

Sefton Faith Forum Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting



Thursday 14 October 2021

Present:

Pete Spiers	Archdeacon Knowsley & Sefton
Angela White	Sefton CVS, CEO
Rebecca Gommersall	Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure
John Hayes	Linacre Mission
Doreen Iddon	Liverpool Rd Methodist Church
Liese van Alwon	Liverpool Quakers
Lesley Muir-Taylor	Salvation Army Friendship Café
Kathryn Casserly	Salvation Army, Southport
Munzi Ali	Sefton Multicultural Centre
Jak Ali	Sefton Multicultural Centre
Andrew Stott	South Sefton Deanery
John Reed	St Mary, Waterloo & St Faith's, Great Crosby
Margaret Sarsfield	Waterloo United Free Church
Luke Meehan	Y Kids
Maggi Aslet	Sefton CVS, Group Development
Nigel Sharp	Sefton CVS, Group Development

Apologies:

Maria Parker	Birkdale Catholics
Richard Owens	Compassion Acts
Hayley James	Formby Methodist Church
Raj Patel	Leyland Road Methodist Church
Annette Booth	Salvation Army
Alison Hutchings	Salvation Army
Simon Cunningham	Shoreline Church
Beth Anderson	St Nicholas, Blundellsands
Romils Mathew	Syro Malabar Catholic Church
Ravi Sangra	Team Vicar Litherland & Orrell Hey Team Ministry
Kate Eaglestone	Together Liverpool – Social Action
Claire Morgans	Y Kids

Welcome & Introductions

PS and MA welcomed all those attending followed by brief introductions.

New Realities

Prior to the meeting a summary of the New Realities initiative had been circulated to Forum

representatives for consideration and PS provided a brief overview:

- Originally conceived in 2015.
- Developed with input from a steering group of Sefton Council officers, Council members and voluntary, community and faith (VCF) group reps.
- An operational framework to promote a collaborative approach between Council and the VCF sector.
- Now revisited and relaunched for 2021.
- Aim to create an enabling culture, with systems and relationships to make the most of resources including:
 - o Skills
 - o Networks
 - o Buildings
- New Realities is part of Council staff induction and decision making processes.
- Covid response and other cross cutting issues such as Climate Change have highlighted the need and benefit of a strong collaborative approach.

More details at: <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/your-council/plans-policies/communities/new-realities/>

Breakout session: New Realities Discussion

PS invited those present to provide comment in response to key questions:

What is good about New Realities?

- Brilliant opportunity for groups to come together and for barriers to be removed.
- Groups are not left behind especially those who are more in a minority.
- Networking and collaboration important to help maximize resources.
- Good to be able to reuse/ repurpose buildings.

What are your questions about New Realities?

- How have things changed since New Realities was adopted and what the difference is?
- Where will the extra funding and resource come from to support organisations as they work together?
- Sefton is a large and diverse borough so does it make more sense to meet and talk together based on geographical localities?
- Need to know who to contact/ collaborate with locally.
- Important to ensure productive networking and not just a 'tick box' exercise.
- Hope that it will make councillors more aware of the work of the faith sector.

How could the Faith Forum promote New Realities?

- Opportunity for learning from each other and together. For example many faith groups are opening up at the moment which is taking a lot of time and resource. It would be great if we can share that learning across the network on what is working well.
- Communication is important – opportunity to meet and share good practice.
- Meetings enable interaction – opportunity to discuss and learn more.

Sefton CVS Update

Afghan Community

- Munzi Ali confirmed that Sefton Multicultural Centre will be providing support with the community needs including language, clothing and halal food and advice.

- AW added that 25 family groups are expected to arrive soon – 7 initially – with appropriate housing and locations to be confirmed.
- A public appeal has raised £4K which will be targeted to meet needs, clothing has been donated and Sefton CVS has prepared some welcome packs with toiletries, PPE, etc.

Sefton CVS Heritage Project

MA provided a brief introduction to ‘Community within Communities – our voices to be heard’ – a Sefton CVS project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

- Heritage Development Officer, Emma Copestake starts in post on 18 October.
- Project aims to raise awareness of Sefton’s heritage and promote wide range of community involvement.
- Focus on 9 historic township areas with volunteers supporting research to prepare displays.
- Small heritage grant programme due early in 2022.
- Heritage awareness and related capacity building training for groups.
- Preparation of a heritage toolkit to support groups and communities to get more involved with heritage – including social, cultural and natural heritage.

Funding

NS highlighted some current opportunities:

Asda: Bringing Communities Back Together grant

- Funds for activities including:
 - o Celebration event, e.g. special occasion, Christmas party, etc.
 - o Resumption of community activity, e.g. luncheon club, exercise class, etc.
 - o Provision of essential support, e.g. foodbank
- Grants of up to £1000
- Activities between October and 31 December ‘21
- Submit application to local Asda Community Champion by **1 November ‘21**

Details at: <https://www.asdafoundation.org/how-to-apply>

Comic Relief Community Fund

- Funds of up to £10K are available to cover different strategic themes:
 - o A Safe Place To Be,
 - o Children Survive & Thrive,
 - o Fighting for Gender Justice,
 - o Mental Health Matters.
- Closing date **12 November ‘21**

Details at:

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/news-comic-relief-england-and-groundwork-launch-new-community-fund-for-grassroots-organisations>

Together for Our Planet Fund

- Climate action fund
- Grants £1K - £10K
- Similar conditions to Awards for All
- Suggested project themes include:
 - o Food, transport, energy, waste and natural
 - o Projects could cover community growing, cycling, reuse/ recycling, etc.
- **Closing date 18 November**

Details at: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/together-for-our-planet>

Healthwatch Sefton Steering Group

Healthwatch Sefton collates and shares feedback on local health services, helping to report issues and improve standards by linking with local networks, organisations and individuals. PS has been contacted about a vacancy on the Healthwatch Sefton Steering Group with an open invitation to a representative from the Faith sector. The Group meets monthly online, and anyone interested, please contact:

Diane Blair, Manager Healthwatch Sefton (Diane.Blair@healthwatchsefton.co.uk)

Future Forum Agenda Items / Comment

The next Forum meeting will be on zoom, in Jan/Feb 2022. Provisional items include:

- Peer learning and update from Mission Enabler Hayley James (Crosby Circuit Mission and Ministry Team).
- Together Liverpool update (Kate Eaglestone).

It was noted that additional considerations include ongoing issues relating to Covid-19 and the resumption of community activity, welfare reform and homelessness. AW added that a recent Child Poverty Conference Event (12 October) organised by Sefton MBC in partnership with the Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Partnership (WRAP) and Sefton CVS highlighted these issues. A recording from the event will be available soon – details will be available at: <https://seftoncv.org.uk/>

AOB

The Sefton CVS annual conference, is on zoom, 1pm 2nd December. This event will focus on Climate Change issues with guest speakers including: Charles Sainsbury (The Eden Project); Steve Rotherham (LCR Mayor) and themed workshops providing information and guidance.

Booking details will be available soon – check <https://seftoncv.org.uk/> for updates.

Date of Next Meeting

- Tbc – provisionally on zoom, January /February '22