**Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Group (TSSG) – 5 August 2020**

1. **Present:** Raymond Branton, Chair (Family and Community Development), Alan McCloskey (VSGWL), Diane Cameron (WLSEN), Jay Haston (Men Matter/Women Matter), David MacDonald (Whitburn and District CDT), John Moore (Lothian Community Transport Services), Helen Davis (West Lothian Youth Action Project), Margaret Bryson, Angie Mason (WLSEN), Mark Kennedy (Circle), Lisa Drinnen (Community Action Blackburn), Joanna Van Den Berg (Firefly Arts), Stuart Barrie (Homestart), Niamh Brennan, Beth MacLean, Alison Wright (Carers of West Lothian)

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| **ITEM** | **KEY POINTS** | **ACTION BY** |
|  | **Apologies**  Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.   1. Apologies – Karen Nailen (Citizens Advice Bureau), Angela Moohan (The Larder), Dawn Henderson (Families Outside), Stuart Barrie (Homestart), Lisa Drinnen (Community Action Blackburn), Matt Pearce (West Calder and Harburn CDT), Ally Graham (Beechbrae), |  |
|  | **Previous minutes**  The action notes were accepted as an accurate account of the previous meeting. |  |
|  | **Matters arising**  WLSEN has distributed pro-forma to the sector along with the vision statement.  Helen has been in contact with everyone with a view to getting the children and families meetings back up and running.  All other actions being covered in today`s meeting update. |  |
|  | **Summit update**  Alan provided an update on the progress made by the planning team putting together the summit arrangements for Monday 7 Sept – 10-12pm.  Due to lockdown restrictions, it has been agreed to have an online event rather than at a physical location. Other key developments   * Anna Fowlie, CEO from SVCO has agreed to chair and speak. * VSG has issued letter and invitations via Eventbrite * Draft programme is being developed   + Keynote speakers invited   + Breakout sessions planned to showcase work and value of sector   Alan requested ideas for showcasing partnership work and/or positive impact of services during Covid-19.  Individuals will be required to help facilitate breakout session.  Alan advised that around 50 people have confirmed attendance. WL Officials / Councillors registered to date:  *Elaine Nisbet, David Dodds, Yvonne Shaw, Kirsteen Sullivan, Rachel MacGowan, Dougie Grierson, Martin Thomson, Gillian Scott, Moira Shemilt, Craig McCorriston.*  All encouraged to promote to local councillors to encourage their attendance. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/third-sector-covid-19-recovery-summit-creating-a-new-west-lothian-tickets-114862205950>  Planning team meeting weekly to review progress.  All noted positive progress to date. | **All to consider and advise Alan**  **All to consider**  **All to promote to their local contacts** |
|  | **Council Revenue Funding Progress Update**  Alan provided an update on developments.  The Working Group meet on 4th August. Third Sector reps again reiterated concerns about the timeline and lack of clarity around decisions. Officials took on board concerns raised.  There is continuing dialogue with WL Officials about taking forward proposals for future funding model and the Voluntary Orgs Revenue budget. Officials have confirmed;   * £944k would be available for 2021/22 and may be badged as Covid Community Fund * WLC supportive of the principle of multi-year but unable to commit for 2022/23 until the effect on the Council’s budget of its response to COVID is known * Council discussions to take place around direct commissioning for voluntary orgs for continuing funding arrangements for 2021/22   + Once this funding comes out of the pot, remaining funding for sector to be £400k - £500k   + `Fund will be open to all` rather than those historically on funding award list   *Next steps and timeline*   * Report to Council Executive – September * Guidance and application processes to be developed – Oct/Nov * Decisions announced – December |  |
|  | **VSGWL update**  Alan reminded everyone that we still have a range of individuals interested in volunteering. It is possible that some may return to work or their circumstances change in coming weeks.  Due to GDPR we will be contacting individuals to ask if they wish to remain on the volunteering database. If organisations do require volunteers for service delivery of trustee positions, please get in touch soonest.  Alan advised that a second round of funding from the National Lottery covid-1 fund would be made available in the coming weeks. Details would be published on the VSG website and across social media. | **All to consider** |
|  | **WLSEN update**    Diane confirmed that their new website was now live.  She advised that the proposed Mental Health group was operational and everyone was welcome to consider and join as appropriate. WLSEN had submitted an application to the National Lottery to help support this project.  Diane reminded all that survey into effectiveness of WLSEN was live and invited everyone to provide feedback. Should only take 5 mins to complete |  |
|  | **Organisation updates & misc**  Stuart advised that Homestart had just published an important survey looking at the impact of Covid-19 on young children.  All encouraged to read - <https://babiesinlockdown.info/download-our-report/> |  |
|  | **Next meeting dates**  Raymond advised he will circulate poll about future meeting arrangements.  Dates for next 2 meetings confirmed:   * **Tuesday 25th August at 1pm**   Meeting ID: 868 5305 3334  Passcode: 347797   * **Tuesday 8th September at 1pm**   Meeting ID: 892 2400 8083  Passcode: 101214 |  |