

PREPARING FOR CHANGE” EVENT AT HOWDEN PARK CENTRE, MONDAY 14 JUNE WORKSHOPS

Responses from Workshops 1, 2 and 3

- For organisations already reduced in size there are fears about further cuts. How can the organisation make further savings? Organisations also fear that they may lose their identity
- Organisations and their committees need more information about the whole process and what’s expected of them; how much and what type of evidence is required?
- The timescale is very tight to assess every organisation in detail
- Difficult to understand jargon – conflicting information – lack of clarity on expected reductions in funding - more transparency required.
- Organisations need to determine and identify their “purpose”; “value”; “differences and changes they are making”/ all organisations will be assessed on their own merit.
- Voluntary Sector Gateway has a role to play – suggestion that the VSGWL could facilitate small groups to discuss the way forward – provide support for smaller organisations; workshops on outcomes?
- Duplication – how do organisations know if they are duplicating services?
- Performance and quality standards - Expected to provide more for less?
- When working across Local Authorities, different ways of working expected from each Local Authority.
- Encouraged by WLC’s way of approaching the cuts and the consultative process.
- SLA’s re-negotiate.
- Contingency Plans?
- **Data Protection** – Access to shared information and skills
- There will be increased competition for dwindling resources.
- General response or individual response?
- **Outcomes vs Activities** - Soft outcomes are more difficult to determine and identify
- Treat your response like a funding application

What steps can we take in response?

- **PROCUREMENT** – for example Handyman Service to share with other orgs; Stationery in bulk; IT Services
- **PREMISES** – Suggestion to rent empty premises from West Lothian Council and this would keep the money in the system; share premises
- **INFORMATION** – More required about organisations to be able to link up and work together
- **COST CUTTING** – will be done through efficiencies; outputs; core. Organisations need supported through this
- **PROACTIVE** – all organisations need to be more proactive
- **VSGWL** – could have a role to play in co-ordinating info and advice
- **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

- STRATEGIC PLANNING – support to do this
- JOINT BIDS and FUNDING APPLICATIONS
- INCOME – Find new ways to generate income
- SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT – latest version on VSGWL website
- COMMUNICATION – need to improve channels of communication and be more transparent
- EVIDENCE – Need to evidence the Outcomes achieved through your activities - Your opportunity to **'sell'** your Organisation - Evidence the efficiencies already made, within your response.
- Evaluation Support Scotland and EFS can provide training on outcomes/outputs etc.
- Negotiate with Nationals?
- Become aware of the working day and how it is divided – make every hour count