**Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Group (TSSG) – 11 May 2021**

1. **Present:** Raymond Branton, Chair (Family and Community Development), Helen Davis (West Lothian Youth Action Project), Alan McCloskey (VSGWL), Lesley Mount (Signpost), Joanna Van Den Berg (Firefly Arts), Monica Mochar (Wellbeing Scotland), Sylvia Forshaw (Cyrenians OPAL), Jay Haston (Wave Trust), Angie Mason (WLSEN), Stuart Barrie (Homestart), Rosemary McCabe (Children 1st),Silence Chihuri (FJJS Group), Jack Christine (River Kids), Lisa Drinnen (Blackburn Family Centre), Alison Wright (Carers of West Lothian), Deidre Henderson, Gary Gunn (Scottish Government)

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| **ITEM** | **KEY POINTS** | **ACTION BY** |
|  | **Apologies**  Brian Pringle (WLDAS), Simon McGowan (Children 1st), Mark Kennedy (Circle), Matt Pearce (West Calder and Harburn CDT), Kathleen Neilly (West Lothian Foodbank) Karen Nailen (Citizens Advice Bureau) |  |
|  | **Welcome**  Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.  **Speaker:** Deidre Henderson, Scottish Government on the impacts of EU exit on disadvantaged groups. Deidre highlighted 3 questions previously circulated to TSSG. There was a wide ranging discussion on the potential impacts. Comments reflected the focus on Covid-19 response over much of the past 12 months.  **Previous minutes**  The action notes were accepted as an accurate account of the previous meeting held on 13 April 2021.  **Matters arising/review of actions from last meeting**  Any matters arising are already within the agenda for the meeting.  **Sector/Council Working Group update**  **A: Consultation on 2nd year extension to Council funding**  Raymond explained that the Sector had an opportunity to call for a further year funding extension to be given organisations that had received awards for 21/22. If successful, this would alleviate the drawn out process experience from last year.  Alan added that he would formally write to the Council on behalf of the sector requesting that this idea be given due consideration. He added that he would suggest that the Modernisation and Improvement Fund be converted into a rolling application process and be open to any voluntary group.  The reps attending welcomed this proposal.  B: **Update on volunteer reps to join the Working Group**  Raymond advised that a number of applications had been received for the two positions. Post meeting, Alan confirmed that Alison Wright from Carers of West Lothian and Stuart Barrie, Homestart, had been successful.  Raymond advised an Induction session would be arranged in the coming days.  **Sector/Forum updates and developments**  **Children& Families Forum**  Helen advised that the Forum had met recently. She explained that funding to support an Activities programme over the Summer had just been announced via Beverley Akinlami. There was a tight deadline for applications. Helen agreed to circulate details about the fund to TSSG via Raymond.  The date for the next meeting of the Forum is Tuesday 8 June @1.30pm  **MH forum**  Raymond updated on proposals to develop and revitalise the Aces Hub  In Bathgate. A tender had been submitted to redevelop the Hub.  June Dickson is taking forward the Forum.  **VSGWL update**  Alan reminded colleagues about the micro-grants scheme allowing orgs to apply for up to £500 was available to combat vaccine inequality. Details about the scheme was available on the VSGWL website - [micro-grants-to-combat-vaccine-inequality-hesitancy/](https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/micro-grants-to-combat-vaccine-inequality-hesitancy/)  Alison advised that Carers of West Lothian had been given an award.  Alan advised that up to £21M was available from the Equality and Human Rights fund for organisations to support them tackle inequalities and discrimination - [21m-inspiring-scotland-equality-and-human-rights-fund/](https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/21m-inspiring-scotland-equality-and-human-rights-fund/)  Alan reported that the TSI network had recently appointed a secondee to work directly with Scottish Government. The role would help to explain about the role and purpose of TSIs and the wider third sector**.**  **WLSEN update**  Angie confirmed that a recruitment campaign for Diane`s successor was underway and would be confirmed in the coming weeks. Angie was managing arrangements in the meantime.  **Future speakers**  Raymond asked for ideas for future speakers. Jay proposed that we may wish to invite Cllr Horne to a future meeting. There was an interesting article about him in the press recently.  Raymond suggested that we could also consider inviting Cllr Sullivan or Alice Mitchell to our June meeting. Alan agreed to progress this invitation.  **AOCB**  None  **Date of next meeting**  Tues 15 June @1pm. Zoom invite to follow  Raymond thanked everyone and closed the meeting. | **Alan (VSGWL)**  **Raymond (FCDWL)**  **Helen**  **(WLYAP)**  **/ Raymond (FCDWL\_**  Alan  (VSGWL) |
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