Third Sector Employability Forum

Wednesday June 26th 1.30pm

*Present:*

Alan McCloskey (VSGWL, interim Chair) Victoria Isbister (VSGWL) Adam Brown (Street League)

Kris Wesencraft (Enable)

*Apologies*

Rosemary Sleith (Open Door Project) Karen Nailen (CAB) Angela Moohan (The Larder)

1. **Welcome, Apologies**

Alan opened the meeting, noting low attendance.

1. **Previous minutes, matters arising and review of actions outstanding.**

Minutes agreed. Alan updated that Volunteering Matters have withdrawn all services in West Lothian so Beverley’s work with them has ceased (as mentioned at last meeting).

No objection to Alan chairing Forum until new chair appointed by Forum.

1. **LEP**

Alan asked if Kris still available to sit on WL LEP as co-third sector rep. Kris feels important to have a voice in WL and sits on other LEP’s. Nomination accepted.

Can discuss having interchangeable co-reps at different LEPs on relevant matters.

Six attended last LEP on May 9th including Pegs Bailey as guest speaker. Previously the LEP was focused and energised however recent low attendance is having an impact.

George advised that 3-month funding extension would protect ‘core’ (council) roles however this decision would have serious consequences for the Third Sector. Ongoing concern over contracts ending and service provision. Scottish Government have now awarded funding however uncertainty whether formal letters have been received (Council may not complete funding until letters received).

Only Alan, George and Megan (Admin) attended Strategy planning day. Therefore, Alan is presenting next week to ask colleagues about strategy because LEP won’t be effective without partners voices. No update reports received from those not present. Self-assessment questionnaire will be circulated to LEPS throughout Scotland – what’s working, what could be done better?

1. **Consortium: Partnership for Parents**

Council agreed June 11th to extend consortium funding 3 months out with procurement rules, to avoid service ending. Volunteering Matters have pulled out. From October contract may need to go out for tender.

1. **Service Delivery: Key Updates**

* VSGWL: Resilience and Wellbeing for leaders and mangers tomorrow 3pm – 4.30pm in person.
* Enable: Winding down school’s programmes. Summer programmes in place for those pupils staying on: ad hoc, less structured. Next Steps cohort at capacity. These projects are not founded by council.
* Street League – Adam is operations manager in Edin, taken over from Jason recently. Employability programmes finishing, next cohort starts July 15th across 4 regions inc West Lothian. Each cohort supports 10-12 young people into positive destination i.e. work, education, training. West Lothian programme ends this week. Team will be running programmes over the Summer.

AOCB - None

Date of next meeting:

Online & at the Gateway offices: Tuesday August 20th – 10am

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| **Forum Meeting** | **LEP Meeting** |
| August 20th – 10am | August 29th |
| October 16th – 1.30pm | October 24th |
| December 11th – 1.30pm | December 19th |
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Actions outstanding

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| Discuss MOU | All members |
| LEP co-Rep with Alan VSGWL | All members |
| Employability forum chair | All Members |
| Confirm membership | Victoria by email / all members |