**Salford CVS Annual Conference**

**30th October 2024**

**Salford Community Stadium**

Morning workshop: **Putting the brakes on fast fashion**

Number of attendees: **23**

Facilitator: **Jenny Capper, Salford CVS**

Panel members: **Sonia Bird (Arts Let Loose), Shelley Dumbill (The A World UK)**

Panel speaker notes: **Rachel Shenton**

Jenny introduced herself, she introduced Sonia and Shelly and explained the format of the workshop. The A World UK and Salford CVS staff were thanked for the donations of clothes.

Ice breaker: Quiz about sustainable fashion (hosted by Jenny Capper). The quiz consisted of 6 questions and this created a lot of discussion between the attendees and everyone got involved. Some of the questions included were ‘**How many litres of water does it take to make a pair of jeans?**’ (Answer: Around 7,500 litres) ‘**Can you name 3 charity shops in your town?**’ (Salvation Army, The A World and Mustard Tree) **‘There used to be two seasons of clothing collections**, **Autumn/Winter and Spring/Summer, but how many are there now?’** (Answer: 52)

Shelley Dumbill introduced herself and explained how she began working in charity shops. She started off as a volunteer at The A World UK and then worked her way up to manager at the Swinton branch. They work alongside Chatsworth College. There are 35 A World charity shops around England. They only take donations of pre-loved clothing and offer a collection service. Shelley stated that one person’s old clothes can be another person’s gold, and different people wear clothes in different conditions. To what may seem old to one person, may not be to someone else. Shelley explained that it also depends on what the item is being used for. She asked ‘Who shops in charity shops?’ More than half of the attendees said they did.

Shelley explained how she and Sonia work together. Shelly provides items and rags to Sonia for her arts projects and Sonia donates items that she does not need or use to Shelley. They work collaboratively and have a good professional working relationship.

Shelly explained that for her part of the workshop she would like the tables to work together to create an outfit for an occasion e.g. a party, Christmas, a wedding. During this activity, Shelley supported to create outfits using the donated clothes and had conversations around clothes shopping in charity shops. Discussions took place around how it is possible to dress for less.

Sonia Bird introduced herself and explained about the projects she delivers at Arts Let Loose. She reinforced how she works in collaboration with Shelley. Sonia explained she works with small groups to demonstrate how to repurpose items of clothing. During this part of the workshop, Sonia demonstrated how an old t-shirt could be made into a cropped t-shirt with tassels. This was then put into practice by some of the attendees. Sonia then demonstrated how old pieces of material / clothing / rag could be used to make bunting. A demonstration of Furoshiki was also given as a sustainable way for wrapping presents. The attendees who took part in these activities were very involved, engaged and surprised at what could be created from items that appeared to be fit for throwing away.

At the end of the session, there was an opportunity for everyone to take an item / some items of clothes and everyone left with something. The workshop was very interactive, and feedback was hugely positive.