**RAS Network Minutes – October 24th, 2019**

Attending:

1. Jabo Butera (Pop+ Associate),
2. Cassie Roberts (Odils),
3. Jessica Dann (PCC),
4. Julie Paget (PDREC),
5. David Feindouno (Red cross),
6. Rosie Brennam (Law Clinic),
7. Georgia Lucas (Law clinic),
8. Susan Moores (volunteer),
9. Tam Martin Fowles (hope in heart),
10. Dr Alan Butler (Pride Plymouth),
11. Georgia Lucas (clinic law student)
12. Louise Morrison (DBI Intern)

Apologies:

Pat Joyce (DCRS), Sarah Medland (funding Office Big Lottery), Tara Wilkinson (Path)

Visitors

Kevin Mackenzie (Plymouth City Council)

Chair of the Meeting: Jabo Butera (DBI)

Note Taker: Louise Morrison (DBI Intern)

Hosted by Open Doors International Language School

1. **Updates from members**

**Cassie Roberts:** welcomed all as the host and updated us on the progress of Odils. Rebranded Odils Learning Foundation and on a digital transformation journey. These transformations will allow accessing communities in isolated areas as well as attracting other stream of income. Odils registered 700 people last year and there was a 90% success rate on progression in the student’s achievements.

Odils might relocate in the new future and hope this will allow a stronger collaboration with other agencies

**Rosie Brennam** updated on the legal aid sub committee progress.

* Legal aid is increasingly reaching highest crisis level in the city.
* Proposed that Plymouth stops being a dispersal city for at least 6 months to address the issue first,
* Still one case worker for the whole city coverage compared to 8 in Bristol and her capacity are stretched to the limit
* Only those in asylum system can access legal aid, any other cases are not in scope for receiving the legal aid
* Legal aid wants to re tender the contract and make it more attractive for firms to apply.
* Explore the Possibility of other funding to support with travel cost
* Press ahead with data collection and research supported by Dr Joe Wildings.
* Conversation is on going with the citizen advise bureau on how to collaborate or increase their capacity to take on legal aided matters

**Jessica Dann,** PCC is still looking for options or rooms to accommodate and facilitate the legal aid services in case we do video conferencing calls or getting solicitors from other cities to commit sometimes and work in Plymouth. The one stop shop is constantly fully booked

1. **Migrant Community Fund**

**Kevin McKenzie** presented the history of the fund and confirmed the city as awarded £505 thousands pounds through the above scheme but that the focus and purpose of deliverables has changed. The aim currently is to engage with the 4 wards communities in Plymouth with the lowest inclusion scoring mark. These are St Budeax, Devonport , Efford and Honnicknowle. The work will target those members up to 10.000 individuals who are still thinking immigration is not favourable to the society or having negative understanding of integration with migrants’ communities.

A detailed fund allocation was presented and explained and the thinking behind these allocations.

The different member present discussed on the proposed ways the funds have been allocated and voice clearly to Kevin the urgent need in legal aid support and that many organisations within RAS are already engaging with those mentioned wards in increasing better cohesion.

It was agreed that Kevin will take on board their concerns and incorporates or accommodates some of these urgent matters within as well as create a collaborative way to support the existing cohesion mechanism. To learn form these actions of inclusion and implement what seems to be working and avoid duplications.

1. **AOB**

**Tam Martin** presented two projects on compassionate city and Hope in Heart that she has been funded to deliver in the city. Requesting organizations to share and signpost people

**David Feindouno**: jobs at Plymouth hope have received candidates and the process of recruitment is on the way, should be updated with new staffs on the next meeting

**Jabo Butera** Pop+ associate Cathy will be going on maternity leave soon but will put in a bid to the L&D funds through Esmee Fairbain second round to support the legal aid and the mapping. Organizations have been involved in collaborating and City of Sanctuary will lead on that

**Next Meeting to be on the 19th December 2019 at DBI office , HQ Building , 237 Union Street , Pl1 3HQ and this will be just a celebration time** .