Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Meeting

Thursday 18 May 2023, 13.00-14.30

Teams

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| Chair: | Raymond Branton (Playworks) | Note taker: | Lorraine Pow (VSGWL) |

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| **Attendees:** Alan McCloskey (VSGWL), Alex Fleming (Spark), Linden Raeburn (WLC), Alison Wright (Carers of WL), Jay Haston (Wave Trust), Helen Davis (WLYAP), Gail McNair (Home-Start WL), Louise Crozier (CAB), Mark Vance (WLDAS), Jack Christine (River Kids), Collette Moran (School Bank WL), Helen Rashad (Firefly Arts), Tina Love (Spark), Angela Moohan (The Larder), Silence Chihuri (FJSS Group) |  |
| |  | | --- | | **Apologies:** Simon McGowan (Children 1st), June Dickson (Environmental Health CIC), Susan Scott (Health in Mind), Jocelyn Crawford (Safe Families), Caroline Miller (Children 1st)  **Guest Speakers:** Kevin Connor, CAB Regional Training Engagement Officer | |  | |  |

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| Agenda Item | Decision/Action |
| 1. **Welcome and Apologies**   Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and round robin of introductions for attendees. |  |
| 1. **Guest Speaker**   Kevin gave presentation on CAB Gambling Support Services available. Information provided about some examples of what can lead to gambling addiction and the impact it can have. | AM to circulate presentation slides |
| 1. **Previous minutes & matters arising**   Previous minutes were accepted as accurate.  Hayley Burton (VSGWL) to attend future meeting to discuss her new project. | AM |
| 1. **Strategy Group and Council Working Group updates**   The Working Group hasn’t met for a few months.Alan meeting with Clare Stewart and Dougie Grierson later today and will progress this. | AM |

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| 1. **VSGWL report**   Scottish Government have announced further funding for Year 3 for the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. West Lothian will be allocated £470K for 2024/25 for projects. Grant offer letter to be issued by Scottish Government in June. VSGWL will simplify the guidance and application process to encourage all organisations to apply for funding. This will be launched Sept/Oct.  Alan thanked all who submitted case studies to assist with compiling the 22/23 Third Sector Annual Report. The report will be tabled to the 6 June Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth Building PDSP.  Inspiring Scotland gave a presentation to the Third Sector Cost Of Living meeting last week about their Specialist Volunteering Service which provides pro-bono support to charities. Support includes strategy development, fundraising, legal, HR and trustee recruitment. Alan will share slides.  Proposals of changes to care home provision which could impact respite services have been announced. Further details on the impact of proposed changes are needed to assess this. The Gateway has offered to assist IJB in communicating reasons for these changes to the public.  Hayley Burton onboard to develop and manage the Community Link project now up and running and recruiting volunteers to onboard over next few weeks. | AM to circulate |
| 1. **WLSEN update**   Information to be shared by Silence about the forthcoming Equalities Workshop 2023 to be held in Edinburgh on 8 June 10-1pm.  Sarah had sent a report to Raymond about the Network. There are now 84 social enterprise organisations, further research is required about work carried out by them. The Mental Health Project has now passed to The Bridge. Communication due soon to members from WLSEN regarding funding and resources. Raymond will circulate the report. | SC to share  RB to forward |

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| 1. **Forum Updates** 2. PDSP Reps’ updates/feedback   Raymond highlighted to the Education PDSP what third sector organisations could offer for their Level Up Attainment project, in addition to education and social policy.  Update from Alison Wright on the Social Work and Health PDSP raising concerns about resources for mental health support for carers.  Helen Davis, Public and Community Safety PDSP – relationships between Fire & Police with 3rd sector organisations are difficult due to lack of continuity and consistency with senior officers in both organisations   1. WL Food Network   Alan advised the Network Steering Group meets 6 weekly and that The Gateway has taken over governance from Foodbank. £66K was distributed in Q1, same to be allocated in Q2. Steering group in place, a meeting was held this morning (18 May).   1. Cost of Living Forum   Alan - this forum met last week. A Sub-Group working on the impact around COL is working separately to provide input for the annual report. Impact report is due to be published in October to tie in with Anti-Poverty week. Alison asked for assistance in asking for more volunteers to join the working group with herself and Karen Nailen to collate case studies. A survey will be sent in June, reviewed in July, and a report drafted in September. Collete and Jay kindly volunteered.   1. Children and Families Forum   Rock Trust’s Nightstop project are providing an alternative to young people being accommodated in hotels and B&Bs- next meeting on 30th May. Nightstop holding open day, Helen will get details and circulate.  No details yet about inspection from Scottish Government of Children Social Services   1. Employability Forum   Alan - a meeting will be held 4/6wks, moving to quarterly going forward. Sector voiced concerns about funding being directed to parents rather than directly to young people. WLC still awaiting funding from Scottish Government.   1. Volunteer Network   The group will be breaking over the summer. They will be attending various fayres during Volunteer Week. Annual Volunteer Celebration being held in June, members are invited to nominate 5 people to attend afternoon tea at West Lothian College.   1. Collette asked members to encourage prompt requests submitted for school uniform packs. The Gateway will promote on social media.   Raymond – Blackburn Family Centre has closed, liquidators are in attendance. Reminder that Gateway support and help can be provided to vulnerable organisations and the importance of reaching out at an early stage.  Helen Rashad – disappointing lack of communication from WLC re Howden Park Centre closure. Helen to liaise with Alan regarding what support can be provided and how they can influence any future plans.  PDSP – can concerns be collated and passed collectively by Third Sector members. Alan will clarify with Dougie | Collete and Jay to contact Alison  Helen  Helen to provide details to AM  Alan |
| 1. **AOCB** |  |
| 1. **Next Meeting Details**   The next meeting will be on 22 June 2023 1pm-2.30pm  ONLINE ONLY [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTI3NjIwOGMtNjE3MS00ZDc2LWJhMDItNTc1N2M4NmY2YmFl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22be050862-75a4-4dfd-be60-e3f75dea411c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22edfa7127-085c-4e62-bd50-fa889241aaeb%22%7d)  Meeting ID: 335 548 708 725  Passcode: iRFQAW  Next guest speaker –Cllr Kirsteen Sullivan |  |
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