
| Beverley Brooks | The Recruitment Junction |
| Emily Giles | The Bell Foundation |
| Lynn Kelly | POPS |
| Chris Leslie | Inside Out Support Wales |
| Riana Taylor | Circles UK |

Apologies

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| Rachael Byrne | Co-Chair, Clinks Trustee (HomeGroup) |
| Peter Merrifield | Support When It Matters (SWIM) |
| Matina Marougka | Together for Mental Wellbeing |
| Ian Merrill | Shannon Trust |
| Arron Owen | Cranstoun |
| Khatuna Tsintsadze | Zahid Mubarek Trust |
| Robert White | MayDay Trust |

1. Welcome and introductions

- Chris welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Clinks member advisory forum, and welcomed Chris Leslie to his first meeting since joining the group in March.
- All attendees introduced themselves.

2. Clinks' fundraising strategy

- We were joined by Anne Fox, Clinks' CEO, to discuss how Clinks itself approaches its fundraising and income generation in a way that responds to what the sector and our members need from Clinks.
- Anne provided the context to Clinks' current funding and the focus primarily on trusts and foundations as well as statutory funders.
- There was a wide-ranging discussion on ways that Clinks could generate income from voluntary organisations and Clinks members without compromising the ability of small and specialist organisations to benefit from Clinks' offer.
- On the jobs board, there was a general sense that members of the forum would support Clinks in limiting the access of larger organisations and charging for posting vacancies. There were suggestions for how Clinks would better track if vacancies are filled via the jobs board.

- There was support for Clinks to explore how it could offer more charged-for training opportunities, act as a broker for relationships and consortia to be developed, as well as providing consultancy support and ways to advertise opportunities although this must be considered alongside Clinks' focus under the infrastructure grant of promoting opportunities within the voluntary sector.

3. Open space - What issues/opportunities are we seeing facing the sector at the moment?

- Riana highlighted the upcoming commissioning of Circles through probation as a positive step and was grateful for Clinks support in recent years. There has recently been a market engagement event which had highlighted gaps in potential provision. Clinks had helped to develop potential Circles providers in Wales. There is a further need in Greater Manchester and the North West.
- There was a discussion about the Dynamic Purchasing System and the future prison education service (PES). Chris asked what engagement members of the forum had had with the work to look at the future PES and there had been very little – members had not felt that the launch event and subsequent webinars were designed to consult and engage. Instead, they felt that it was very supplier-focused. There was a general sense that the commissioning processes and practices were not friendly towards small voluntary organisations.

4. AOB

Emily highlighted grant opportunities for organisations to work on language barriers - <https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/about-us/partner-with-us/criminal-justice-programme-partnerships/>

5. Meeting admin

Next meeting is **12th July, 1pm – 3pm.**

A Slack channel had been established and most members had signed up. There was a general sense that it had potential to increase contact between meetings and so we would continue to use it and see how we get on over the next couple of months.