Note of meeting of TSSG

Thursday 7th April

**1.00 – 3.00 pm – In person meeting   
Carers of West Lothian Building**

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| Chair: | Alan McCloskey (VSGWL) | Note taker: | Tracy Kerr (VSGWL) |

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| Attendees: | Lesley Mount (Signpost), Angela Moohan (The Larder) , Gillian Fairgrieve (Environmental CIC), David Hansen (West Calder), John Murphy (Community Action Blackburn), Linda White (WLDAS), Gillian McLaren (WLC Climate Change Officer – Guest Speaker). |
| Apologies: | June Dickson, Raymond Branton, Jack Christie, Karen Nailen, Helen Davis, Kathleen Nally, Silence Chihuri, Alison Wright, Collette Moran. All received with thanks. |

# Minutes

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| 1 | Welcome and Apologies |
| Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting. | |
| 2 | Guest speaker: Róisín McLaren, Climate Change Officer, West Lothian Council to talk about setting up a Climate Action Hub |
| Roisin McLaren spoke about WLC Climate Action Hubs. Alan will circulate copies of the slides.  A meeting is to be held on Monday 11/4/22, 2-3pm with a further catch up meeting planned.  **Action:**  **Alan to circulate copies of the presentation** | |
| 3 | Previous minutes and matters arising |
| Previous minutes were accepted.  **Outstanding action points;**  **Alan had forwarded the VSGWL third sector training survey to Angela.**  **Peer support group – this was organized but had to be cancelled.** | |
| 4 | Council Election Hustings: event update and planning |
| After discussion the closing date for the Hustings was changed to 12.00 on 12th April. | |
| 5 | Council working group – update and planning |
| Angela has been recruited to the working group.  Alan advised that the group will be focusing on future funding once the elections are over.  The group are planning to develop a training calendar to be sent out to the sector detailing what support is available. | |
| 6 | VSGWL report |
| **Communities and Mental Health Fund**  Initially £470,000 was allocated to West Lothian for the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. Further money was allocated from the Scottish Government making the total £540,000. This has now all been allocated out to the sector.  The Scottish Government have confirmed they will be providing further funding this year. No further details have been given but it is hoped that there will be more detail around mid-June.  **Training Workshops**  VSGWL are still planning to run workshops to provide training on completing funding applications.  **Carer Support Fund**  The council have launched a £70000 carer support fund through West Lothian Council. This will be launched at the end of April and applications can be made for £1-£5K. The guidelines are currently being worked on. There will be a 3–4-week application time and money will be allocated in June for activities starting in November.  **No One Left Behind Funding**  The NOLB funding of £200,000 has now closed. The fund was oversubscribed and the assessment panel have just met. There will be further announcements in the next few days. It is hoped there will be more news from the Scottish Government over the next few days regarding the fund.  It was asked if there had been feedback to WLC about the lack of timing to apply for the funding. Alan confirmed that it had been discussed and fedback particularly when partnership applications were being encouraged.  **Trustee Recruitment**  VSGWL will be recruiting for new board members. | |
| 7 | WLSEN report |
| **Board Change**  Silence has left as a board member. WLSEN are looking to fill positions and diversify. Anyone interested should contact Linda.  **Membership Growing**  The membership of WLSEN is growing. They remain helping startup’s with face to face support and providing a welcome pack.  Council’s SLA funding has been secured for year 2 of the 2 year funding.  **Amplify**  The Scottish Government have announced that SCS have been chosen as the single intermediary. There are some questions over how the integration will take place and concern over how to make sure the 3rd sector views are heard. They are looking to create a transition group to facilitate the setup of the new organization. WLSEN feel it is important to be involved.  **Empower**  WLSEN are working with the Bridge on a new counselling social enterprise and also with Firstport.  Cameron is pulling together a graphic to show what help is available to social enterprises and who can help.  WLSEN are supporting Social Enterprise Academy with a planned event.  They are planning a meet the new member event.  **Collaborate**  Two business students will be working with WLSEN to do some research.  WLSEN support and attend forums including the Employability forum and Environmental Hub meetings.  **West Lothian Wellbeing project**  This was launched on 28th February and is going well. So far there are 13 partners engaging with the project and the aim is to have 20 by the end of the month. 17 individuals have been contacted and supported through the project. | |
| 8 | Forum updates |
| **Mental health forum**  It was asked if there was a forum. Linda advised that of the 30 organisations contacted, there were only 3 responses and no organizations have volunteered to facilitate a forum. The view is that capacity is the issue. | |
| 9 | AOCB |
| **Blackburn bonfire night**  Members of the Scottish Criminal Justice committee visited Blackburn to talk to Blackburn Bonfire Night Action Group (BBNAG) as an example of reducing anti-social behavior by good community working.  **Larder online bakery**  The larder are selling Easter goods through their online bakery.  Alan will circulate emails that have just come in from WLC regarding   1. Students 2. Council education services – business breakfast 3. Work experience programme   **Action**  **Alan to circulate relevant information** | |
| 10 | Next meeting Details |
| The next meeting will be online on Thursday 19th May, 1-3pm  Link to follow. | |