

VALUES & PRINCIPLES BOARD MINUTES

1100 – 1300 hours on Tuesday, 29th June 2021
Online Zoom call

Present:

Cllr Joyce McCarty	Newcastle City Council (Chair)
Cllr John Fahy	Royal Borough of Greenwich (Vice Chair)
Cllr Frank Walsh	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough
Cllr Sue Woodward	Burntwood Town Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Hayden Philips	North Warwickshire Labour Group
Cllr Peter Curling	Hillingdon Labour & Co-operative Group
Cllr Mike Stubbs	Newcastle-Under-Lyme Labour & Cooperative Group
Michael Curnow	Peopletoo
Rebecca Harvey	Co-operative News
Jo White	Co-operative Futures
Cheryl Barrott	Co-operatives UK
Nina Valvi	Co-operative College (Representing Dr Cilla Ross)
Sian Elliott	TUC (Representing Kamaljeet Gill)

In attendance:

Nicola Huckerby	Operations & Communications - CCIN (Minutes)
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Apologies:

Cllr Joyce Welsh	South Tyneside Council
Cllr Donna Fuller	Woughton Community Council
Emma Hoddinott	Co-operative Party

Absent:

Cllr Sharon Thompson	Birmingham City Council
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1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

- 1.1. The Chair, Councillor Joyce McCarty, began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and this was her first meeting. Joyce had been elected by the Full Members of the Network following changes in May's local government elections. Cllr John Fahy has been elected as a new Vice Chair.
- 1.2. Members were asked if they had any items of other business – there were none.
- 1.3. Apologies and absences were noted.
- 1.4. All Members introduced themselves.
- 1.5. The Chair reported that we had lost two members of the Board following May's elections: Cllr Clare Penny-Evans (Newcastle), previous Chair whose portfolio had changed, and Cllr Sean Donnelly (Knowsley) who had lost his seat.

It was agreed that NH would write to both Clare and Sean and thank them for their time on the Board on behalf of the CCIN.

Action: NH

- 1.6 The Chair reported that Simon Parkinson had resigned from the Board. Simon had been a keen supporter of the Network and a good friend both during his time at the WEA and in his previous role at the Cooperative College.

It was agreed that NH would write to Simon to thank him for his contributions to the Board on behalf of the CCIN.

Action: NH

2. Minutes of the last meeting – online 6 April 2021

These were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from meeting on 6 April 2021

3.1. Co-produced training opportunities with the LGA

NH reported that despite several calls with officers at the LGA about getting the ‘co-operative values and principles’ into one of their Masterclasses, there had been little progress. This, despite the CCIN being a Specialist Interest Group of the LGA.

Action: NH to contact Pete Robbins. Cllr McCarty to speak to Cllr Nick Forbes. Both will report back at the next meeting.

4. Composition of the new Values & Principles Board

- 4.1. NH reported that we have received one application from an Affiliate Member to join the Board – Augustus Della-Porta from Bates Wells.

- 4.2. There was unanimous support for this application. Cllr Sue Woodward felt that Gus would be an asset to the Board. It was agreed that there was no need to set up a Sub-Group to consider the application further. AD-P application was approved unanimously.

Action: NH to confirm AD-P’s appointment and invite him to the next meeting.

5. CCIN Statement of Values and Principles Statement

- 5.1. Cllr Mike Stubbs introduced this item. One of the key tasks in the Strategic Action Plan was how do we embed our Statement of Values and Principles into the work of the Network, so that it is easier for members and officers to see where the ‘Co-operative Difference’ is in the work that we are funding and that Co-operative Councils are doing. One way of doing this is to adopt symbols for each of the ten Principles outlined in the CCIN Statement, and to encourage members to adopt these symbols when describing the ‘Co-operative Difference’ in their reports. This was an approach that the CCIN itself could adopt for the Case Studies and on its website etc.

- 5.2. Members supported the idea unanimously and agreed that the visuals were an excellent way to embed the Statement of Values and Principles across all tiers of Authority. In addition, it was agreed that the document would also be helpful for those opposition councillors writing their Manifestos.

It was agreed that the idea should be taken forward for approval by the Executive Oversight Committee.

Action: Cllr McCarty to take the paper to EOC in July.

6. CCIN Membership of Co-operative Press and Member Benefits

- 6.1. Rebecca Harvey explained that Coop News is a Multi-Stakeholder Co-operative which has organisational and individual members. There is a proposal that CCIN would become an Organisational Member, the benefits of which would be:

- Specific number of copies of Coop News posted to Member Councils
- Opportunity to put forward candidates to the Board of Coop Press

- Voting Rights at the Coop Press AGM and elections
- 2 full page adverts in Coop News each year
- Cooperative rates for any commissioned work

The proposal was warmly welcomed. It was agreed that NH and RH work out the details before presenting the proposal to EOC for approval.

