

South & Central Community Champion Network Meeting

Wednesday 29th November 2023

Zoom meeting themed:

The Bootle Strand – Redevelopment

Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance project

Chair

Barbara Rouse (BR) Bootle YMCA

Attendees

Jan Comer (JC)	People First Merseyside
Lesley Curran (LC)	People First Merseyside
Simon Walker (SW)	People First Merseyside
Nicola Hall (NH)	People First Merseyside
Clare Hallworth (CH)	Galloways Society for the Blind
Peter Davies (PD)	Liverpool & Sefton Age Concern
Caroline Hesketh (CH)	Sefton Carers Centre
Sandra Bell (SB)	The Reach Men's Centre
Sarah Davidson (SD)	Kindfulness Coffee Club
Maurice Byrne (MB)	Maghull Locality Representative
Bob Wilkinson (BW)	The Samaritans
Debbie Kelly (DK)	May Logan
Joe Westall (JW)	Strand By Me
Jerryann Blaney (JB)	Expect Ltd (Bowersdale Resource Centre)
Jenny McLoughlin (JMc)	Select Training

Healthwatch staff member(s)

Wendy Andersen (WA) Engagement & Participation Manager
Clare Blasberry (CB) Digital Communications Officer

Guest Speaker (s)

Heather Jago (HJ)	Strategic Commissioner – Regeneration, Sefton Council
Nicky Owen (NO)	Project Manager Growth
Alicia Watson (AW)	Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance Social Action Lead

Apologies

Mandy Williams (MW)	Signposting & Information Officer
Helen Shortall (HS)	Reengage
Michelle Rossiter (MR)	Home from Home
Jane Elliott (JE)	Localities Manager NHS Cheshire & Merseyside

1. Introductions & Housekeeping

BR welcomed all members and guest speakers to the Community Champion network zoom meeting.

Topics planned for today's meeting:

- Bootle Strand Redevelopment
- Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance project

The last south and central Community Champion network meeting was held September 2023. This meeting was held at Sefton Carers and it was an opportunity for us to meet and find out more about each other's services and activities.

Housekeeping was covered and BR introduced the guest speakers.

2. Code of Conduct / Declarations of Interest

BR informed everyone that the Healthwatch Sefton Code of Conduct had been circulated and all members should have signed and returned this. During this meeting all members were informed that they were to abide by the Code of Conduct and Kindness and Respect Guidelines.

BR asked if there were any declarations of interest.

No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Bootle New Strand update

HJ and NO introduced themselves and thanked members for being invited along to provide an update.

HJ and NO shared a presentation on the Strand Repurposing and Bootle Strand Integrated Health and Social Care Hub.

The presentation included:

- Our Vision for The Strand and Bootle Town Centre
- Bootle Strand Repurposing project
- The Strand now
- The Strand Phase 1 demolition
- Scheme Design overview
- Details of how to find out more

Question / Comment: LC informed members that People First Merseyside are going to visit the office at Bootle Strand in January to find out more about the project and that they will be working together.

Question / Comment: MB said that he felt it was brilliant but that it will cost a lot of money. MB asked how this would be funded?

Answer: HJ informed members for Phase 1 – they had secured 20 million from the Government Level Up Funding. Discussions are on-going with Liverpool City Region Combination Authority for additional funding. Transportation funding will also be targeted. HJ went on to say they are hopeful for investment from the Private Sector for future funding. The Council have put in small scale funding. This project is also for the wider Bootle area.

Question / Comment: CH stated that she felt this was an exciting project and that it is really needed. CH said she wanted to raise concerns that she was hearing from the lower floor of the Strand that rents for the shop premises may increase. CH asked if this is being considered and if so, have the smaller charities been considered?

Answer: HJ said that all the shop fronts that are due for demolition, they have been in discussions with and that they are moving as many of them as possible into areas of the Strand that are staying. All details have not been finalised as yet and unfortunately, they have not been able to find a suitable space within the Strand for The Tool Shed. HJ said that they have been working with The Tool Shed to find alternative space and are working with them re: outdoor furniture for the project.

HJ stated that they do not expect rentals to change. There are no current plans for this, but not to say in 10 years time that this would not change.

Question / Comment: BR asked, you say 10 years time can you confirm the rent will be static?

Answer: HJ stated that this could not be confirmed, but that they are not looking to lose people, the plan is to keep people. BR stated that people need to know this and conversations are needed. HJ confirmed that these conversations had been taking place.

Question / Comment: A number of questions were put forward by BR below:

BR stated - You are all set to demolish and rebuild:

- What do you have in place for the rest of the Strand?
- How can you guarantee you will have all the money in place?
- From today's meeting I am hearing you are in talks for funding, but the money is not confirmed?

Answer: HJ stated that the scale of Bootle Strand is a considerable size and they are continuing in discussions. The Combined Authority have agreed funding in principle. There is a co-production process once approved. HJ stated she could not say today that the funding is approved but they are very much working with them. We are working through the later phases and talking with potential investors. HJ stated they are working in a number of different ways and that it will take 10 – 15 years.

