

## **GFF LO Project Plan (Sept - Nov 2016)**

### **Covering the Community Sector within Newcastle City Branch**

Since this project began in September. I have tried to assess how this sector functions and I have produced a paper survey and an online survey to help me collect information from people within this sector. I have met with people from various organisations to help promote the aims of this project, circulate this survey and to highlight our training offer. So far Newcastle CVS has included me in their e-bulletin twice to over 2300 recipients. I have had discussions with VONNE and they are willing to do the same as long as it is not Newcastle centric so we will need to discuss this further.

Both Newcastle CVS and VONNE have allowed me to hold recruitment stalls at their AGM's with an average of 60+ organisations expected to attend this could lead to more contacts and future recruitment/organisation opportunities. I will be at Mea House during the Branch Committee at the CVS AGM.

This project has different challenges to others in that the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector is not overly familiar with the work of Trade Unions or the relevance of UNISON within this sector. This has meant that most of my work has been trying to explain what we are and what we do before any conversations about getting people to join. The use of our training offer has been invaluable and has allowed me to speak directly with managers who have been keen to listen to what we offer.

So far, I have held 15 stalls/drop ins and staff meetings and I have made 17 unannounced visits to workplaces and I have many more arranged. I have had 20 members join up in person and found 1 new Steward. I have had confirmation of 5 more that have joined since discussions with me using the Member Contact Tool and have seen online joiners in workplaces that we have visited. Due to the nature of this sector it has been more difficult to recruit with most people not knowing much about unions and instead opting to take away the forms.

I have formed a new Community Sector Forum as another way to engage with and organise within this sector and I hope that these events will be well attended. The first will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of November at Brunswick Methodist Church.

**Terry Johnstone**

**GFF Local Organiser**