Action: Rebecca Harvey and NH

7. Policy Lab Updates 2019-21

Cllr Joyce McCarty welcomed the clarity of the Project Tracker reporting process. The adoption of a 'traffic light' key made it easy to focus attention on the projects that needed discussion.

NH explained that the spreadsheet included information on all the funded projects going back to 2016, and that this information could be accessed by 'unhiding' the cells.

- 7.1. Co-operative Approaches to Sustainable Food – Oldham Council** – NH reported that since the last meeting, Oldham officers have had several conversations with colleagues from across the Network, identifying areas that could be expanded or additional case studies that could be included. They are in the process of collating this information, though the ongoing impact of the pandemic has delayed the work. The final report and Toolkit will be completed by Autumn 2021. **The update was noted.**
- 7.2. Co-operative Neighbourhoods – Stevenage Borough Council.** NH reported that The Policy Lab is in the process of commissioning Blake House www.blakehouse.coop to produce a short film on the Lab findings. This will include video vox-pops and a more general production for the CCIN website on neighbourhood level co-operation. It is due for completion in September/October 2021. **The update was noted.**
- 7.3. Positive Social Impact – Peopletoo.** Michael Curnow reported that the draft report was complete, as was a Library of Best Practice to support positive social impact initiatives. Next steps were the development of service level tool kits to support social impact at individual service level e.g., Social Care, Waste, Facilities Management etc. The report is due for completion by Autumn 2021. **The update was noted.**

8. Policy Prototypes Updates 2020

NH explained that the learning from the Health and Social Care project would feed into the "*Co-operative Difference in Care*" report which we want to launch early in 2022.

Action: NH to recirculate the Brief for this project.

- 8.1. Enabling a Dementia Friendly Burntwood - Burntwood Town Council** – NH explained that this project is now one element of a bigger piece of work that Burntwood Town Council is delivering in conjunction with one of our Affiliate Members the 'Ideas Alliance'. Cllr Sue Woodward explained the inclusivity of "Better Burntwood" and that the project may not be completed by the Autumn but that the learning from undertaking such a project during Covid would be incorporated in the "*Co-operative Difference in Care*" report. **The update was noted.**
- 8.2. Neighbourhood Conversations - co-operative approach to strengthening community resilience at a locality level - Southampton City Council**
- 8.3. City Co-operative Care Summit - Southampton City Council**
NH reported that Southampton had been unable to start work on either of these projects. **It was agreed that** rather than tying up these funds for an indefinite time, that we would go back to Southampton to explain that we are minded withdrawing our support for these projects unless

they could demonstrate that they would be delivered by late Autumn so that the learning could be included in the “Co-operative Difference in Care” report.

Action: NH.

Cllr Fahy asked whether it was possible to commission another Council to undertake the ‘Co-operative Care Summit’ if Southampton’s event did not go ahead. NH explained that some of our other members were organising similar events such as the three-day event to celebrate International Coops Day being organised by Co-operative Care Colne Valley from 1 – 3 July.

Cllr Woodward suggested the CCIN might organise a Co-operative Care Summit to coincide with the launch of the “Co-operative Difference in Care” report and that this be suggested to EOC.

It was agreed that the EOC be asked to consider commissioning a Co-operative Care Summit in Spring 2022 to coincide with the launch of the “Co-operative Difference in Care” report.

Action: Chair and NH

8.4 Connecting communities: Stevenage Borough Council

Members were impressed by the images as well as the learning included in this report – it was very user friendly. The project was something that could be replicated in other places. Cllr Sue Woodward was particularly keen to do something similar in Burntwood.

It was agreed that the report be approved.

Action: NH to add to the website and submit for inclusion in the “Co-operative Difference in Care” report.

8.5 Kirklees Adult Social Care Vision - Social Marketing Project - Kirklees Council

8.6 Personalised Commissioning model comparison event: Beyond Time and Task - Kirklees Council

Members welcomed the level of detail in these reports but felt that it needed to be clearer on how the approach was a co-operative one. It was agreed to ask Kirklees to make the Co-operative Difference explicit to demonstrate how the Coop Values and Principles had been applied.

Action: NH and Cllr Woodward to speak to Kirklees to help draw out the Cooperative Principles.

8.7 Digital Health & Wellbeing Hubs / Smart Phone project - Plymouth City Council

Plymouth City Council has indicated that they are unable to complete this report and have reluctantly withdrawn from it.

It was agreed to recommend to EOC that this funding be added back into the budget.

