**Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Group (TSSG) – 20 May 2020**

1. **Present:** Raymond Branton, Chair (Family and Community Development), Alan McCloskey (VSGWL), Diane Cameron (WLSEN), Angela Mason (WLSEN), James Penman, Minute Taker (VSGWL), Lisa Drinnan (Community Action Blackburn), Jay Haston (Men Matter), Joanna Van Den Berg (Firefly Arts), Errin Anderson (Polbeth Hub), Matt Pearce (WC & Harburn CDT), Dawn Henderson (Families Outside), David MacDonald (Whitburn and District CDT), Heather Watson (WLDAS), Angela Moohan (The Larder), Mark Kennedy, Elizabeth Stevenson (Signpost), Alison Wright (Carers of West Lothian), Karen Nailen (Citizens Advice Bureau)

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| **ITEM** | **KEY POINTS** | **ACTION BY** |
|  | **Apologies**  Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting. There will be no fixed agenda for the meeting.  Apologies - Koen Van Der Straeten – (The Brock), Stuart Barrie (Homestart), John Moore (LCTS), Paul Renwick (Fauldhouse CDT), Stephanie Simpson (Victim Support), Helen Davis (WLYAP), Kate Allan (Safe Families), Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco). |  |
|  | **Previous minutes & matters arising.**  Change to the previous action notes – Elizabeth Stevenson (Signpost) to be added to list of apologies. No further corrections.  **Matters arising from previous minutes.**  Tracy not available to give update on premises for the Health Improvement Teams’ Digital Skills training but Alan confirmed that Kidseco`s offer had been passed on.  Food Fund application approved. 25/26 organisations showed an interest in creating a food hub. West Lothian Council were allocated just over £1 million with the criteria that food be distributed to the most vulnerable in society. Application submitted for £150k with 8 or 9 organisations looking for funding. The process has been excellent example of collaborative working. Hopeful that the food hub will be able to serve every organisation in some way. Weekly increase in food referrals with demand larger than what can be supplied now. The Foodbank will be co-ordinators for the Food Network. There is a £20k contingency fund available for purchasing staple foods. |  |
|  | **VSGWL update**  The survey requested by local government committee re effectiveness of the Third Sector Resilience fund has now ended. Results have been forwarded to the committee and are available to view on the VSGWL website.  A second survey, which is active until 29 May, has been pulled together by all the TSI’s to look at the long-term impact of Covid 19 on the Third Sector. The survey can be accessed through the VSGWL website and results will be collated by Glasgow TSI. The West Lothian response will be shared with partners and Scottish Government. Response deadline is 29 May. All encouraged to participate.  Kate Smith, Parliamentary Outreach Officer, has made a request to attend a future TSSG meeting to discuss the impact of Covid 19 on Equalities and Human Rights. Kate will be invited to attend the next TSSG meeting. A request was made to use the recording of the TSSG meeting as evidence with no names being used.  Wellbeing Fund phase 2 is now closed and monies are being distributed to the successful organisations. The next round of funding is now available to apply for. All to consider  VSGWL were successful with an application to the National Lottery to be a grant distributer to target small grassroots local organisations with grants of between £500 and £2500 for work carried out up to end of September. National Lottery have given VSGWL a grant of £52k to distribute. Details will be available to view on the VSGWL website in the next 7-10 days. Diane from WLSEN will be helping with assessments with monies being distributed around the middle of June. Organisations will be made aware of the fund through social media in the next couple of days.  Several organisations have made requests for volunteers so far. VSGWL has a large bank of volunteers on a ‘waiting list’ and will be contacting each individual to thank them for their patience and give a general update. VSGWL are trying to utilise as many as possible who have signed up through Volunteer Scotland. If anyone has a requirement for volunteers, please contact VSGWL. | **Alan**  **All** |
|  | **Funding update**  Citizens Advice Bureau applied to the Wellbeing Fund and received £10k. Some money was for immediate money advice but the majority was for the purchase of IT equipment to better enable volunteers to work remotely.  WLDAS were also successful with Wellbeing Fund application. WLDAS received £22k for help towards moving to remote working.  The Brock received £12.5k and the Larder £36.5k from the Wellbeing Fund. |  |
|  | **WLSEN update**  Social Enterprise Reset week – Senscot had 25 zoom chats with organisations with a further 7 the following week to gather as much information as possible on the impact on Social Enterprise of Covid 19.  Scottish Government have ruled that charities are now eligible to receive Business Support Grants. Organisations urged to apply and to contact WLSEN if they require any help.  WLSEN are gathering lots of information on which organisations have been successful in securing funding.  Any organisations that require 1 to 1 support from Community Enterprise please get in touch.  VSGWL happy to contact bank of volunteers regarding any specific role’s organisations may have e.g. accounting as there will be a lot of skilled people not being utilised. |  |
|  | **Updates & misc**  Raymond has been asked to join the West Lothian Child Protection committee as the Third Sector representative and will circulate an email looking for an update on any child protection issues at the moment.  Steven at the Foodbank to be added to TSSG mailing list. Angela to send contact details to Raymond.  Firefly Arts received just over £9k from the Wellbeing Fund to better engage with young people.  Carers of West Lothian are now distributing PPE equipment to unpaid carers and personal assistants supporting disabled people.  Whitburn and District CDT have been able to increase the brunch club capacity to include Harthill, Armadale and Blackridge targeting older, vulnerable people that are unable to cook for themselves.  Men Matters zoom chats are at 7pm on Tuesdays and Women matters at 7pm on a Thursday. Also, Fat Larrys Bingo on a Wednesday night which is open to the whole community.  Community Action Blackburn have been given the green light to submit full application to Supporting Communities Fund. |  |
|  | **Next meeting dates**  Zoom meeting every 2 weeks. Next meeting 3 June. |  |