

Stroud District Community Hubs Network Meeting

Meeting notes

10am, 2nd July 2024

Welcome

Thanks for coming along to our recent meeting, and sorry for those that were unable to attend this time.

Emma Keating Clarke, Stroud District Council, introduced the meeting and welcomed everyone along.

We started with an overview of actions from the previous meetings, including the website development and introducing the people who have been working behind the scenes as the Support Team. We moved on to our group discussion on Safeguarding and then Lizzie gave an update on Stroud Food Forum and the Gleaning project.

Website

At the last meeting people had asked for a central depository of documents and resources and further information about the Support Group.

We have set up a website which is very much a work in progress. Nick shared the address and some of the features. There is a contact form which you can use to update or comments on aspects of the site.

www.strouddistrictcommunityhubs.net

- Map – current list of hubs and their details – opening times, contact, what support and service are provided. Please let us know if you are not on the list or want to change any details.
- Library – a list of resources to help groups and hubs around different aspects of organisation and support. We are in the process of updating the documents and adding further resources. If you have any useful information, manuals, processes to share please let us know.
- Support team – info on the people who have been working on organising the network and meetings up to now.
- Branding – we are keen to add a logo and branding to the page so if you have any skills or ideas in this area please get in touch!

We will be adding functions to the site to make comments or suggest updates in the next week. We really want to develop the site to match the needs of the network so please get in touch with any ideas.

Support Team

Emma, Nick, Lizzie, Simone and Hugh from the current membership of the Support Team were introduced. These are the people who have had the capacity up to now and we are really keen to hear from others about contributing to this work. Please contact us for a chat.

Unfortunately, Hugh is leaving. He was thanked for his work and will be missed around Stroud Town.

We want to respond to the needs of the group, and be accountable for following up and reporting on actions. Please contact us through the website or email address if you have any questions or suggestions. hello@strouddistrictcommunityhubs.net

Governance

Unfortunately, we were unable to discuss the themes around governance due to sickness but this will be brought to a future meeting.

Safeguarding Discussion

The discussion notes made by each table have been transcribed and are listed at the end of the document. This was an active discussion by everyone and highlighted some of the concerns and challenges of the topic of safeguarding, along with some great ideas and suggestions.

We have collated the comments into themes which present us with some actions to work on and bring to the next meeting. This summary is also available at the end of the document. Thanks to everyone for taking part!

Food Forum

Lizzie from Feeding Gloucestershire (FG) explained the current position of the Stroud Food Forum. The group launched last year when FG organised some well attended meetings, led by the interests and suggestions of the attendees. As there are an increasing number of meetings which bring together similar groups and themes, there was a realisation that people had a limited capacity to attend all of these meetings. The decision was made to bring the Food Forum meetings into collaboration with Stroud District Community Hubs Network meetings. There will be occasions where there might be breakout or parallel sessions at meetings if required but there will generally be a food component within the Stroud District Community Hubs Network meetings.

Stroud Gleaning Network

Lizzie provided an update of the Gloucestershire Gleaning pilot that is being run in Stroud with Annie Page. The Pilot is funded by Feeding Britain and Feeding Gloucestershire and will be running until the end of December 2024.

The pilot is an operational blueprint for future gleaning activities in the County. Working through the required documentation and health and safety required to run gleaning activities. The pilot is creating a database of producers and sites that could be suitable to collaborate with, with the intention of carrying out two trail gleans. The pilot is also establishing a database of community hubs that would be interested in receiving gleaning produce. Lizzie asked that if anyone would like to be added to this list to get in touch with Annie via anniepage@gmail.com.

The aspiration is that by the end of the pilot there is a viable project to take forward that will enable regular gleaning activities to take place in Stroud. Funding will be sought in the Autumn to fund this project for the Stroud District and an update on this will be provided at the next meeting.

Dursley Tabernacle

It was great to be hosted by Dursley Tabernacle for this meeting and enjoy their space. Thanks to everyone there for such a warm welcome and serving teas, coffee, snacks and food. Naomi shared a little about the work they do in providing food to the local community, with other service coming along to support other needs such as housing and money problems.

<https://www.dursleytab.org.uk/>

Thanks also to Brigid from Bells Kitchen for the lovely tray bakes and soups!

<https://www.belleskitchendursley.co.uk/>

We really encourage groups to support each other and community enterprise through room hire for meetings and local food and other businesses where we can.

Next meeting

The group agreed to hold the next meeting after the summer. The preferred time was in the morning from about 10 and to include a lunch for people if they are able to stay.

