Autumn members’ conference and annual general meeting
Tuesday 13 October 2015
The Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton BN1 1YD

Partnerships and Collaboration: Stronger Together!

Booking is now open for our autumn conference on the topic of **partnerships and collaboration**.

Our members’ conferences take place three times per year, in spring, summer and autumn. They’re a space for members to come together around issues that matter to them. The format for this conference is a bit different to our usual conferences – in the spirit of collaboration all sessions are open to anybody to attend.

- Gain and share knowledge on principles of partnership and collaboration.
- Reflect on your values, red lines, and what working in partnership means to you.
- Make new contacts and develop new ways of working by meeting organisations that you might not normally meet.
- For members this is also an opportunity to participate and vote in our annual general meeting.

Attendance is **free** to all of our members. Booking is **essential** as space is limited within the venue. Expenses are available for small groups (income under £35,000 per annum) and volunteers. Just bring your receipt/ticket on the day. Please ask us about availability of parking at the venue before arranging to park elsewhere.


**Before booking, please choose which sessions you wish to attend.** There is just one session in the morning which includes the annual general meeting and a networking lunch. The afternoon is made up of a number of workshops which are open to all. You can attend the morning or the afternoon, or both. Please note that lunch is only available to those who attend in the morning.

**Morning session** (Register 9.15-9.30am, session 9.30am-1.00pm, lunch 1.00pm-2.00pm)

**Panel discussion: Working in partnership is more hassle then its worth! Discuss.**
- George Garrad, Making Every Adult Matter
- Tessa Oversby, Business in the Community South East
- Ali Marr, One Voice Partnership Brighton
- Cllr Emma Daniel, Lead Member for Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities
- The Big Lottery Fund

**Community Works’ annual general meeting**

**Workshop: Steering our own ship: our sector, our values**
- Community Works: our work on values and red lines
- Council: work they’re doing on their values
- What your values mean for you and your partnerships
- Map your partnerships and make new contacts

**Networking lunch**
**Afternoon workshops** (sessions 2.00pm-3.30pm)
These sessions are open to all, just choose the one that you feel will be most beneficial for you.

**Workshop 1: How to find a corporate partner**
Whether you are a senior manager, volunteer co-ordinator or involved in running a small group this session will help you consider: how to build positive relationships with businesses, why you need to and what opportunities there might be. You will also hear from organisations who have built successful partnerships with businesses. They will share how they went about it and the successes and challenges they faced along the way.

**Workshop 2: Plan for successful collaboration**
From volunteer to trustee, whichever position you hold in your organisation or partnership, effective collaboration is integral to achieving your goals and delivering activities and services in the best possible way for your beneficiaries. The ability to spot ways that collaboration can add value and knowing how to make the most of these opportunities is crucial. During this session you will look at key practice and principles for working collaboratively and creating successful working relationships. This session will help you explore:
- Why we collaborate or work in partnership
- Top tips for success: how to prepare, the importance of values, and tools to help you
- Pitfalls of partnerships and collaboration and how to overcome these
- Partnership structures and effective consortia

**Workshop 3: Bid in partnership and win contracts**
Are you thinking about advancing your collaboration and wondering how to go about this? Bidding in partnership to win contracts can help your organisation achieve greater impact and reach, access new and larger sources of funding, and develop new skills and knowledge. But bidding in partnership is not without its challenges. In this session you will hear from the Big Lottery Fund, Brighton Housing Trust and Impact Initiatives. They will share top tips for success, discuss different delivery models and provide food for thought to help you decide what’s right for your organisation.

**Workshop 4: Should you be considering merger?**
In these times of reduced funding should your organisation be considering merger, in order to sustain the valuable services you provide? This session will focus on the risks, the benefits and the step-by-step processes to merger. You will hear from Frances Duncan, former director of the Whitehawk Inn, who recently oversaw the merger of Whitehawk Inn with Brighton Housing Trust. This session will leave you with a better understanding of what’s involved in a merger and whether it’s something your organisation should be considering.

**Additional information**
Please note that, to enable as many organisations as possible to have the chance to attend, places are limited to two people per organisation in each workshop session, unless spaces are still available nearer the day.

For more information, or if you are having difficulties with the booking form, get in touch us on events@bhcommunityworks.org.uk or 01273 234023