**Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Group (TSSG) – 16 March 2021**

1. **Present:** Raymond Branton, Chair (Family and Community Development), Diane Cameron (WLSEN), James Penman, Minute Taker (VSGWL), Helen Davis (West Lothian Youth Action Project), Alan McCloskey (VSGWL), David MacDonald (Whitburn and District CDT), Lesley Mount (Signpost), Brian Pringle (WLDAS), Marie Andreeti (Whitburn and District CDT), Andrew Murray (Safe Families), West Lothian Foodbank, Joanna Van Den Berg (Firefly Arts), Alison Wright (Carers of West Lothian), Monica Mochar (Wellbeing Scotland), Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco), Sylvia Forshaw (Cyrenians OPAL), Lisa Drinnan (Blackburn Family Centre), Jay Haston (Wave Trust), Ozzy Oswald (WLDAS).

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| **ITEM** | **KEY POINTS** | **ACTION BY** |
|  | **Apologies**Mark Kennedy (Circle), Matt Pearce (West Calder and Harburn CDT), Alan Davidson (The Bridge), Angie Mason (WLSEN), Karen Nailen (Citizens Advice Bureau), Silence Chihuri (FJSS), Beth MacLean (Safe Families), Stuart Barrie (Homestart). |  |
|  | **Welcome**Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting. Speaker: Thomas Oswald (WLDAS) – increasing the use and availability of Naloxone.If anyone is interested in Naloxone training, please contact WLDAS. **Previous minutes**The action notes were accepted as an accurate account of the previous meeting held on 16 February 2021.**Matters arising/review of actions from last meeting****Leader Support Group**Dedicated mailing list is in the process of being compiled. Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing list, that have not already done so, please contact Raymond.**Other**There was a meeting due to take place on 19 February regarding a West Lothian Community Lottery but was cancelled due to a lack of interest.There have been tentative discussions with other TSI’s and an organisation called Gatherwell. They are looking at the feasibility of having a community lottery in West Lothian and what this would look like, what the pros and cons are and what costs would be associated etc. Alan met separately with Joanna as she needed to provide a paper to the council about the potential for a Local Authority led Community Lottery. The council have rejected this due to the gambling implications of running a lottery scheme. VSGWL will look in to this further with the help of other TSI’s to see if this is something worth driving forward and possibly also bring to the TSSG. Alan will update should anything emerge from this over the next 6-9 months.**Sector/Council Working Group update**There were a few items on the agenda at the last meeting of the working group including discussing the extra core funding of £285k, modernisation and improvement fund, voluntary organisations budget for the year after next and the concept of sector/council partnership work and strategy which everyone is keen to develop. An annual report has been produced to highlight the progress of the past year.Organisations that are in receipt of funding through the voluntary organisations budget from April onwards should have been informed of a one-off uplift from the extra core funding from West Lothian Council. It is welcome that this extra money has been allocated to core funding. The one-off funding boost has been made as simple as possible with no application process. There have been encouraging signs of progress during the working groups meetings with West Lothian Council representatives. If anyone would like to get involved with the Working Group, they are welcome to put their names forward for consideration. There is a large time commitment involved.**Sector/Forum updates and developments****Children and Families Forum**There has been movement with the mental health fund, funds have been allocated to the development of the partnership. This is a step in the right direction, but there is still lots of work to be done. Simon McGowan is the rep that is linked to the council. The partnership should be meeting in the next week or so to decide how it will move forward and to look at the proposals that have been submitted to see if they fill the gap that was identified by the council in the children and family’s mental health services. This information was primarily ascertained through the Wellbeing Recovery GroupThere was an update given on the Children’s Services Plan, which has now gone through.The next forum is on 6th April. Zoom link and minutes will be sent out soon. This is an open group so if anyone is interested, please feel free to attend.**Mental Health Forum**There has been a social media campaign over the last 10 days. The flyer and mapping are now on the website as well as a list of everyone who is involved with the forum. There are leaflets available for all 35 organisations on the food network. If anyone would like flyers, please contact Diane.Funding has been made available for a Mental Health 3rd Sector Coordinator, this has been sent to Quick Quotes and should be in place by the end of this month.**Race Forum**Information was sent out regarding the equalities workshop. If anyone is interested can they please sign up.The West Lothian History Group are having a heritage lecture on 16th April. Details will be shared soon.**Leader Support Group**The group had a self-help session with a clinical psychologist at the last meeting. It was useful and has given access to some good resources.If you are interested in joining any of these meetings, please let Raymond know and he will add you to the groups mailing list.**WLDAS**WLDAS have been invited along with some other organisations to the ADP (Alcohol Drug Partnership) commissioning board. Meeting has not taken place yet so an update will be given at a future TSSG meeting. This is to have a more partnership working approach to commissioning.**VSGWL update**There are several Youth Employment Schemes to highlight and are detailed below.Kickstart - <https://scvo.scot/jobs/kickstart-scheme>TSEF forum - <https://scvo.scot/p/39138/2020/06/11/join-the-new-third-sector-employability-community>Local employability leads - <http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/partnership/local-employability-partnerships/partnerships-lead-contact-details/>Young Person’s Guarantee - <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/youngpersonsguarantee>CJS - <https://scvo.scot/jobs/community-jobs-scotland>CJS Helpline 01415565026 CJS@scvo.scot<http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/>West Lothian College are keen to work in partnership with the 3rd Sector to provide placements for students. The full details are attached. Anyone who is interested in developing this piece of work and the potential funding opportunities should contact Alan. Helen from YAP has asked to be involved. VSGWL will be launching their new website at the beginning of April. This will initially be distributed to stakeholders to obtain feedback on the proposed site before it goes live.**WLSEN update**The branding branch of Community Enterprise called Bold are offering organisations free rebranding. This is through the Branding for Growth opportunity with the first-round closing on 31 March and is open again until 30 April.There is a new programme called the School for Social Entrepreneurs which is heritage focused and includes a £10k grant if your organisation trades up £10k it will be matched and includes a 10-month training programme in marketing etc.Lots of support for start-up social entrepreneurs or enterprise. First Port and School for Social Entrepreneurs are really pushing this.The Bridge still have space available should any organisation leaders or staff require any help with mental health.WLSEN are happy to arrange some business coaching sessions for anyone who is interested.WLSEN are looking for organisations that would like to take part in trialling a finance system review through a social enterprise that does accountancy in Scotland. This could potentially be a member benefit.**Future Speakers**The Lottery will be invited to give a presentation at the next TSSG in April.They are keen to engage in West Lothian and have new funds up and running. They have already presented to the Vol Orgs PDSP.In May, MacMillan West Lothian will be presenting on ‘Improving the Cancer Journey’.In June, Social Security Scotland will be invited to present on what they do.Anyone with ideas for future speakers should contact Raymond.**AOCB**There was no further business to be discussed. |  |
|  | **Next meeting dates**Next TSSG is on Tuesday 13 April at 1pm via Zoom.Raymond thanked everyone and closed the meeting. |  |