Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Meeting

Thursday 25th August 2022

**at** Voluntary Sector Gateway and on Teams

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

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| Attendees: Clare Stewart (WL Council), Cllr Kirsteen Sullivan, Stuart Barrie (VSGWL), Alison Wright (Carers of West Lothian), Angela Moohan (The Larder), Caroline Millar (Children 1st), Christine Jack (River Kids), Gail (Homestart), Helen Rashad (Firefly Arts), Silence Chihuri (FJSS), Alan McLoskey (VSGWL), Collette Moran (School Bank West Lothian), Helen Davis (WLYAP), June Dickson (Environmentalhealthcic), Karen Nailen (CAB), Lesley Mount (Signpost), Monica Mochar (WellBeing Scotland), Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco) |   |
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| Apologies: Cllr Tony Pearson, Andrew Murray (Safe Families ), Kathleen Neilly (West Lothian Foodbank), Mark Vance (WLDAS), Stephanie Simpson (Victim Support), Steven Turnbull (West Lothian Food), Wilma Philpott (Carers of West Lothian) |
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| Agenda Item | Decision/Action | Action By |
| 1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting which included 11 people in the room and 9 attending virtually.  |  |  |
| 1. **Guest Speakers**

Clare Stewart gave a presentation on the new PDSP structure. A copy of the presentation will be sent out with the minutes. Cllr Kirsteen Sullivan followed the presentation with a discussion around the remit of the PDSP that Voluntary Organisations now sits under. It is hoped that the new placement with areas from a wider setting will lead to increased opportunities for the sector to have input into strategies. There was further discussion about;* The council £38 million council shortfall for the next year and an additional predicted £4million for the increased energy costs.
* The development of the working group with a wider remit and representation.
* Enhancement of the partnership with the council and engagement with the working group.
* Seats at PDSP. No one were aware previously that The Gateway automatically have a seat at all PDSP meetings.
* Value of the third sector in West Lothian including the amount of funding brought into the area.
 | Kirsteen to check and report if West Lothian Leisure have a seat at the PDSPKirsten to look at the economic recovery document Clare to look at the WLSEN strategy | Kirsteen SullivanKirsteen SullivanClare Stewart |
| 1. **Previous minute and matters arising**

There was discussion around everyone’s experience of the completing the consultation document. No matters were outstanding and minutes were accepted.  |  |  |
| 1. **Strategic Review of future engagement/priorities on 29th August**

The strategic review meeting is being held on Monday at The Gateway. This is being facilitated by Beverley Francis.  |  |  |
| 1. **VSGWL report**

Funding Updates* Scottish Government have confirmed year 2 funding of the communities mental health fund of £469,318.23 to West Lothian. The Gateway will be working on streamlining the guidance over the next few weeks. Fund will be live by 18th October at the latest. All money to be allocated by March 2023.
* Bank of Scotland Foundation have readvertised two funding streams.
	+ Funding £1K - £25k <https://bankofscotlandfoundation.org/funding-programmes/reach>
	+ Funding up to £50k over 2 years <https://www.bankofscotlandfoundation.org/funding-programmes/invest>

Comments were made that the application is very straightforward. * Community lead and improving lives is remaining open.

Cost of living* The main focus and presentations of the community planning meeting was surrounding cost of living. West Lothian Council will be holding a cost of living summit for community planning partners in September. All to feedback any specific asks for their organisation to Alan.
	+ A discussion was held around some funders giving a cost of living uplift.
	+ Further discussion around the effect of cost of living on staff and shared suggestions on possible support that can be provided.

Membership* Membership of the Gateway is increasing. Membership is free and has a number of benefits including special rates for SCVO IT services and member rates for selected shows at the Regal Theatre Bathgate.

Trustees* There has been a change in The Gateway trustees with three new trustees joining the board.
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| 1. **WLSEN report**

WLSEN submitted a written report from Cameron as they were unable to attend * Linda left in July and some Trustees have stepped down from their posts.
* Social Enterprise outreach is currently on hold with discussion being held around future in person networking events.
* West Lothian Wellbeing continues to run smoothly.
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| 1. **Any Forum/sector updates, developments, or consultations, e.g**

Employability * Yvonne Shaw gave an update on No One Left behind.
* LEP meeting is next week and will be discussing further representation on the LEP
* The shared prosperity fund has moved to year two

Children and Families* Helen has emailed Susan Mitchell to ask why there has been no communication about the Whole Family Wellbing Fund.
* No further discussion as most people were in attendance at the children and families forum.

A discussion was held around sending out other forum minutes with the TSSG papers however as these can all be accessed on the VSGWL website it was suggested it is not required. www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/working-together/ |  |  |
| 1. AOCB

Angela advised that The Larder have two events coming up in Blackburn Community Centre* 3rd October, a targeted event around a discussion about food insecurity in light of the cost-of-living crisis.
* 4th November, a national food emergency summit.

More information will be sent out soon from The Larder.  |  |  |
| 1. Next meeting details

Future meeting dates were agreed. All will be hybrid either in person at the Gateway or online on Teams. 1-3pmOctober 6thNovember 17thJanuary 19th | Send out calendar invites for the scheduled meetings | Tracy |