THird sector COST OF LIVING MEETING

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| Date: | THURSDAY 9 MAY 2023 |
| Time: | 14:00 |
| Place: | TEAMS AND GATEWAY OFFICE |
| Attending: | RAYMOND BRANTON, ELAINE CRICHTON, HELEN DAVIS, ALAN DAVISON, ANN EDWARDS, JOHN MCCLAY, ALAN MCCLOSKEY, DAVID MCDONALD, TRACY MURDOCH, KAREN NAILEN, ROBYN OSWALD,  AND ANN PIKE, |
| Apologies: | LAURA KEARNEY AND ANN PIKE |

Alan McCloskey welcomed everyone to today’s meeting.

**Discussion with Elaine Crichton – Inspiring Scotland**

Been around for 15 years and grown quite considerably. Inspiring Scotland have funding in 19 different areas – unfortunately none of them are open at the moment, but if anyone would like to be kept up to date with funding becoming available, you can follow them on Twitter or join their mailing list for updates.

All 19 funded areas are connected to disadvantaged and deprivation (either geographic basis or group of people basis).

When working with charities, funding is most likely in place for 3 years, and they work very closely with organisations they are providing funding to. Inspiring Scotland are not a demanding funder, they are more a “critical friend” and will help in all aspects the charities being funded needs.

Most of the funding post being issued are from the Scottish Government, but they also have some funding from local authorities – but most funding is from the Government.

Elaine shared screen to talk through Inspiring Scotland’s presentation – slides will be issued out to everyone.

**2. minutes from the last meeting / accuracy and actions –**

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| **UPDATE ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING** | | |
| Amendments to make to the previous minutes:  The date of the meeting was in February, but the note stated January – to be amended.  An action that was marked down for Tracy Murdoch was for Tracy Kerr – action to be amended to Tracy Kerr.  Alan Davidson attended the last meeting, but he wasn’t on the minutes – Alan to be added to the attendance on the minutes. | Robyn | Completed |
| Webpage link to be sent to the group regarding the research on young people joining the third sector | Maria | Will carry over to the next meeting for an update. |
| Scottish Government’s information on the new pay agreement for organisations who receive grants to be added to the VSG website | Alan | Now been added to the VSG website. |
| Update on the process of shopping Cards | Tracy M | Pilot started – full update in partners updates |
| Send Robyn the dates for the short-term forum meetings so she can get dates for this group issued out. | Alan and Robyn | Date hasn’t been arranged for next meeting – Alan to send date over once arranged.  Group keen to have meetings one week before short-term forums. |

**Partners Update**

Kidzeco – Tracy Murdoch

Pilot for the shopping cards started recently – there has been 47 people signed up for them so far. Some clients come in just for the cards and not to use the pantry. The procedure is, if someone would like a second card, they need to get money advice – a lot of people don’t want to get money advice, they just want the card. Still early days, so the numbers may increase.

Tracy stated that their figures are up 50% from last year – they have been receiving a lot more referrals from midwives. They also have a closer relationship with health visitors.

Kidzeco shops/pantries are getting busier, and with the rise in energy costs, there isn’t a profit going back into the services – which may lead to cuts in some services.

Tracy also mentioned that, with the rise in living wage, they won’t be able to afford paying everyone this raise.

Access 2 Employment have been coming along to help people get back into work (or get new jobs).

Citizens Advice Bureau – Karen Nailen

CAB are currently delivering a cost of living service to staff working in St John’s Hospital, and advisers are noticing a high number of clients that aren’t entitled to anything – as expected, clients aren’t too happy about this. 85% of cases show clients aren’t entitled to anything, and they are refusing further assistance.

CAB have seen a 50% increase for emergency financial support –foodbank and fuel bank.

Energy enquiries are up 60% from last year.

Client financial gain has also doubled from last year.

With the increased demand in the service, CAB are struggling to keep up – especially after losing volunteers during COVID. The Bureau are not in a position to open for drop ins at the moment – not until they increase their volunteers.

CAB are also starting to see an increase in small businesses that received grants from the Government during covid contacting the Bureau with people not being able to pay the loans.

West Lothian Credit Union – John McClay

The number of people joining Credit Union has increased significantly – this may be down to the fact people are not able to borrow. Most people getting loans from Credit Union are those who are struggling to pay bills.

Tracy asked John if Credit Union if they work at different locations, and she would be interested in having Credit Union come along and be at Kidzeco for people dropping in – John stated that Credit Union are currently looking into getting more face to face set up, so once this is in place, they will look into the possibility of coming along.

Playworks – Raymond Branton

Playworks hosted a development session for the food network and there was a lot of discussion, not just about the food network, but about principles, wider need etc. Raymond stated it would be useful to share that report with this network as well.

**Impact Report Update – Karen Nailen**

Meeting scheduled for 16 May 2pm to discuss what the group would like to put into the report.

It was agreed at a previous meeting that it would be a good idea to create a separate working group to create a report to display the work that is carried out in the third sector – especially during the cost of living crisis.

The sub group will report back with updates as, and when they happen.

**VSG Annual Report – Alan McCloskey**

The report will be issued out on 6 June 2023. Partners were asked for case studies to be presented in the report. Alan askes everyone to have them submitted by Friday 10 May 2023.

Karen asked Alan to circulate last year’s annual report for reference on the case studies.

**AOB**

Nothing raised.

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| **ACTIONS FROM TODAYS MEETING** | | |
| **ACTION** | **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE** | **ACTION PROGRESS** |
| Webpage link to be sent to the group regarding the research on young people joining the third sector | Maria | Carried over from the last meeting. |
| Credit Union to look into possibly coming along to Kidzeco | Tracy and John |  |
| Issue food network report to VSG group | Raymond and Alan |  |
| Impact Report sub group – report back to CSG with any updates | Sub Group |  |
| Case studies to be submitted for annual report | VSG group |  |