

# Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Meeting

Thursday 23 February 2023

1.00pm at Voluntary Sector Gateway and on Teams

**Chair:** Raymond Branton (Playworks)

**Note taker:** Tracy Kerr (VSGWL)

Attendees: Alan McLoskey (VSGWL), Alex Fleming (Spark), Alison Wright (Carers of West Lothian), Christine Jack (River Kids), Helen Davis (WLYAP), June Dickson (Environmentalhealthcic), Monica Mochar (WellBeing Scotland), Ray (Braid House)

Apologies: Collette Moran (School Bank West Lothian), Gail McNair Homestart, Helen Rashad (Firefly Arts), Karen Nailen (CAB), Mark Vance (WLDAS), Simon McGowan (Children 1st), Susan Scott (Health in Mind), Lesley Mount (Signpost)

Guest Speakers: Phil McDonald, Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer, Police Scotland

Agenda Item	Decision/Action	Action By
<b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b> Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.		
<b>2. Lesley Mount from Signpost</b> Helen advised that Lesley was unable to attend but wanted to come along to let everyone know that Signpost is closing and to say goodbye. The Signpost website will remain updated for the next two years to provide online signposting to alternative services. She asked if all could write any letters of support and at any opportunity raise the issue of the gap in service that will result from the closure. Lesley is happy to keep in touch and can be contacted at <a href="mailto:Lesley.mount@hotmail.com">Lesley.mount@hotmail.com</a> . All voiced concern at the closure and wished Lesley the best for the future. Carers of West Lothian are working with Signpost to provide support to parents and provide signposting to other services. They will keep the forum members advised of the progress with this too. Raymond said he would investigate the possibility of raising the sectors concerns and questions over how the service gap would be bridged as the education PDSP representative.		
<b>3. Guest Speakers</b> A presentation was given by Phil McDonald, Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer, Lothian and Borders. Police Scotland. The slides will be shared with the minutes.	Circulate presentation slides	Raymond

<p>Phil advised he would be happy to do the presentation to any organisations that would find it useful. He can be contacted at phil.mcdonald@scotland.police.uk</p>		
<p><b>4. Previous minute and matters arising</b></p> <p>No other matters arising not scheduled on the agenda. Previous minutes were accepted as accurate.</p>		
<p><b>5. Strategy Group and Council Working Group Updates</b></p> <p><b>Working Group &amp; Strategy Group</b></p> <p>Raymond reported that the recent meeting discussed the new PDSP representation and he advised that the council are planning a formal induction and training. All new representatives have been attending the relevant PDSP.</p> <p>Also discussed was a fund closing soon and the annual report. The last annual report was in November 2021. This years report will be presented in May to the PDSP. Alan asked all to consider supplying case studies to illustrate the impact of the sector.</p>		
<p><b>6. VSGWL report</b></p> <p><b>Funding</b></p> <p>The Gateway have been involved in supporting grant and funding applications this month. The second round of the Communities Mental Health funding and Unpaid Carers funding have now closed. The panel will meet and decisions will be sent out over the next few weeks.</p> <p>The Gateway have also been working with the council on the RCLLD fund and successful applications have been notified.</p> <p><b>Staff</b></p> <p>Two new staff have started in the Gateway this month. Hayley will be leading the HSCP funded role looking at unmet need in the community. Ray has filled the Volunteering and Governance Development Officer role.</p> <p>A role for a sector support assistant has been advertised. All were asked to share the advert.</p>		
<p><b>7. WLSN update</b></p> <p>No update was provided from WLSN.</p> <p>Sarah Cameron from Community Enterprise has been providing support to the board. It was hoped there would be an update from her and the board in time for the TSSG meeting.</p> <p>Concerns were raised over the lack of support to social enterprise and lack of updates.</p>		

## 8. Forum/sector updates, developments, or consultations

### a. PDSP Reps' updates/feedback

Most of the PDSP meetings this month focussed on discussion around funding. All third sector representatives were asked to raise the question of the budget implications for the third sector at the relevant meetings.

