**VCS Conference**

**Workshop 4: What makes for good governance?**

**23 November 2017**

Lead: Naomi Goldberg (GAVS), Michelle Martin (Volunteer Centre Greenwich) and Cllr David Gardner

Welcome and introduction from Cllr David Gardner, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

**Naomi Goldberg, METRO GAVS**

* What is Governance?
* Good governance in Charities
* How to spot good governance

The Key to good governance was having **strong leadership and an effective Board –** other strands of the good governance structure would fall into place if these aspects were in place.

Post-it note exercise

Participants were asked to generate a number of questions which an organisation should ask themselves to better understand how effective the governance position was

Questions included:

* **Legality theme** - Are we legal?
* **Financial theme** – are we solvent?, are we financially viable?
* **Vision theme** - are we meeting the ambitions set out in our vision?
* **Right people theme** – Have we got the right skills set on the board? How do we diversify or renew our board to ensure smooth succession?

Naomi noted that the “mission” questions needs to be supplemented with good monitoring practices – so suggested questions like; what is the monitoring data telling us? What difference are we making?

Naomi noted that the “legality” questions will help you to develop your policies and procedures.

Naomi noted those organisations that are signed up to METRO GAVS could make good use of the policies and procedures available via the METRO GAVS Members Zone on the website.

**Michelle Martin, Volunteer Centre Greenwich (VCG)**

Michelle Martin continued the presentation and spoke about developing the board

* Through recruitment
* Targeted recruitment to match the need of the board
* Having clear roles descriptions
* Reviewing governing documents regularly
* Having a diverse mix of skills on the board

Volunteer Centre Greenwich can assist organisations with recruitment for board members

A discussion was had about the best approach to attracting new members to the board

* Highlight the key selling points about the organisation
* Offer a clear role description
* Ask them for ideas about what they thought of the organisation
* Offer an option to co-op them for a period of time to see if they like having greater involvement

Output from second Governance Workshop session

Key questions you think Good Organisations ask of themselves

* Are we following the business plan?
* If proposals are made check on them being carried out
* Socialising from time to time to raise the morale of staff
* Proper supervision and monitoring
* How clear is communication within the organisation?
* Why are we here?
* How can we make this even better?
* How do we know whether everyone knows what we are trying to achieve and their role in making it happen?
* What is the strategy of the charity and how do you implement it?
* What processes and controls are in place?
* What are the skills of the board members?
* Financial stability
* Strategic governance Scrutiny