Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Meeting

Thursday 6 October 2022

atVoluntary Sector Gateway and on Teams

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| Chair: | Raymond Branton (FCDWL) | Note taker: | Alan McCloskey (VSGWL) |

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| Attendees: Mark Vance (WLDAS), Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco), Helen Davis (YAP), Traci Mackie (Blackburn Family Centre), Collette Moran (Schoolbank WL), Helen Rashad (Firefly Arts), Louise Crozier (CAB), Jay Haston (Wave), Monica Mochar (Wellbeing Scotland), Angela Moohan (The Larder), Lesley Mount (Signpost), Jocelyn Crawford (Safe Families), Billie Hamilton (Opal Cyrenians),  |   |
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| Apologies: Gail McNair (Homestart WL), Alison Wright (Carers of WL), Tracy Kerr (VSGWL), Kathleen Neilly (WL Foodbank), Karen Nailen (CAB)  |
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| Agenda Item | Decision/Action | Action By |
| 1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting  |  |  |
| 1. **Previous minute and matters arising**

**Carried forward from previous actions*** Status of West Lothian Leisure on revised PDSP structure
* WLSEN strategy – ongoing

All other actions completed Note of meeting accepted for accuracy. | Kirsteen to adviseClare to update | Alan to follow upAlan to follow up |
| 1. **Debrief from strategic review on 29th August**

Raymond reported that Beverley had captured a high-level document with recommendations on the way forward for the sector to consider. Alan added that the short life Working Group had been established but invited other members to join alongside Raymond, Alison, Karen and himself. Helen and Monia agreed to assist and join the Working Group. One of the first tasks for the group would be to identify individuals to represent the sector on the Council`s revised PDSP structure.  | Helen and Monica to join Working Group | Alan to add names to Working Group |
| 1. **Council Third Sector Community Support fund plans 2023**

Raymond and Alan provided an update on the joint Council/Third Sector reps Working Group meeting that had been held earlier that day. Third Sector reps had highlighted the significant concerns facing the sector arising from the cost-of-living crisis and uncertainties concerns around future funding. The Working Group reinforced the need for urgent clarity around the application process and timeline around the 2023 Community Support fund. Officials acknowledged the concerns and advised that a report highlighting the way forward would be tabled for discussion at the 8 November Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth Building PDSP. Papers would be available from 4 November for everyone to view on the Council`s Coins system. The PDSP makes recommendations to Council Executive for their budget setting process. |  |  |
| 1. **VSGWL report**

Alan provided a number of updatesFunding news* Scottish Government have confirmed £469k Year 2 funding of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund to West Lothian`s Third Sector. VSGWL will oversee the management of the Fund. VSGWL has significantly streamlined and simplified the draft Scottish Government guidance. A one-page application form and 8 page guidance will be launched on Monday 17 October.
* VSGWL holding a funding awareness session on **Thursday 10 Nov at 10am**. Email vsg@vsgwl.org to register for the event

Cost of living* West Lothian Council has established a Cost-of-Living Task Force involving Community Planning Partners. Meetings being held monthly to identify ways of supporting communities throughout the coming months.
* £5k Electricity support - Responding to the cost-of-living crisis, campaigning charity, Electrical Safety First, has launched a grant scheme to help reduce electrical risk in the home. The deadline date for applications is midnight, Sunday 23rd October 2022.For more information on the fund, please click here or go to [www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/electricalsafetyfund](http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/electricalsafetyfund)

Third Sector Annual Report * VSGWL has been asked to provide a report about the Third Sector to the 8 November Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth Building PDSP meeting. Alan reiterated the need for case studies from the sector to highlight the role and value of charities - deadline for responses is Noon 14 Oct. Important to get as many as possible. Report will be opportunity to highlight the investment support needed by the sector and the impact the cost of living crisis is having on the sector and additional uncertainty.

VSGWL satisfaction survey * reminder to complete survey about the Gateway and how we can further support the sector. Deadline for responses is Noon 14 Oct. Some of the details may be included in the Annual Report.
* AGM – Wed 2 November 10am in the Gateway office and online

 Attending Adult Protection Committee meetings – training programme Sept to Mar shared on our social media and available on our website. <https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/8239-2/> `Let`s talk about Diversity` PanelMeeting was well received – working on another panel before the end of the year and also a networking event before Christmas too.Climate Action hubsSCCAN have now recruited all the network coordinators to build connections across community groups in their area, facilitate peer to peer learning and help facilitate discussions on the shape and design of any future Climate Action Hub. Any group interested in the formation of a Hub can be part of the conversation whether they’ve joined the new network or not. The Hub will be there to support all community groups. The FAQ document [Community-led climate action - Climate change - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)](https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/) **West Lothian Hub Coordinator** - Taya Mozagba taya@scottishcommunitiescan.org.ukMembershipTracy back next week if anyone is looking for membership sign upThe team will be appearing at various events over the coming weeks to support and encourage volunteering  | Sector to provide case studies by 14 Oct  | All to consider  |
| 1. **WLSEN report**

Angela advised that Community Enterprise is providing support and management to existing staff. Cameron is looking after membership support and Jane is running the Wellbeing Service.A support event to Social Enterprises is being held on 12 Oct at Broxburn Utd. Session will provide an opportunity to hear more about the move to the new single Intermediary Support arrangements  |  |  |
| 1. **Any Forum/sector updates, developments, or consultations, e.g**

**Children and Families*** C&F strategic plan – updated to include joint inspection of Children’s Services
* Next meeting on 25 Oct will consider the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. LAs been asked to coordinate. West Lothian been allocated £1.4m
* Commissioning process may not be in place – plan needs to be ready by April 2023

**ADP*** Commissioning service delay - sign off needed around governance process

**Employability*** Little activity as result of monies ending. No update yet on Commissioning plan which is due in April
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| 1. AOCB

Raymond asked everyone to identify speakers for future meetings.Angela highlighted that The Larder had 45 people attend their cost-of-living conference. She reported that there was a call for immediate action to provide support, particularly in relation to food insecurity. | All to consider and submit ideas to RaymondSurvey results to be shared | AllAngela |
| 1. Next meeting details

November 17thProposal from West Lothian College to host considered but consensus from TSSG for VSGWL to continue hosting due to issues around parking and technical setup at College.January 19th | Send out calendar invites for the scheduled meetings | Tracy |