

## Third Sector Employability Forum

Tuesday August 20<sup>th</sup> 10am – 11am

Interim Chair: Alan McCloskey (VSGWL)                      Victoria Isbister (VSGWL)

Attending;

Adam Brown (Street League)                      Rosemary Sleith (Open Door)                      Emily Mnyayi (Cyrenians)

Richard Thorniley-Walke (Cyrenians)                      Garry Walker (The Larder)                      Lee Dolby (Linlithgow CDT)

Apologies: Helen Davis (WLYAP), Karen Nailen (CAB), Angela Moohan (The Larder)

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions – (Interim Chair, Alan)

2. Previous minutes and matters arising

Minutes approved. Congratulations to Kris from Enable on his promotion however it does mean he will not be able to act as LEP rep as previously discussed. Please get in touch if you are interested.

3. Service Delivery key updates

The Larder – Running different training programmes. Long standing Power to Grow 26-week project involving 80 young people in stage 1 pipeline programme. Increasingly neuro diverse. Taken on new cohort of 12. Won new economic development service and will be running 2 new training academies from September 16 - Customer Service and Health and Social Care. 16-24yr olds who want to work towards a career in either area. Both courses running in Livingston for 16wks. 8wks are in classroom 2 days a week, 6hrs per day. One running Mon and Wed, the other Tues and Thurs. SVQF level 4 or 5 and £55 per week allowance. Referrals through Skills Development Scotland.

Open Door – Commencing adult transitional awards for young people who have gone through crisis.

Street League – Currently running WL drop in's, street sports club, from gym. Football drop in on a Wed from Xcite Bathgate. Tie in with SDS and/or DWP and looking at running ESOL or Women's only sessions. Taking referrals til end Sept when 10-week programmes will start up again.

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Cyrenians: Route to Grow WL just about to launch at farm in Wilkieston. 3-year project, 3 groups of 12 young people per year. Green skills but also building Employability skills such as confidence and teamwork. Training allowance, support with travel, lunch provided.

Linlithgow CDT: Looking to do more with social enterprises and volunteering.

#### 4. LEP Update

Alan attended last LEP where they explored partner inclusion and engagement and is attending strategy day next week with WLC Employability manager George Scott. Subgroups and sessions include will Data informs decisions, Communications, Investment plan 25/26 – monies allocation. WLC has allocated 2 million and members want a better sight and understanding of where the money goes. Partners have been asked to complete self-assessment questionnaire about the effectiveness of the LEP and Alan shared his thoughts.

#### 5. Partnership for Parents

WL Council awarded circa £400,000 through the LEP to Consortium bid (led by The Larder) for 6 months offering employability support for parents from Jan to June `24. Contract was then extended to end Sept. Reports are fed into LEP. 8 working days were given to The Larder (led by Angela Moohan) who were invited to bid for 9-month contract. Direct commission route rather than open contract due to changes within with WLC procurement processes. Partners can be subcontracted to support bid. Criteria focuses on 3 main client groups: lone parents, ethnic minority and substance abuse. Bid was submitted this morning. Will continue partnership model with Kidzeco and CAB (Volunteering Matters pulled out and The Gateway will cease support from 1<sup>st</sup> October). Find out mid – September. Hopefully this will mean no continuity issues. Funding awards did lead to resourcing issue (staffing).

#### 6. AOCB

- a. Review MOU: No comment by members present.

#### 7. Date of next meeting: Wed October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1.30pm (moved from 16<sup>th</sup>)



<b>Forum Meeting</b>	<b>LEP Meeting</b>
<b>February 28th – 1.30pm</b>	March 7th
<b>May 1<sup>st</sup> – 10am</b>	May 9th
<b>June 26<sup>th</sup> – 1.30pm</b>	July 4th
<b>Tues August 20<sup>th</sup> – 10am</b>	August 29 <sup>th</sup>
Wed October 2nd – 1.30pm	October 24th
Wed December 11 <sup>th</sup> – 1.30pm	December 19th

LEP co-Rep with Alan VSGWL	All members
Employability forum chair	All Members