Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Meeting

Thursday 6 April 2023, 13.00-14.30

Voluntary Sector Gateway and on Teams

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| Chair: | Alan McLoskey (VSGWL) | Note taker: | Hayley Burton (VSGWL) |

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| **Attendees:** Alan McLoskey (VSGWL), Alex Fleming (Spark), Alison Wright (Carers of West Lothian), June Dickson (Environmentalhealthcic), Susan Scott (Health in Mind), Helen Davis (WLYAP), Peter Sharma, Gail McNair (Home-Start West Lothian), Karen Nailen (CAB), Hayley Burton (VSGWL), Alex Fleming (SPARK), Mark Vance (WLDAS) |   |
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| **Apologies: TBC**, Raymond Branton (Playworks)Christine Jack (River Kids), Monica Mochar (WellBeing Scotland), Collette Moran (School Bank West Lothian), Helen Rashad (Firefly Arts), Simon McGowan (Children 1st), Angela Moohan (The Larder)**Guest Speakers:** Catherine Findlay, WLC - Community Connections |
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| Agenda Item | Decision/Action | Action By |
| 1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and round robin of introductions for attendees. |  |  |
| 1. **Guest Speaker – Catherine Findlay, Community Connections**

Catherine Business Support Officer for CC. COVID rec fund to roll out CC, focused on Home First approach and put support in place to enable this. When people go into hospital they can lose capacity CC is about working together with Council, NHS and vol sector to best support the individual. Removes the need to call services, and travel to access support.Put support in place before crisis and support front line services, communities’ firsthand advice which is accessible in a familiar and local environment.Focus us ‘tell us once’ and will find solutions and connect to services, also helps to identify gaps and referral pathways and existing local supports working collaboratively. Working with already recognized local services ie: Community Develop Trusts to support positive engagement.Catherine shared some great success stories which are detailed in the PPT.13 drop-in locations across West Lothian.Pop up’s Bridge End and Addiewell at school locations, appoints based and more discreet. Near Me video call service for those that cannot attend Hubs in personFunding ends June 2023 – awaiting future funding to be confirmed. | AM to circulate presentation slides |  |
| 1. **Previous minutes & matters arising**

No other matters arising not scheduled on the agenda. Previous minutes were accepted as accurate. |  |  |
| 1. **Strategy Group and Council Working Group updates**

Last meeting six weeks ago. Alan following up for date of next meeting.Funding update and decisions being made by end March, Dougie Grierson. Orgs cab follow up with if haven’t heard outcome. | AM to follow up. |  |
| 1. **VSGWL report**

The Gateway implemented an induction for new PDSP members with WLC. Held a breakfast network meeting 4 April – very successful and well attended with positive feedback. Looking to schedule future events.Hayley Burton onboard to develop and manage the Community Link project now up and running and recruiting volunteers to onboard over next few weeks.Ray Fallon also onboard with focus on supporting organisations with Governance and Volunteering Opportunities.Appointed a Sector Support Administrator, Lorraine Pow, joining team in May and will support forums and groups. | AM to invite HB to future meeting |  |
| 1. **WELSEN update**

AM updated that Community Enterprise are supporting WELSEN. No paid staff as membership support staff member has left. AGM was Friday 31 March. |  |  |
| 1. **Forum Updates**
2. PDSP Reps’ updates/feedback

Helen updated changes to future funding, valuable link into services esp community safety, helpful to have induction and how can contribute if required and how put things forward.Alison had idea to create distribution list to share papers in advance of PDSP meeting for comments/ questions to be raised through lead PDSP Reps.Corporate Policy and Resourcing – Karen Nailen attended virtually social security update, other discussions centered around Council and absences. Did find very interesting and will circulate update from next meeting in May.Education – Raymond, raised closure of SignPost and significance of this. WLC position Head of Education advised in contact with SignPost which doesn’t seem to have happened.Housing – Silence reported nothing of note to interest for the Third Sector.**Reps and relevant PDSPs*** Education PDSP (3rd sector rep Raymond Branton)
* Public and Community Safety PDSP (3rd sector rep Helen Davis)
* Corporate Policy and Resources PDSP (3rd sector rep Karen Nailen)
* Social Work and Health PDSP (3rd sector rep Alison Wright)
* Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth Building PDSP (3rd sector rep Alan McCloskey)
* Housing Services PDSP (3rd sector rep Silence Chihuri FJSS Group)
* Environment and Sustainability PDSP (3rd sector rep Carole Racionzer)
1. WL Food Network

The Gateway has taken responsibility to manage network, 47 organisations involved. A steering group and working group have been established with £280K funding allocated from WLC to the Food Network which VSGWL will administer and manage to orgs providing food support. Similar process to other VSGWL managed funds.1. Cost of Living Forum

Karen updated survey and what TS hopes to achieve, useful discussions around development of a directory.How positive sector have responded to cost-of-living crisis, collaborative working and demonstrating how diverse the sector is and able to respond which should be promoted to recognize added value of how the sector operate.A subgroup has been developed to look at an impact report which can be sent to stakeholders, funders, volunteers etc. The subgroup met early April and agreed to take impact report on as an action and use this as an opportunity for communication – ensure speaks to whole sector, the importance of and opportunities to collaborate.Alan updated that, Gillian Pearson from the Anti-Poverty team, WLC have created a new website with directory of support and services which is linked to FORT referral system link: [www.westlothianadvicenetwork.org](http://www.westlothianadvicenetwork.org) 1. Children and Families Forum

Simon McG from Children First providing brief on the social work inspection as part of plan. Action for Children and Housing Homeless team speaking at the next meeting with focus of Youth aspect and broader concern on the housing crisis and those in temporary accommodation.1. Employability Forum

LEP had development session mid-March with Third Sector, WL College SCS and DWP as a first meeting with new membership. Angela is attending meeting and will update at the next TSSG meeting.1. Volunteer Network

No update. | All orgs in the sector to contact Sector leads directly to be included in relevant distribution list.  |  |
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| 1. **AOCB**

COWL in discussion with disability WL, previous Disabilities Forum has ceases. Alison is exploring options for disability and equality forum with service users and services represented and will update date at next meeting.June – running prog of new funded First Aid for Mental Health and Level 6 training starting from May 2023.AM to present Third Sector annual report to PDSP early June and asked ALL member to submit case studies for inclusion by mid-May.AM updated that Ukrainian refugees living on ship in Leith will be moved by 11 July 2023. 600 families (1,100 people) to be displaced across the Lothians. AM will update with more information as available. | ALL to provide case studies where possible for annual report by mid-May latest. 2 pages max with pictures, user stories etc |  |
| 1. **Next Meeting Details**

The next meeting will be on 18 May 2023 hybrid on Teams or at The Gateway.  |  |  |