All PDSP meetings can be viewed on West Lothian Council's YouTube channel.

- Education PDSP (3<sup>rd</sup> sector rep Raymond Branton) – meeting 28 February - <https://youtu.be/aB6LTBE41XA>
- Public and Community Safety PDSP (3<sup>rd</sup> sector rep Helen Davis)- meeting 23 February <https://youtu.be/Ke7GzzCU54s>
- Corporate Policy and Resources PDSP (3<sup>rd</sup> sector rep Karen Nailen) 13 February <https://youtu.be/WVn6ihZEYtg>
- Social Work and Health PDSP (3<sup>rd</sup> sector rep Alison Wright) - meeting 2 February <https://youtu.be/JR7J-7qEVrw>
- Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth Building PDSP (3<sup>rd</sup> sector rep Alan Mcloskey) - meeting 31 January <https://youtu.be/gYLvwof59x8>
- Housing Services PDSP (3<sup>rd</sup> sector rep FJSS Group)- meeting 26 January <https://youtu.be/XOoEOMQthTE>
- Environment and Sustainability PDSP (3<sup>rd</sup> sector rep Carole Racionzer) – meeting 8 November 2022 <https://youtu.be/0HfSILTOEO>

Comments were made about the short notice of some PDSP meetings and lack of details around the spend and proposed cuts.

### b. WL Food Network

The steering group have submitted a transitional plan to West Lothian Council. An application for funding has also been submitted to resource the management and delivery of the Food Network by the Gateway.

### c. Cost of Living Forum

The cost of living forum was established in January with 25 organisations agreeing to be part of the forum. A survey has recently been sent out to establish what has been done in each organization relating to cost of living. This will be discussed at the next COL forum meeting.

### d. Children and Families Forum

The last meeting had a lot of information to share covering the draft Children Services Plan and an update on the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. Information has been sent out to forum members.

<p>The forum had previously devised suggested measurement outcomes, in relation to the Children Services Plan and these have been submitted to the council for feedback.</p> <p>Helen noted that inclusion in strategic planning is placing heavy demands on the children and families sector and that while positive that the sector are included, commented that this in turn causes a strain on resources.</p> <p>The Third Sector Strategy Group members present discussed the demands on resources and noted that the involvement does not bring with it any financial support for the resource.</p> <p>Raymond advised that he would raise this at the sector working group to see if this can work can be recognized in any way.</p> <p><b>Previous action notes of this forum can be found <a href="http://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/working-together/children-and-families-forum/">www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/working-together/children-and-families-forum/</a></b></p> <p><b>e. Employability Forum</b> The most recent meeting was a special meeting only to provide feedback to be taken to a planned Lothian Employability Partnership(LEP) planning day.</p> <p><b>f. Any others?...</b></p> <p><b>West Lothian Volunteer Network</b> The West Lothian Volunteer Network are working on creating an event for volunteers. The proposed date is at the end of June and will be an afternoon tea at West Lothian College similar to last year.</p> <p><b>Previous action notes of this forum can be found <a href="http://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/working-together/west-lothian-volunteer-network/">www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/working-together/west-lothian-volunteer-network/</a></b></p> <p><b>Learning disability forum</b> This was previously chaired by Carers of West Lothian but they no longer have the resource to continue this. The forum will be meeting soon to discuss if this should be replaced by an equalities forum.</p>		
<p><b>9. AOCB</b> Monica Mochar will be leaving Wellbeing Scotland in a few weeks due to a cut in funding. All present wished her well.</p> <p>Carers of West Lothian update</p>		

CoWL were piloting a social enterprise service providing a sitter service for unpaid carers. Although it was successful, the funding ended in December and a decision was taken not to continue the service due to the high costs and difficulty in getting funding for the administration required.		
<b>10. Next Meeting Details</b> The next meeting will be on Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 hybrid on Teams or at The Gateway.		