Note of TSSG meeting

Thursday 19th May

**1.00 – 3.00 pm – hybrid meeting**Voluntary Sector Gateway,20-22 King St, Bathgate EH48 1AX

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| Chair: | Raymond Branton (FCDWL) | Note taker: | Tracy Kerr (VSGWL) |

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| Attendees: Alan McLoskey (VSGWL), Collette Moran (School Bank), Helen Davis (YAP), Lesley Mount (Signpost)Linda White (WLSEN), Mark Vance (WLDAS), Paula Lally (Health in Mind), Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeko), Alison Simons (Guest) |  |
| Apologies: Alan Davidson (The Bridge), Alison Wright (CoWL), Karen Nailen (CAB), Monica Mochar (Wellbeing Scotland), Rosemary McCabe (Children 1st), Sylivia Forshaw (OPAL) |  |

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| 1 | Welcome and Apologies | Action |
| Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting. Eight people were attending in person with three online including Alison Simons, the guest speaker. | |  |
| 2 | First speaker: Alison Simons, West Lothian College, re. Flexible Workforce Development fund |  |
| Alison Simons gave the presentation which will be sent out along with the updated brochure of courses.  The planned presentation from Jane Cooper about the West Lothian Wellbeing project will now be at the next meeting. | | Raymond to send out updated brochure and presentation with the minutes. |
| 3 | Previous minutes &matters arising |  |
| Previous minutes were agreed as accurate.  An update was given on the environmental hubs. After the meeting this month, there is to be a Network Co-ordinator appointed to West Lothian to co-ordinate the creation of the Hub. | |  |
| 4 | Council Elections Hustings feedback |  |
| Attended by 40 people with leaders from 5 parties. All candidates approved the manifesto presented to them and supported multi year investment for third sector organisations.  There was a feeling from the group that it was a good event however there was not enough time for questions. The timing of the event being during the school holidays also prevented some from attending.  All agreed there was some learning to be taken forward however a worthwhile event to do again in the future. | |  |
| 5 | Council Working Group update & consultation on training |  |
| The group met last week. This is now under the community wealth building team. The meeting was mainly an update and discussed the strategy and vision of the group.  A draft training calendar has been put together and circulated. The aim of it is to signpost organisations to where they can access help. Feedback on the draft calendar is requested. | |  |
| 6 | VSGWL report |  |
| Alan gave updates on;  **Funding**  Details of the Communities Mental Health and wellbeing fund are expected by mid-June.  The £70K Unpaid Carers fund closes on 27th of May. Grants of between £1k - £5k are available  **VSGWL update**  Isobel Denholm, the Governance Officer has left the Gateway. VSGWL are recruiting for new Trustees.  Alan is exploring the potential of discounted IT support services with SCVO and will update once details are available.  **Ukraine** - A Directory of Support` to highlight the range of statutory and community support that is available to people arriving from Ukraine is in the process of being created. In the meantime, West Lothian Council have produced helpful information and links on their website for anyone with questions on registering as a host, welcome guides for Ukrainians and a list of organisations offering help for Ukrainians - [**https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/help-for-ukraine**](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/help-for-ukraine)VSGWL are also creating dedicated page on our website for `Ukraine support` The pop-up shop being organized in Crofthead is not related to this.  **Adult Support and protection**  Stuart is attendingregular meetings with Adult Support & Protection committee – his involvement is to help update the sector with information from the committee for organisations involved in adult protection and possible training for 3rd Sector organisations.  He`s also representing the Sector as part of a forthcoming inspection review from the Care Inspectorate.  **Equalities and Human rights initiative**  THRE - Third Sector Human Rights and Equalities is a new nationwide project led by GCVS in partnership with HTSI and EVOC. Working with Scotland’s TSIs to develop resources, training and networks to support third sector organisations towards taking a human rights and equalities first approach to their organisational development and delivery.  Service will also be working to give organisations and individuals the skills to become human rights and equalities champions, allowing the sector as a whole to better challenge inequalities and make a positive difference.  A meeting was held this week between EVOC development Officer, VSGWL and Silence from FSJJ to explore potential opportunities. | |  |
| 7 | WLSEN report |  |
| **Amplify**  The appointment of SES for the single intermediary is having a knock-on effect on the sector. Linda is continuing to attend meetings to make sure the voice of the sector is heard. A transitional working group has been put in place which will include TSI and SEN’s. WLSEN hope that there will be a West Lothian roadshow to allow West Lothian members to raise any issues.  WLSEN have created a profile on whatimpact.com which connects companies to social enterprises and allows them to tap into resources. Any member of WLSEN or the TSI can join and it is free.  **Empower**  WLSEN have sent out a survey asking members what events they would like in the coming year.  They are working on holding an in person event for members to connect and share learning along with expert Q&A sessions from longstanding members.  WLSEN are trialing a new digital community lab through their wellbeing project. This facility allows communities to connect digitally.  **Collaborate**  The Wellbeing project now has 14 partners with more in the pipeline to join. The first report has been completed and feedback is positive and encouraging.  Funding has been received for a community learning exchange. This will be an opportunity for anyone to find out about how the wellbeing project has been delivered.  The service level agreements with West Lothian Council have been agreed for WLSEN and funding has been secured for a further year.  Membership of WLSEN has increased by 17% with 5 new startups compared to only 2 the previous year.  WLSEN have a new presence on LinkedIn and continue to have engagement on twitter.  WLSEN are looking for new trustees. Anyone interested should contact Linda, Angela or contact through the website. | |  |
| 8 | Any Forum/sector updates, developments, or consultations |  |
| Children and Families Forum  The forum meeting was held earlier in the week, the minutes will be available soon. The presentation was from Garry at The Larder. There will not be a meeting in July due to school holidays and projects being run in the holidays. | |  |
| 9 | AOCB |  |
| * Raymond is speaking to Business Gateway about the Scottish Government utilities framework and is waiting for utilities providers to get in touch. He will provide feedback and share the process once he has had responses. SCVO also offer discounts on energy and insurance to their members. * Helen raised the issue of the impact of the age of criminal responsibility being raised to age 12 and how it is affecting families and children. | |  |
| 10 | Next meeting details |  |
| The next meeting will be on 30th June, 1-3pm either in at person at Voluntary Sector Gateway,20-22 King St, Bathgate EH48 1AX or by joining with Teams link to be sent.  There will be no meeting in July  August meeting will be on 25th August.  Calendar invites will be sent. | | Tracy to send out calendar invites for upcoming meetings. |