**Alliance Review 15th October 2020, 10:00 – 1.00**

Present: Robert (Chair), George, Esther, Charlie, Del, Aaron, David

1. **Looking Behind (2016-20)**
   1. What worked well?

George - “Working with other charities tends to be competitive, the Alliance is different, regular communication, sharing resources, benefits us and young people”.

Aaron – “Regular meeting have been key, we all get on together, we have bonded well – and can be honest with each other”

“What we are doing is gaining traction across the Borough”

Del – “Support from our meetings has helped professional development”

“People see the direction we are going in and want to replicate our approach”

Esther – “There has been a clear progression in terms of strategy – model of change leading to our two posts – evidence of how we work based on needs”

George and Esther - “Youth Battersea outcomes have been influenced by how the Alliance works”

Esther - “It gives evidence to others of effective partnership work”

Charlie – “Great to be connected and to see other perspectives”

David – “Marriage of joint values not of convenience”

Del – “The three Youth centres that are part of the Alliance have used this approach to work with other organisations that led to the successful £150K lottery bid”

Aaron – “The Digital Inclusion project that is being developed is another example of strategic partnership working.”

Robert – “We are beginning to change the social ‘fabric’”

Aaron – “We are also influencing what is happening in Battersea, linking with other initiatives and projects”

Robert – “Has the focus on Battersea Youth meant that KLS (for example) has been left out?

Aaron – “Not at all. Our Love to Learn programme will be involved and we are proud to be associated with this great initiative; it serves as a model for how we can develop strategic partnerships to deliver”.

Del – “Exactly, throughout our Battersea Together events we always spoke about working with other organisations; the three youth based Alliance members used their collective way of working to reach out to two other youth organisations that have received £30k each as direct result”.

Aaron – “I see the Digital Inclusion partnership that we have helped set up as working in a similar way; the Alliance members are always the first people I think of involving in this way.”

* 1. What worked less well?

George – “The struggle with time management, would like to be able to commit more time to the Alliances but there are too many other things going on”

Charlie – “Yes, there are capacity issues for us”

Del – “Sometimes there is frustration over our relationship with BLSW11; feeling that we need constant validation or that we are not doing enough”. We keep having to justify ourselves.”

Esther – “There is a tension between what we (Providence) gain from the bigger picture engagement and our day-to-day need to operate sustainably.”

Robert – “It goes both ways. The Alliance members rightly ask what they get from this but BLSW11 also is right to ask what it gets from investing £25k a year”.

Aaron – “Yes, time commitment is an issue and our relationship with BLSW11 needs to be sorted out. We have not brought in enough money and we need to be thinking more about working with others, particularly delivery partners.

Del – “There is an issue with our access to data. We need more reliable and up to date information, particularly on youth issues.

* 1. What have we learnt?

Del – “It’s been great working with you people, who are open and supportive.

George – “It means we are able to talk through other issues and learn from each other”.

Esther – “It’s great not working within a blame culture; because we trust each other we can be open and confident that people will focus on solutions and not look to criticise.

David – “It all takes too long”!

1. **Looking Around (2020)**
   1. Our Achievements

George – “We are developing a holistic approach to youth work so that young people have a lot more on offer. One of our young people joined Providence because of their focus on music; this is a good thing!

Esther – “The young people that access our services now have three or four areas of support not just one”.

* 1. SWOT analysis

Threats

Esther/Aaron – relationship with BLSW11 has to improve.

Del – “Changes in the Council could be a threat or opportunity. Wandsworth Youth Voice could take resources from us or help drive new resources towards us!

Covid is a significant threat

Aaron – “People are losing their jobs, communities are losing resources, and organisations are losing capacity – all this could undermine what we are trying to achieve.”

* 1. Reviewing the external environment (Policy, Politics and Issues)

Aaron – “Council CEO and leader of the Council are both moving on so this could be an opportunity for us to work with the new leadership.

CCG is constantly changing (now covering 5 Borough’s) so developing relations will be even more of a challenge.”

1. **Looking Ahead (2026)**
   1. What differences do we want to see?

Robert – “Does the Alliance Strategy need to be up dated for 2021?”

Aaron – “Yes, but amended not rewritten”. **(Action)**

David – “We need agreement on moving to the next level; presenting the Alliance as a cohesive unified but independent federation with Providence leading on Arts & Culture, Caius on Information Technology and Education, Carney’s on Health & Wellbeing and Criminal Justice, KLS on Sector Support perhaps Older people and St Peter’s Families and Faith.”

Network Mapping (Aaron)

Aaron – “It’s a way of mapping stakeholders, resources and potential partnership work areas. It also provides a plan of action; who to liaise with, where there is funding, etc.”

**(Action)**

BLSW11

Robert – “We need to present ourselves to BL in a way that seals the Partnership”. “It would be good if Kebbah and Diana’s work was regularly communicated to the Alliance and BL” **(Action)**

We need at date for meeting BL but there are two different purpose; 1. To get to know each other better and 2. To strengthen the combined vision, strategy... **(Action)**

Aaron to meet with BL Chair (Stephen) to emphasise the new equal partners approach and to explain Alliance frustrations with the current relationship **(Action)**

* 1. What are our roles? What can we contribute?

Del “I wont to develop technology and education services to support raising aspirations of young people”.

Esther “Mentoring should be a high priority; as well as the development of grass roots arts projects.”

Charlie “We could be doing more to work with other faith groups”.

George “I would like to see something about how society see offenders and ex-offenders; it would also so good if one of our young people from BYV attended Alliance meetings to give us a different perspective.”

Aaron “KLS is looking at more post 16 work particularly with young people that leave the care system; and unaccompanied minors (refugees) who lack role models (mentors).”

George “Marsha did a video on Black Lives Matters which could be seen as an Alliance project (details to be sent to all – **Action**)

All agreed to produce a paragraph to go into the updated Alliance strategy (on what each organisation would like to see developed further as part of their contribution to a strengthen Alliance partnership). **(Action)**

* 1. Working with Delivery Partners... how?

Esther “Who are our delivery partners? The Covid fund has supported local groups to deliver; we have brought two other organisations into the Battersea Youth work, they are also delivery partners.”

All of us work with delivery partners, sometimes formally sometimes informally; this could be recorded via the network mapping exercise. **(Action)**

Esther “We need a way of recording and celebrating our achievements in working with others.

**New Members**

Robert “What if an organisation wants to join the Alliance”

Aaron “There are two levels to this. The Core Group (us) and delivery partners. The Core group sets out the strategy and we work with others to deliver it.

Esther “Why do we need new members?” Perhaps we need sub-committees to focus on specific areas like our 7 strategic themes.”

There was some concern that a sub-committee structure might become too bureaucratic and/or too narrowly focused on a ‘theme’ rather than our separate but combined involvement with the wider community.

It was agreed that we should be open to inviting new members provided that they spared our vision and values and could add to our skills/knowledge.

Aaron “We need some criteria on which to base our decision on increasing numbers on the executive committee”. **(Action)**

* 1. Agree next steps **(Actions)**

Agreed that we would:

* Prepare a network map
* Establish a Communications Strategy
* Develop a web site (Kebbah to support)
* Look at a joint fund raising function
* Arrange meeting with Marsha