



## One West Lancs Forum & Showcase / Health Network Event

Wednesday 6 July 2016, Edge Hill University

One West Lancs (OWL) brings together voluntary, public and business sectors to work in partnership to improve the quality of life for everyone in West Lancashire. The One West Lancs Forum provides input into key West Lancs issues and is an arena where information about West Lancashire developments can be shared and discussed.



Delegates browse the busy information stall area

This is the third One West Lancs showcase event and was attended by 159 people from 68 public, private and voluntary sector organisations.

Local voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) organisations were given the opportunity to showcase their work through either a static display, a four minute presentation or a short film. There were also information stands for delegates to browse and plenty of opportunities for networking.

The morning programme included contributions from:

- Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Liz Savage: formally opened the event and acknowledged the vast work of the voluntary sector and volunteers within West Lancs.
- Greg Mitten, the Chair of the One West Lancs Board and Chief Officer for West Lancashire CVS thanked Edge Hill University for hosting the day and spoke about the importance of partnerships. Introduced the theme of the event – ‘Getting West Lancs Active’.
- Sandra Bonner, West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG): set the scene for the event and put forward the health case for being both physically and socially active.
- Pamela Holstein, West Lancs Borough Council: outlined how the council is ensuring that those residents of West Lancs who are not digitally connected are helped to get connected. She also highlighted that voluntary organisations can also be digitally excluded as well as individuals.
- Anne Strachan, CrowdFunding: discussed the opportunities for fundraising through Crowdfunding and gave some good examples of successful campaigns. Anne offered to return to West Lancs and run a training session on crowdfunding later in the year.

Following the break, a powerful film called “Crossing the Line” was shown highlighting the dangers to young people of getting involved in organised crime which was written and produced by the local young

people from the Artz Centre in Skelmersdale for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). It was introduced by Dave Tilleray from West Lancs Borough Council who chairs the CSP. Josh Gwynne who directed the film represented the Artz Centre.

A number of local organisations had an opportunity to promote what they do either via a short film or presentation:

- Brighter Future Workshop
- West Lancs Fibromyalgia Support Group
- Tanhouse Community Enterprise Ltd
- The Sewing Rooms
- Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve
- Care & Repair Services in West Lancs
- Divine Days
- Macmillan Move More Physical Activity Programme
- Cricket for the Visually Impaired
- Burscough Community Farm
- Princes Trust (Skelmersdale team)

The event also provided the launch for the new Active West Lancs project in West Lancashire. This initiative is funded by the County Council and run by the Borough Council with support from the Skelmersdale Community Food Initiative, The West Lancashire School's Sports Partnership, the West Lancs Community Leisure Trust and West Lancs CVS all working in partnership to get more people in West Lancashire active. [www.activewestlancs.org](http://www.activewestlancs.org)

The delegates then enjoyed the chance to get active themselves - either with a walk outside using pedometers, playing Visually Impaired Cricket, creating a piece of art work on the theme of getting active, or forming an impromptu choir to rehearse and perform a melody of songs to close the event.



Visually impaired cricketers enjoy a game of cricket



Impromptu choir closes the event with song

Finally, there was a draw for two prizes of £250 which participating organisations could win - Timesavers and Ormskirk Civic Hall (The Civic) were the successful charities. (Thanks goes to Robert Godson from Home Instead for providing the additional £250 prize fund).



Greg Mitten presenting a cheque for £250 to Helen and John Haggart from Timesavers.



Liz Wainwright and Gemma Briscoe receive their cheque from Jan Howard, Volunteer Centre Manager, WLCVS

All the presentations, photos and links to the films will be available to view on the One West Lancs website – [www.onewestlancs.org](http://www.onewestlancs.org) and more details of the events on offer through Active West Lancs are listed on the Active West Lancs website [www.activewestlancs.org](http://www.activewestlancs.org)

## Feedback

The event received some very positive feedback which included:

- "So impressed by the sense of community in WL"
- "Great to see so many people. Good networking. Great venue. Well organised"
- "Great networking day and celebration of West Lancs for organisations"
- "A very positive event that celebrated West Lancs - good combination of information and participation"