We are keen to find out more about spaces and group across the District so If any group would like to host this meeting, we can pay room hire costs and for the lunch. We need to be able to accommodate 25-40 people, in an accessible venue and with accessing parking.

The format for these meetings is still developing but we plan to include:

1. Update on progress on actions from previous meetings
2. News from across the network
3. Inclusion of the Food Forum
4. Thematic input and discussion

The two themes for next meeting will be Governance and HAF / Family and kids

Collated discussion notes on Safeguarding

Key needs

- Knowing what safeguarding is
- Knowing the process, having a clear structure
- Having support for those on the front line

Staff/volunteer training

- One size does not fit all
- Tailored safeguarding as part of induction
- Would like real-life life scenarios which apply to community groups and spaces
- It's a heavy subject, good to do in a group so we can support each other emotionally

Safeguarding in practice

- Tell-tale signs to spot, then what? Practical walkthrough of safeguarding referral
- People need to link up, build confidence
- Volunteers - protection from bureaucracy

For hubs

- Timing, when to enact, is there a central point?
- Updating policies and ensuring they are part of the system – also ongoing support
- Agreed by trustees/management committee/board
- Support with DBS forms / costs and DBS documents process

For the Stroud District Community Hubs Network

- Is there a multi-agency approach?
- Have regular / annual updates – keep contact lists updated
- Share challenges and successes

Stroud District Council – online training

- Useful to have the free online training. especially for volunteers.
- Should be promoted and offered out to networks
- Some people need help logging in and support
- Most people wish to work in small F2F groups to share thoughts on the training

Asks

Easy-read Infographic – with links and templates

- who needs what - where to access - length of qualification (when people need a refresh)

* Please SDC provide a session for in-person training group *

* Please provide funding for a volunteer co-ordinator *

Questions

- How does GDPR fit with safeguarding
- Information sharing agreement for mutual clients
- GL11 SML project?

Attendees

Emma Keating-Clarke	Stroud District Council
Erin Murray	GL11 Health Project Lead
Helen Elliott-Boult	Creative Sustainability
Hannah Ashford	Berkeley Community Library
Mel Fox	Barnados (HAF)
Nick Turner	Creative Sustainability
Nikki Andrews	The Keepers
Celia Williams	The Keepers in Kingswood
Jill Stephens	North Nibley Chapel
Steve Brawley	Citizens Advice
Beth Pullin	GL11
Jacky Edwards	APT
Jo Murray	Guideposts
Rob Tomlinson	Guideposts
Celia Williams	
Naomi Skelton	Dursley Community Hub
Hugh O'Boyle	Stroud Town Council
Martin Conyers	Wild Acres
Chris Moore	Fairshares
Paul Jones	Stroud District Council
Tricia Watson	Stroud District Council
Simone Shepard	The Keepers
Gill Thomas	Stroud District Council
Lizzie Dyer	Feeding Gloucestershire
Georgia Spooner	Stroud District Council
Mattie Ross	Stonehouse
Mel Warren	

Safeguarding raw notes

GROUP 1

SDC Free online training. really useful, especially for volunteers.

Should be promoted and offered out to networks – continuity and accessibility good

2-hour course - some need help logging in, need support

* Please SDC provide a session for in-person training group *

What levels do people need? Useful to have easy-read info on who needs what, where to access etc, length of qualification

Infographic – with links and templates

Volunteers - protection from bureaucracy

* funding for volunteer co-ordinator *

GROUP 2

Training – Stroud District Volunteers – online training

- Good,
- Would prefer small face-to-face groups
- Have regular / annual updates – keep contact lists updated

Is there a multi-agency approach?

- Timing, when to enact, central point

One size does not fit all

How safeguarding fits with GDPR

DBS checks – signposting to larger organisations

Tell-tale signs to spot, then what?

Sharing

- Share challenges and successes
- GL11 SML project

Importance

- Tailored safeguarding as part of induction
- Updating policies and ensuring it is part of the system
- Agreed by trustees/management committee/board

Link up

Build confidence

GROUP 3

- Online training not really effective
- Would prefer opportunity to discuss F2F with colleagues
- Real-life life scenarios which apply to us
- Heavy subject, good to do in a group so we can support each other emotionally
- Knowing what safeguarding is
- Knowing the process, having a clear structure
- Having support for those on the front line

GROUP 4

- Practical walk through of safeguarding referral
- Information sharing agreement for mutual clients
- Safeguarding training
- Support with DBS forms / costs
- Creates clarity, makes it accessible
- Ongoing support with safeguarding policy/ procedure