

# **GL11 Community Project**

## **Stroud District Health and Well-being Partnership Additional comments for Satisfaction Survey**

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this review.

I have completed the survey, but you will see that I have not attended any of the meetings since taking up my post a year ago. Whilst I am therefore unable to comment on the actual meetings, I would like to take this opportunity to offer some other comments which I feel are essential to achieving the best out of partnership working.

My comments are based on many years experience of working in the voluntary community sector (VCS). The need for consultation has increased significantly yet recognition of our experience, knowledge and time is consistently missing. Over and over again we are being consulted with, asked to review/respond, attend meetings and work in partnership. Regrettably, we have to choose where to put our time. But when we do offer our experience, skills, knowledge and time – there should be some recognition of this.

Simple ways of encouraging greater participation at partnership meetings, and all other forms of consultation/involvement from the VCS, might include the offer of travel/parking expenses, and/or a token payment to the VCS organisation. From a personal perspective, there are only so many meetings I can go to and not claim my travel/parking costs, or attend in my own time. I would very much like to get involved with more partnership working, but capacity is a big issue, and being some distance from Stroud, and a significant distance from Gloucester/Cheltenham, makes travel, time and associated costs, essential.

I'd like to draw attention to another point that concerns me please: I believe that there is a significant amount of work going on within the VCS which is not captured in the reporting of stats/data, and therefore cannot be shown as helping support the work of the District or County Councils – particularly the LAA targets. We all do work which is 'added value': it's very local, sometimes difficult to quantify, often self-funded and with no mechanisms for reporting – but it is happening.

I appreciate these are 'generalisations' in terms of consultation but feel that they are valid as part of this review process.

I would be happy to talk through any of these points and can be contacted on 01453 548530, or by e-mail at [annwheeler@gl11.org.uk](mailto:annwheeler@gl11.org.uk)

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