

# Note of meeting of the Third Sector Strategy Group

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October

**1.00 -3.00pm Hybrid** on Teams and at The Gateway

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Chair: Raymond Branton (Playworks), Minutes: Victoria Isbister (VSGWL)

Attendees: Alan McCloskey (VSGWL), Collette Moran (School Bank West Lothian), Gail McNair HSWL, Mark Vance (WLDAS), Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco), David Fitzpatrick (The Larder)

Guest Speaker: Linden Raeburn (Improving the Cancer Journey Service)

Apologies: Angela Moohan (The Larder), Alison Wright, Susan Scott, Alan Davidson, June Dickson, Stephen Sharp, Alistair Shaw, Jack Christine

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## **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting including new Gateway employee Victoria Isbister.

## **2. Guest speaker from Improving the Cancer Journey Service**

Linden, Manager of the team with West Lothian Council, based in the advice shop spoke about the project – please see presentation slides attached.

There were a couple of questions. Referral time is quick, ideally 4 days. MacMillan signpost to Third Sector organisations (groups are not funded by MacMillan). They frequently signpost to Xcite to support activity and exercise; it was clarified that referrals go to the Health and Wellbeing team who fund 12 weeks initially. This can then be extended (offering a discounted rate to the service user).

## **3. Previous minutes & Matters Arising**

All members agreed previous minutes from September 14th. Actions completed were reviewed.

## **4. Council Engagement Updates**

The working group hasn't met yet. Raymond spoke of the importance meeting regularly with the Council and continuing to look for positive ways forward. Raymond asked for notes of interest from members.

## **5. VSGWL report**

- a. A survey recently went out to all members to gather data about the Third Sector. There were 24 responses providing positive feedback and requesting more networking and funding events. Planning is underway for 2024 events.
- b. Applications for Mental Health Fund Year 3 closed yesterday. 68 applications were received (35 small grants, 33 large), 1.4 million in total. The focus is to support small grass root organisations across West Lothian. The panel meets in 3 weeks time and outcomes will be confirmed by the end of November with money paid by Christmas. Alan explained that it is a robust process, which has been audited, and that Panel members look through applications individually before meeting to discuss.
- c. Fair funding: The Real living wage has been approved – Rising to £12.00 per hour from £10.90 – from May 1<sup>st</sup>. Working on Fair Funding charter with SCVO and exploring the budget challenges this brings the Sector.
- d. National Care Service – Plans have been in development by Scottish Government, Alan & Stuart are attending a conference on Monday.
- e. Raising the Profile of Third Sector (Essential Sector) with the Public: Event 7/8 Nov at EICC Edinburgh including a Film Launch of 10 organisations across Scotland telling the story of the Third Sector.

- f. OSCR: New Charities act which strengthens the laws surrounding trustees. Guidance has not been updated for 18 years.

Questions: Gail asked about Wholebeing Family Fund – this is a national fund and not managed by the Gateway. Raymond expanded that there was a West Lothian steering group for this fund.

## **6. WLSN report**

Alan said they had reached out to the Board and Douglas Westwater at Community Enterprise to progress a meeting.

## **7. Forum/sector updates, developments, or consultations, e.g**

### a. Allocation of representatives and their roles

Sector reps had requested the need for strategic partnerships. Raymond proposed to postpone this discussion until there are more members at the meeting. Tracy agreed and said it would be useful to review who is attending what forum. Tracy also said that there is a forum she would like to sit on but doesn't know who to get in touch with. Everyone agreed that it will need a mapping exercise.

### b. PDSP Reps' updates/feedback

Collette said she is struggling to engage with this and wonders whether it's relevant to her role. Raymond confirmed there is a variety of information and that it will not all be relevant, and members will know what is. Members can find out who their rep is on the Gateway website. Tracy asked about Environmental group from previous meeting as she was interested but had not heard. Tracy also wondered about West Lothian Climate Hub. Raymond advised list of reps and contact details can be found on the Gateway website and encouraged Tracy to contact Carol Raizoner of Linlithgow CDT direct.

### c. WL Food Network

Alan said that the Gateway will continue to support until March and that one of the challenges in providing governance support has been getting members to attend meetings. It had been agreed to develop a new legal structure of a 2 tier SCIO however this requires members to put themselves forward to be part of it. Thus, a Business-Critical Meeting is to be held in person on November 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss what happens next. Currently waiting on Q3 monies from Council, should be paid next week.

### d. Cost of Living Forum

No recent meeting, no date set yet.

### e. Children and Families Forum

Meeting next week.

### f. Employability Forum

Meeting next week. Consortium have invited a number of key partners to apply for a substantive bid to the Council. They hope to hear within next 10 days if application successful.

### g. Volunteer Network

Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> November. No update.

### h. Anti-Poverty Task Force

No update

i. Any others?... - None

## **8. AOCB - None**

**9. Next meeting detail:** 7<sup>th</sup> December (Hybrid 1-3pm), 18<sup>th</sup> January (Hybrid 1-3pm)

ACTIONS

June to forward the fair work action plan.	June Dickson
OSCR slides on Gateway website	Gateway (David)
Allocation of representatives and their roles / mapping exercise	Discuss at next meeting
6 weekly meetings from 18 Jan (avoid school holidays)	Victoria
Notes of interest for Council Engagement	All members