Third Sector Strategy Group

Thursday April 18th

**1.00 -2.30pm Hybrid** on Teams and at The Gateway

**Chair:** Raymond Branton (Play Works) **Minutes:** Victoria Isbister (VSGWL)

**Attendees:**

Alan McCloskey (VSGWL) Louise Crozier (CAB)

Tracy Kerr (VSGWL) Mark Vance (WLDAS)

June Dickson (Environmental Health CIC) Gareth (Broxburn United)

Caroline Millar (Children’s First) Gail McNair (HomeStart)

Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco)

**Apologies:** Collette Moran (School Bank) and ??

**Guest Speaker:** Jeanette Whiting: Strategic Programme Manager – Home First Programme Lead

Health and Social Care Partnership - West Lothian

1. Welcome & Apologies

Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those present to introduce themselves to Gareth at Broxburn United who attended for first time.

1. Guest speaker – Home First Programme

* Please see presentation.
* Currently entering into evaluation of Test of Change pilot project in May
* Carers of WL – have had a conversation and next steps in May / June will be to engage with wider stakeholders about how to improve the service. Community Engagement Plan being drawn up to hear the voice of service providers. Looking to reach wider public.
* Keen to strengthen communication with Third Sector

1. Previous minutes & Matters Arising

Actions were reviewed from March 14th and minutes were approved.

Collette sent Raymond information slides about new charity law which will be circulated.

1. Council Engagement Updates and call for additional sector reps.

* Met this week to discuss plans and priorities. Additional members very welcome, especially from small grass-roots organizations.
* Training needs – Council keen to explore, get in touch if you have any thoughts.
* Community engagement toolkit

WL Grant finder – looking for feedback on how it’s working particularly successes: a. [Home | West Lothian 4 Community (idoxopen4community.co.uk)](https://funding.idoxopen4community.co.uk/westlothian)

1. VSGWL report

* Collecting case studies from organisations who have received funding through the Gateway for inclusion in the Annual Report.
* There are around 20 community planning partners and Third Sector will be speaking at June meeting.
* Service locator project update – have invested in new developer. Second most popular part of website so important that the information held is accurate. Timescale for completion 1.4.25.
* External facilitator on board to develop 5-year plan. Stakeholder engagement will be key element.
* See website for events: Suicide prevention April 17th well attended and interesting dialogue. Link will go on website. Easy fundraising April 23rd on Teams. Carer awareness information session April 25th, Hybrid. Staff have new rights under the act if they have caring responsibilities. Spaces still available!
* Thinking about Volunteers week start of June – please copy in any case studies.

1. Forum/sector updates, developments, or consultations

*Allocation of representatives and their roles*

Tracy advised this process is ongoing and not yet ready to be published as hoped. Engagement has been good, taking additional time to draw out required information from responses. This project is about mapping who sits where strategically in the sector.

*PDSP Reps’ updates/feedback*

Currently reviewing. Session at Civic Centre next week with Clare Stewart.

New rep needed for Social Policy PDSP as Alison Wright is moving onto new job with Prostate Scotland.

Discussion about communication. Working on setting up dedicated mailing lists for each of the 7 PDSPS to ensure right people getting right information. Some uncertainty about who sits where and what each one does. It can be useful to know what is happening (by being on a mailing list and getting minutes).

*WL Food Network*

Expressions of interest forms Q1 have been received and decisions issued next week. Less money than last year from Council. New legal structure application submitted. In the system.

Discuss and agree ways forward on development day May 15th.

*Cost of Living Forum*

Not currently meeting.

*Children and Families Forum*

Meeting Tuesday.

*Employability Forum*

Meets May 1st. LEP signed off investment plan. Less money for the Third Sector.

*Community Race Forum*

Have decided to continue as a charity. Next meeting appointing office bearers.

This forum is for members of the community who are providing services to ethnic minority groups.

Third Sector Ethnic Minority Forum

Have had first meeting at the Gateway, next is May 8th. This Forum will work in Partnership with the Community Race Forum. Terms of Reference (TOR) to be agreed at next meeting and discuss Guest speakers to raise awareness of organisations in West Lothian who are providing services to ethnic minority groups.

*West Lothian Volunteer Network*

Getting back up and running. Will support individual organisation events for Volunteers Week and started discussing holding an event June 2025. Volunteer Fayre Wed June 5th in Bathgate. Advertising for more attendees.

*Anti-Poverty Task Force*

Nothing to update.

*Social enterprise*

Discussions ongoing.

*Climate Action*

Tracy attended meeting this week. Discussion about hosting a food event in Summer. Sharing practice.

*Older People’s Provider Forum*

Home Start working in partnership to create service locator booklet – what’s on where Copies at The Gateway. Senior Provider Forum run by council for individuals. OPP supports organisations.

*UNCRC*

Raymond spoke about useful infographic overview which shows requirements of organisations, now law in Scotland. Raymond will circulate with minutes. Training offered to those who need to find out more.

i. Any others?... -

8. AOCB;

a. Home Start new CEO attending April 29th – will likely attend meetings.

b. Environmental Health CIC have published their programme until November: First Aid for Mental Health. Also working with Partnership for Parents to deliver training to support parents into work.

9. Next meeting detail: May 30th 1pm \*Hybrid\*

Discussion about guest speakers.

ACTIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Share email on new charity law | Raymond / Ray VSGWL / Victoria |
| Share Older People Provider meeting information | Tracy to [Jeanette.Whiting@nhs.scot](mailto:Jeanette.Whiting@nhs.scot) |
| PDSP reps to provide overview of each area | Raymond / current Reps |
| UNCRC information | Raymond will circulate |
| Guest speaker suggestions | Raymond, Victoria or Tracy |