

## NETWORK LINK, MANCHESTER: 23.10.19

19 new attendees (4 attended because of the Manchester location)

34 Networks represented



### **Development Plan: IM**

- 202 U3As to be surveyed (outcomes to be compared to 2009 survey)
- U3As randomly selected to cover geographical location and size
- Results to be available from early 2020
- An external consultancy engaged to consider perceptions and needs of potential future members
- A range of merchandise and branded materials is being explored through the Trading Company

### **Network Affiliation Agreement: IM**

- Definition of "Network" to be added to the document
- Background: London-based Network approached the Charity Commission to be recognised as a charity. Their application was rejected as the relationship with the Third Age Trust was unclear.
- Agreement is for those Networks who want, or have, a formal structure and want a formal relationship with TAT
- The Agreement allows the Network to
  - Use the U3A logo
  - Receive support and advice from TAT
  - Apply for funding
  - Become a Beacon user
- Agreement works on an equal partnership between Network and Trust
- Process: draft Agreement
  - approval by Governance Committee
  - ratified by Board
  - sent to "Sample" Networks for consideration
  - sent to Trust's lawyer for scrutiny
  - Networks to be sent/given copies of Draft Agreement: feedback to Trust no later than mid-February 2020 to go to Governance then March Board meeting
- "Brand" Licence to be attached as separate document
  - Informal networks, on application, will be provided with the licence to allow use of logo – contact Sam M, Ian M or Hilary J

### **Queries raised (Network Link delegates asked to put queries in writing to Sam M)**

- Are Network Committee members covered by Trust's Trustee liability?
  - *Trust's insurance provider to be consulted*
  - *Confirmation to be communicated via Hilary J*
- Why should Network's accounts be sent to the Third Age Trust?
- Why does the Agreement suggest the decision to dissolve the relationship with a Network is the decision of the Trust?
- Does the Charity registration level apply as for U3As?
- Can a Network be set up across regional boundaries?

### **Constitution for Networks**

- Based on model constitution for U3As (based on Charity Commission model)
- Any changes, having first been examined by TAT, to be approved at an AGM/EGM then sent to the Charity Commission within 21 days

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- Networks would need to register with the Charity Commission if they have
  - a charitable constitution
  - income of £5000 or more
- Networks with an income of less than £5000 will be provided with a more modest constitution by the Trust by January 2020, so they can operate as a charity without registration

### Feedback and queries

- Inconsistent use of terms "network", "member", and "U3A member"
- Clause 34:
  - a less complicated sentence construction is preferred
  - clarification of the term "Board"
- Add a Glossary of terms
- Is "Association" the same as "Network"?
- Use same terminology in both the Alliance Agreement and Constitution
- A Network's Committee, as a registered Charity, would all be Trustees – right?
- Can a U3A Trustee also be a Network Trustee? *They would need to register a Conflict of Interest when business impacted on either at network or U3A level*
- *If any current networks already have a Constitution, please can they send copies to Sam M*
- *Any queries or feedback to be sent to Sam no later than 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020*

### Generic Emails: Arnie Laing

- It is not advisable for Trustees to use personal emails
- Contacting a U3A is problematic if generic emails are not used
- Websites should have consistent generic email addresses

### U3A Day: Sue Stokes

- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020: all U3As invited to participate to raise awareness of what we do, how we do it and the benefits we gain
- Concern: Successful events may result in a surge of membership requests
  - *U3As should plan for their response to this possibility in their planning*
- £100 grant is available to supplement U3A spending
- Any concerns, liaise with Regional Trustee
- SS to make PowerPoints available via Network Link website

### Beacon: Frank Bailey

- Presentation covered plans for development of improved system through external provider (APT)
- Current users support will desist from April 2021, or when the last current user is transferred to the new system
- It is anticipated current costs to users will be maintained with the aspiration to reduce if more users are brought on board

### Other Networks: Kelvin Rushworth

- North East Region have both Subject and Role Networks
- Training and Development is provided for U3As, eg "Good News" – newsletters and media links