

## Salford CVS Annual Conference – Note Takers Template

### Justice for Disabled People: The Role of the VCSE Sector in Salford

<b>Name of workshop</b>	Unlocking Potential
<b>Facilitator</b>	Lyndsey Brookes, Salford City Council
<b>Panel members</b>	Leigh Matts, Princess Park Garden Centre Sharon Marsden, Aspire Anne-Marie Mather, Aspire Hermine Briffa, Wheels for All
<b>Panel speaker notes</b>	<p><b>Leigh Matts:</b> Princes Park Garden Centre All about encouraging aspiration and helping disabled people to develop skills. In addition to this, they want to support disabled people take passions built at the park Princess Park beyond their immediate environment and into the community. Ensuring that all training and development courses are accessible, accredited and designed with disabled people is a priority. They look to support disabled people in Salford secure employment opportunities in the local community. Providing CV writing and interview tips, as well as offer their own opportunities at the on-site café in the park for disabled participants. PPGC have also conducted work with Lancashire Wildlife Trust; experimenting around preservation and protection, linking disabled people into gardening and conservation activities. They hope to secure regular access to moss land around the city in the near future. They are also hoping to institute walking football sessions and other physical activities for disabled people.</p> <p><b>Hermine Briffa:</b> Wheels For All have a mission to help disabled people unlock their potential by supporting access to adapted cycles in order to stay active and engage socially. Although born in Salford, WFA now operates in locations across the country. WFA believe cycling is an accessible, easy activity for all people to engage with when the right cycles are available. Not only do WFA's activities support disabled people themselves, they also involve friends and families. WFA want to ensure that age does not serve as an additional barrier to entry for participants. The nature of cycling as an activity means that all they're able to offer access to people of all abilities &amp; proficiency. Friends and families are welcome to take part, if they don't wish to cycle, they can also enjoy refreshments at the local café.</p> <p><b>Anne-Marie Mather / Sharon Marsden:</b> Aspire's mission is to support complex diagnosed learning disabled people in the community. Key commitments of the organisation include: being available for those who require their support and the community, being aware of prejudice, perceptions and prejudgements, being respectful, being able to signpost to further support. Presenters discussed the case of a person they had supported in recent months. A disabled person had sought their support after she</p>

	<p>had signed a document triggering a fine despite her exemption from payment due to her not being able to read or write. In other cases, negative perceptions have emerged around her in her neighbourhood as a consequence of misunderstandings created by the person's tendency to take all information literally. The role of Aspire in such circumstances is to support disabled people as they interact with public services, as well as to help explain and mediate interactions with fellow community members.</p>
<p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Q for Hermine:</b> Where is Wheels for All based? A: Cleavley Athletics Track. Q: Which day? A: We run Mon-Fri</li> <li>• <b>Q for Aspire:</b> How do Aspire help people in their communities with learning disabilities to have their voices heard? A: We treat people as equals and listen to their concerns in order to create practical actions – we are in it together as the whole community. We Also offer bespoke training for organisations to support the same outcomes</li> <li>• <b>Q for Aspire:</b> Do you work with people from different nationalities? A: Yes, we work with people from different communities, we have lots of staff and people we support from diverse communities</li> <li>• <b>Q for Aspire:</b> How do Aspire decide which groups they want to offer? A: We use a variety of forums to decide how we want to operate, also offer taster sessions and accredited courses for people of all ages to pursue new opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Practical actions (2-3)</b></p>	<p><b>What have you learned?:</b> Principally, to remember that supporting disabled people and ensuring that needs are met is a new experience for many people outside the field &amp; in less accessible spaces, and that we all need to provide support for organisations to achieve the changes we want to see.</p> <p><b>What changes can you make in your organisation to make it more accessible for disabled people?:</b> Promoting inclusive language. Listening to the voices of disabled people in other VCSE functions &amp; processes, e.g. foodbank operation. Develop accessibility training for non-disabled staff</p>