Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Meeting

Thursday 29 June 2023, 2.00-3.30

Teams

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| Chair: | Alan McCloskey | Note taker: | Tracy Kerr |

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|  **Attendees:** Gail McNair Homestart, Helen Davis (WLYAP), Jack Christine (River Kids), Susan Scott (Health in Mind) |   |
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| **Apologies:** Alison Wright(Carers of West Lothian), Angela Moohan (The Larder), Caroline Millar (Children 1st), Collette Moran (School Bank West Lothian), Emma Jackson (Wellbeing Scotland), Karen Nailen (CAB), Mark Vance (WLDAS), Raymond Branton (FCDWL), Steven Sharp (Eastfield Development Centre)**Guest Speakers: Superintendent Alan Carson, Partnership Superintendent for West Lothian**  |
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| Agenda Item | Decision/Action |
| 1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. Alan explained the forum purpose to Alan Carson and noted that the attendance is normally higher but may be lower due to holidays.  |  |
| 1. **Guest Speaker**

Alan Carson, from Police Scotland spoke about his role, which includes establishing partnerships with relevant organisations. He explained that he wanted to attend the TSSG meeting as he recognised that there is a need to tie in closer with the third sector. After his presentation there was discussion around connecting with organisations to be able to get the members of the public in access to support, in particular for mental health difficulties, as quickly as possible. A comment was also made that there was a lack of presence from Police at planning partnership meetings and that attendance would raise their involvement and awareness of both other statutory and third sector services.  |  |
| 1. **Previous minutes & matters arising**

There was one amendment to minutes from 18th May under item 7 the actions should read “Helen” and not Hayley. Matters outstanding* Hayley will be invited to a future meeting.
* The working group have now set dates for the next 6 months and will meet the week before the TSSG.
* It was unclear if Collete and Jay have contacted Alison about joining the working group. To be kept on as outstanding meanwhile.

All other action points were complete, and the minutes approved with only one amendment.  | Action: Collete / Jay to contact Helen |
| 1. **Strategy Group and Council Working Group updates.**

The last strategy group meeting did not go ahead due to many members being on leave.  |  |
| 1. **VSGWL report**
* The annual report was presented at the PDSP on 6th June. It was well received and clear that the elected members understood the value of the sector illustrated in the report and through the case studies. It was noted that more statistics on the report would have been useful. The Cost of Living impact report will be presented separately and will cover the impact on the sector and the effect of paying the real living wage on contracts.
* Alan mentioned that resources in the Gateway have been affected by some members of staff being on long term sick. It is hoped that Ray will be returning soon.
* Health in mind will be moving into the Gateway premises from Monday.
* The Gateway are expecting a grant offer letter for Year 3 of communities mental health money. Details will be circulated once they are received from the Scottish Government.
* Alan will circulate further details about NHS money for a health improvement fund. This will be a Lothian wide fund of £100,000 over 3 years. There will be a focus for the fund on partnership bids.
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| 1. **WLSEN update**

Alan reported that Raymond had asked that he let the forum know formally that Playworks have cancelled their membership of WLSEN due to inactivity and concerns over governance. Silence from FJSS has resigned from the board. West Lothian Council have noted concern over the activity and have proposed that they cease funding for WLSEN and that The Gateway support Social Enterprise from July. More details will follow once a decision has been finalized.  |   |
| 1. **Forum Updates**
2. PDSP Reps’ updates/feedback

Social Work and Health PDSPAlan shared an update from Alison Wright that no comments were raised by the sector for her to bring up at the Social Work and Health PDSP. She asked the chair to note that there were no concerns. Public and Community Safety PDSPHelen attended the Public and Community Safety PDSP. There were no concerns to raise on behalf of the sector. She reported that the head of the joint community councils had a positive meeting with the Police Fire service spoke about changes where there now needs to be evidence of a fire before officers will attend. 1. WL Food Network

The most recent steering group was poorly attended with the next full network meeting due to be held next week. An invoice has been raised for Q2 money. 1. Cost of Living Forum

There was no forum meeting in June with the next one to be held at the beginning of August which will be the week before the Community Planning Partners cost of living forum. A working group is working on an impact report of the crisis on the third sector. 1. Children and Families Forum

The forum held a good meeting this week at Carers of West Lothian and online. Douglas Guest attended from Circle who received funding to work on The Promise in West and East Lothian. Some scoping work is being done to check how the promise impacts service users as well as workers. There were also attendees from West Lothian Council, who discussed what is currently happening with regard to trauma informed practice. An update was given on Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to advise that the funding would not be done through procurement but as a PSP which should make it easier for those receiving funding. The Children Services Plan has been agreed and will be formalised at the next children and families strategic meeting. ADP are going through some changes and want to engage with organisations to create focus groups to capture lived experience within the drug and alcohol partnership. There is no meeting of the forum in July due to holidays. 1. Employability Forum

The most recent forum meeting was cancelled as the LEP plan had not yet been received by the date of the meeting. The plan was received shortly after and sent out for comment however there was a short turnaround before it was to be signed off. 1. Volunteer Network

During Volunteer week the network held successful volunteer fayres across multiple venues and a volunteer celebration at the end of June which was well attended.  |  |
| 1. **AOCB**

Jack noted that there has been a noticeable increase of referrals of late with lots of referrals for furniture. Gail agreed that HomeStart are also noticing an increase in referrals alongside more complex situations. HomeStart are currently installing an updated computer system. Susan announced that Health in Mind will be moving premises and will be working from office space within The Gateway building from Monday. |  |
| 1. **Next Meeting Details**

The next meeting will be on 3 August and the guest speaker will be Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan.  |  |