Action: NH and J Downs (Oldham)

9.1 Policy Lab Updates 2021

9.2 Tablet Loan Scheme - Cardiff City Council

Cardiff City Council has indicated that they have reluctantly withdrawn from this project.

It was agreed to recommend to EOC that this funding be added back into the budget.

Action: NH and J Downs (Oldham)

9.3 Tackling the Barriers to Building a Co-op Economy – GMCA/Oldham Council

NH explained that a condition of funding of the 2021 funded projects is that the Work Programme will be signed off by V&P.

It was agreed to approve the Work Programme.

Action: NH

9.4 Economic Development Plans as a tool for fostering co-operative working between councils and the community - Birmingham City Council

NH explained that no updates on this project had been received because of Covid related issues. Jo White gave a brief update. **The update was noted.**

9 Policy Prototype Updates 2021

10.1 6-week summer holiday activity programme - Billingham Town Council.

It was noted that that this programme will now be run over 4 weeks during August rather than the six-weeks originally proposed. This change was due to the latest extension of Covid restrictions. **The update was noted.**

11 Member Engagement updates

11.1 Associate Member Engagement – Cllr Sue Woodward gave a brief update on progress.

11.2 Affiliate Member Engagement – Michael Curnow reported that engagement on WhatsApp had quietened down over recent months. He reported that the Affiliate Members were keen to meet with Member Councils on a quarterly basis to find out more about what was going on in the sector and where they could add value. It was noted that this request was being taken forward by the Chair into discussions on the Strategy and Action Plan.

Action: Chair.

Cllr Woodward endorsed the value of the Dynamic Purchasing System in finding pre-qualified suppliers to undertake specific projects quickly.

12 Report back on the Constitution Working Group

12.1 The Chair reported that the Constitution Working Group had had its first meeting. The Group was looking at the existing terms of reference of EOC and V&P which had not been updated since 2016 and had highlighted some of the areas that required updating and clarifying. She reported that the updated Constitution would be considered by V&P before agreement at the AGM.

12.2 Cllrs Woodward and Walsh commended the work of NH during the last few months as the impact of the various elections on the Network were being worked through. It was noted that NH's role in supporting the CCIN was very different now to how it had been when there were 20 councils in membership in 2016. A Network of over 100 members and supporters required more work and commitment and NH had stepped up to this challenge. The Chair reported that the Working Group was looking at future resourcing of the Network. The Chair agreed to report these comments back.

Action: Chair.

13 Co-operative Difference in Care report

13.1 The Chair introduced Maggie Kenney, Chief Executive of Peopletoo, who had recently been appointed to analyse and present findings around cooperative innovation in health and social care emerging from the 2020 and 2021 CCIN health and care policy prototypes.

13.2 The learning will be presented into one major policy and resource publication the “Co-operative Difference in Care” report which we want to launch early in 2022. It was envisaged that the report would be completed in the Autumn, but this would depend on the progress of our funded projects.

13.3 M Kenney introduced Peopletoo. This scope of this work will include:

- The learning from CCIN funded projects
- National and international co-operative approaches
- Raising awareness of co-operative solutions to the crisis in social care

- Looking at H&SC as a whole “system” and not in isolation ie they would incorporate community approaches and preventative approaches in their research.

- 13.4** The Chair led a discussion on how the final report would be distributed and the ‘Co-operative Difference’ shared across CCIN membership, the wider sector and with Government.
- 13.5** M Kenney referred to their tender document which described dissemination of the findings to include: LGA, ADASS, ADCS, and that CIPFA may be interested because of the pressures on local authority budgets.
- 13.6** The Chair suggested that we might want to lobby government to consider any findings in their review of Children’s and Adult Social Care Budget Spend in the Autumn, as well ensuring that the learning from this project is shared with all sector partners eg VCSE, and others to support residents.
- 13.7** Cheryl Barrott asked whether the report would be considering alternatives to procurement, so that we don’t create coops to deliver care and then lose them because of the hostile environment they have to work in. M Kenney explained that there may be something related that comes from the learning from the funded projects. However, the report could look at this from the National angle in terms of the ICS White Paper (Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all) which changes some of the landscape of H&SC commissioning.
- 13.8** NH reported that Peopletoo will be speaking with the Project Leads in the first instance. She would also be introducing MK to H&SC co-ops in the UK and across Europe, and if others had useful contacts to help with this project, then please use the WhatsApp Group to share these.

Action: All

14 Any other urgent business

- 14.1** Cllr Sue Woodward thanked Cllr McCarty for the way her first meeting had been Chaired.

15 Schedule of future meetings:

14th September – 11am – 1pm

16th November – 11am – 1pm

Action: to circulate these dates to all Members of the Board.