BR stated that she felt this did not answer her question and that she was scared as she had not heard 10 – 15 years being said before. BR asked how all this will impact all the businesses in and around the Strand? HJ stated that there is a Bootle Area Action Plan in place which is a separate project. HJ and NO stated that today's conversations were about the Phase 1 but that BR and all members are invited to visit the Strand information centre to ask any questions.

HJ stated that they had the funding for Phase 1 and the Strand will remain open.

Question / Comment: SB asked if there are plans to repair the leaking roof?

Answer: HJ stated yes, plans were in place.

Action: [WA will share the presentation with network members.](#)

No further questions were asked and BR thanked HJ and NO for attending today and providing the update.

4. Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance project

AW introduced herself to members and thanked everyone for the opportunity to talk about her project.

AW stated her role was to go out into the community, raise awareness of health screening and encourage people to take up screening opportunities.

AW said that she had been visiting groups to try and identify best methods of getting the messages out. AW stated she had already met with some of the Healthwatch Sefton Community Champion Network members.

AW informed members she had attended today to raise awareness of her project and she would like the opportunity to come and visit groups and asked members to get in touch with her.

Question / Comment: BR asked AW if she could work with the Head and Neck Cancer Group?

Answer: AW stated her funding is for Sefton but that she can work cross boundaries and will pass the information on to her colleague.

[Action: CH from Galloways Society for the Blind and SD from Kindfulness Coffee Club asked for a visit from AW. WA to share contact details.](#)

No further questions were asked. BR thanked AW for attending and sharing information on the project.

5. Community Champion updates

BR asked for each member to provide an update on their services and activities.

People First Merseyside – LC stated they had lots of projects that they are working on. Mind Your Mind is a new project. They are also running Manage your Health and CPR. Members are going to visit the Life Rooms to do some training.

Healthwatch Sefton Maghull Locality Representative – MB stated that Healthwatch Sefton had representatives on several council meetings and that information shared at this meeting is shared at the Healthwatch Sefton Operations Group meeting.

Strand By Me – JW updated members that he had a new job at The Strand By Me. JW starts his new job on Monday and Amy is the new South Sefton Community Connector. Amy will be invited to a future Community Champion Network meeting.

Galloways Society for the Blind – CH updated that the centre is busy getting ready for Christmas and has lunches and concerts planned.

Kindfulness Coffee Club – SD informed members that they hold a drop-in daily Monday to Friday between 11.30 am – 2.30 pm. A Gingerbread project has started to support families. Everyone is welcome to come along to the drop-in.

Healthwatch Sefton Digital Comms Officer – CB told network members that the Healthwatch Sefton Newsletter in both digital and paper will be ready before Christmas. The videos of the Community Champion Network members have been shared on social media.

The Samaritans - BW reported that on the 5th January it will be annual brew Monday. BW stated he will share promotional materials with WA to be shared out.

The May Logan – DK told members she has shared information with WA to be circulated following the meeting re: courses and activities at the May Logan. In the New Year Eating for Health will start along with the M Word, 5-week menopause course.

The Reach Mens Centre - SB updated everyone that they had received lottery funding for a Peer Support group in the New Year. This also included funding to keep the counselling running longer. Unfortunately, no funding has been secured for the hypnotherapy. Links have been made with Hugh Baird College for some introductory courses.

The Bowersdale Resource Centre – JB told us all that they were getting ready for Christmas at the Bowersdale. The centre will not close and they will be doing a Christmas party and dinner. JB updated that both WA and AW had been to visit recently. Select Training has also been to visit and some members are booked to attend mental health first aid training to achieve qualifications.

The Bowersdale entered 'In Bloom' and have been awarded Level 3 for the first year. If anyone would like to get involved, Tuesday and Thursday are the main days between 10 am - 4 pm.

6. Healthwatch Sefton updates

- WA congratulated BR for becoming the Healthwatch Sefton Bootle Locality Rep.
- Healthwatch Sefton had a visit from the new Healthwatch England Chair – People First Merseyside were invited along to share their story on podiatry and how we worked together to improve services.
- Thank you to everyone who came along to our September meeting. We had lots of positive feedback so it is something we will do again in the New Year.
- Outreach updates – WA asked members if they found the email updates following outreach useful. Everyone agreed they found the updates useful and agreed they should be continued.
- Community Champion Network meeting dates for 2024 – WA to circulate.
- Guest speakers - January 2024 network meeting – Kindfulness Coffee club has requested an update from Mersey Care on podiatry and diabetes services.
- Community Champion network members' videos – so far Joe Westall and Helen Shortall from Reenage have been circulated on our social media.

Outreach and visits – Thanks to everyone who has provided me with the opportunity to come out and please get in touch if you would like me to visit any of your groups.

Other areas of work:

- Review of our Healthwatch Sefton Community Champion policies – the new policies will be shared with you all in the New Year,
- New groups – I have been contacting new groups. If you are aware of any groups that are not members of the network please get in touch with me.

7. Emerging Health or Social Care themes raised and to be taken to Steering Group to be noted:

Identified during this meeting:

- None identified.

8. Community Champion network notes for approval

The notes from the meeting held in July 2023 were previously circulated to all members for comments or amendments. No amendments were received.

9. Information exchange/ Any Other Business

None recorded.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

10.00 am Wednesday 24th January 2024.

Via Zoom