**Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Group (TSSG) – 29 September 2020**

1. **Present:** Raymond Branton, Chair (Family and Community Development), Diane Cameron (WLSEN), James Penman, Minute Taker (VSGWL), Elizabeth Stevenson (Signpost), Helen Davis (West Lothian Youth Action Project), Lisa Drinnen (Community Action Blackburn), Alan McCloskey (VSGWL), Joanne Van Den Berg (Firefly Arts), Angie Mason (WLSEN), Karen Nailen (Citizens Advice Bureau), Alice Mitchell (West Lothian Council), Angela Weir (West Calder Hub), Mark Kennedy (Circle), Brian Pringle (WLDAS), Alan Davidson (The Bridge), Stuart Barrie (Homestart), David MacDonald (Whitburn and District CDT), Ally Graham (Beechbrae).

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| **ITEM** | **KEY POINTS** | **ACTION BY** |
|  | **Apologies**Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.Apologies – Matt Pearce (West Calder and Harburn CDT), Jay Haston (Men/Women Matter), Angela Moohan (The Larder), Alison Wright (Carers of West Lothian), Tom Heron (The Vennie), Erinn Anderson (Polbeth Community Hub).  |  |
|  | The meeting started with a presentation by Alice Mitchell on Economic Development in West Lothian. Presentation/report attached.**Kickstart**The Kickstart Scheme is a £2 billion programme run by the UK government to encourage 16-24 year olds into employment and is very similar to the Community Jobs Scotland Scheme. This may be something organisations can take advantage of as administration and training costs will be covered by West Lothian Council. More information will be available at a later TSSG meeting.Alice can be contacted on 01506 283079 if anyone has any reports they would like to see or ideas they would like to share etc. Raymond thanked Alice for her attendance.**Previous minutes**The action notes were accepted as an accurate account of the previous meeting.**Matters Arising**The Health and Wellbeing survey results have been circulated and will be presented to the CPP board tomorrow (30 September). The report will be used to help identify the priorities for West Lothian Council. The Communities Team also used this report to make decisions regarding the Voluntary Organisations budget. Everyone was urged to view the papers for the CPP meeting. Alan will report back from this meeting at the next TSSG. The report from the Summit will also be part of the papers for the CPP meeting.The Children and Families Forum is now scheduled for 6 October and invitations have been sent out. Hopefully, these will now take place monthly.**Diversity within TSSG**A meeting has been arranged for Monday 5 October. 10 organisations will be attending to discuss bringing more diversity to the TSSG.**Voluntary Organisation Budget**The report that was presented at the PDSP last week has been circulated. This outlines the full details of what will be presented for approval at the Council Executive meeting, with applications being rolled out soon after (9th October with a 4 week turn around). The application form and guidance notes are part of this plan to help speed things along. Organisations who will be commissioned have been removed and 400k will be available in an open application process. Organisations will only be able to apply for up to a maximum of £50k.For those organisations that have been commissioned, it is still unclear how this will work. Contact from Council expected imminently. The Vol Orgs PDSP meeting lasted around 2.5 hours and there was a strong feeling of value for the 3rd sector and better recognition of the importance of the services being delivered.Scottish Government has announced a £25 million recovery fund. Details can be found on the VSGWL website and in the E Bulletin, where the application and guidance notes are available. Douglas Westwater has urged organisations to contact him for assistance when applying.With the Adapt and Thrive element of this fund you can submit a rough draft and receive feedback before submitting an application but with the Community Recovery element applications go straight to the panel so more thorough work is required for this application.**Working Group Update**It was asked if it was time to consider third sector representation on this group with John Moore`s recent retirement. This will be added to the next TSSG agenda for discussion.**Children Services Plan**The first draft of the children services plan for West Lothian, that will cover the next 3 years, will be ready by the strategic planning group meeting next week. This will then be presented to the Children and Families Forum and the Third Sector Strategic Group.**VSGWL update**A further round of National Lottery funding will be available from Thursday (1 October). A total pot of £15k is still available and will allow small grass roots organisations to apply for awards between £500 and £1000 to support activity from the beginning of November until the end of January 2021. Applications will be accepted until 16 October with the hope that monies will be distributed by the end of October. It is hoped, with the relationship that has developed, more funding opportunities will be made available from the National Lottery for the Third Sector in West Lothian.2 highlight videos from the recent Summit are available to view on the VSGWL website. The full version is available on request. Alan thanked everyone for their input and attendance at the Summit. It is important that the good work created by the Summit is continued and that the sector doesn’t ‘rest on its laurels’. There is a growing recognition from the Health and Social Care Partnership of the work the third sector does. Yvonne Lawton from the HSCP has offered to speak with the TSSG at a future meeting about partnership working.**WLSEN update**The Mental Health Group is due to meet again on Tuesday 13 October at 1.30pm and everyone is welcome. This meeting will take place via Teams. The link to the meeting will be forwarded as soon as it is available.SCVO are also a coordinating body for the Kickstart. Further details will be available in the WLSEN newsletter. IT is another option for people to consider.**AOCB**There was no further business to be discussed. | **Alan (VSGWL)****All** |
|  | **Next meeting date**The next meeting will take place via Zoom on Tuesday 20th October at 1pm |  |