**Third Sector Older People’s Provider Forum**

Tuesday March 18th 1.30pm

Chair: Tracy Kerr (VSGWL) Note Taker: Victoria Isbister (VSGWL)

Present: Erin (VSGWL volunteer), Sylvia Forshaw and Billie Hamilton (Opal), Leighann Bishop (Xcite, Ageing well), Alison Sheddon (50+), Susan Scott (COWL, MIST)

Apologies: Jolene Stark (Stroke), Lorraine Dilworth (Red Cross), Andrea Gourlay (Answer House), Donna MacKey (Sporting Memories), Marcia Moreira (Health in mind)

1. **Welcome, apologies, introductions:** Tracy opened the meeting and gave apologies for chairperson Donna who was unable to make it today due to illness, we wish her well.

* Previous minutes and outstanding actions – approved and reviewed.

1. **Guest speaker: VSGWL Service Locator**

[Homepage - VSGWL Locator](https://westlothianlocator.org/) Tracy introduced Erin, gateway volunteer, who has been helping with the accuracy of the information held. It is now live! Please check it out and do let us know if there is anything not running well so we can make it better.

1. **What’s on Where Directory update**

Tracy asked if anyone had any issues to raise (none) and reminded members that they can contact Graham with article request – perhaps a new service they want to promote or to remind people they are there. Spring guide is finalised and printed; website updated. [Whats On Where | Home Instead West Lothian (Livingston)](https://www.homeinstead.co.uk/west-lothian/whats-on-where/) Get in touch if you need any hard copies.

1. **VSGWL Update**

* If you want to feature in Gateway monthly newsletter Org in the spotlight, get in touch.
* Changes in Disclosure act from April 1st. Ray, volunteer officer, is working hard to gather correct information for orgs. [Disclosure Scotland](https://www.disclosure.gov.scot/). Keep your eye out for training.
* [Events from 26 March – 9 April](https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/events/)
* Engaging Communities: March 26th 10am in person and April 1st online.
* Red Cross First Aid: 9 April 10am

1. **Service updates (all members)**

* Ageing well: Finished Love to Move with 2 care homes, good response. Looking at how we to move forward. 2 more weeks with MIST. Young at Heart in Broxburn. Hoping to start holistic session in Fauldhouse, possibly seated yoga.
* OPAL: Men’s group up and running. Once a month on a Wednesday. Men over 60. This month there was a quiz afternoon – get in touch with Billie if anyone wanted to run a quiz as guy creates them and loves running them. Coffee mornings popular, 25 people came in to hear about the banking hub. Bennie Museum April, Love 2 Move in May. 1 year anniversary of coffee mornings – good feedback received. Singing group open to anyone 60+.
* Home Instead: Rebranded as result of feedback that brand was old fashioned.
* 50+: Few new groups started including monthly Saturday night - 18 people got together for first time. Howden Park lunch group once a month. Small group organised Pool at Pumpherston. Due to Rosemount coffee shop closing (WL council funded) they are looking to relocate several groups including coffee group which will now be at Costa. Due to funding Alison’s volunteer role will finish end of March. New network manager starting April 1st.
* COWL: Undergoing rebrand, slightly different colours. Website will be more accessible, changing provider. Should allow for self-referral. Trialling an 8-week evening programme. Wellbeing weekend plans underway, first aid training now full. [About CoWL](https://carers-westlothian.com/)
* MIST: Booklet printed. Digital download available. Ask Susan for hard copies if needed. [Celebrating the Launch of Our MIST Information Booklet - Carers West Lothian](https://carers-westlothian.com/celebrating-the-launch-of-our-mist-information-booklet/)
* Answer House: “Recently secured funding from WG Edwards Charitable Foundation for entertainers and Cash4Clubs for outdoor sports equipment. Still fully booked each day. Still supporting Armadale Academy 6th year pupils in their volunteering and from that, we have been interviewed by one of the volunteers for Armadale Academy Podcast and this has now been played on Regal Radio.”

1. **West Lothian Council updates**

Wednesday 9th April, 09:30-12:00 at Bathgate Partnership Centre.

1. **AOCB**
   1. March 5th: Awareness event / providers fayre – feedback

* Answer House: “I would like to thank Graham and Susan for organising such a fantastic event last week at Howden Park. It was a great afternoon and great to see so many people through the doors.”
* “Thank you. One of the best events we have ever attended” Billie. Lots of footfall.
* Tracy said she had spoken to various people throughout the afternoon.
* Graham asked, what worked? Facebook sponsored post (£100) – was widely seen. Was also seen in Connect. Wider and early advertising – which allowed for more frequent sharing and planning ahead. Thanks to all members for sharing.
* Susan shared some positive feedback she received including people being surprised at the amount of support available. COWL staff fedback well.
* Good feedback about Dementia bus.
* Group effort – good networking. Part of success diversity of orgs.
* Nice venue – good location although some difficulties parking.
* Stalls, lots of interest
* People were there for themselves, for their parents. There were workers there with service users to find out more.
* What can we do better? Perhaps have stalls start earlier, people wanted to chat at the stalls. Separate events for speakers?
* Some feedback captured on forms including make event longer and make it easier to come to if you are working. Susan asked, how are people fixed at weekends? If there was commitment from members, this could be a possibility. People have asked Graham already when’s the next one. Both existing and new people. Is it something to progress through the forum? Working group? Hold same? Or do different?

[Reflecting on the Success of the Older People Provider’s & Memory Support Fayre | Home Instead](https://www.homeinstead.co.uk/west-lothian/blog/reflecting-on-the-success-of-the-older-people-providers-memory-support-fayre/)

* 1. Susan spoke about Impact funding. Research project. Facebook. April 1st. Whole of UK. [Vacancies - Adult Social Care - Apply Today - IMPACT](https://impact.bham.ac.uk/our-people/vacancies/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR07uNzc_r91PgdEtGaP2l02NppRecTPGOdOe3SnjVVpcqmSl2EAlesXQ2s_aem_42VztdzbgOoYtfz6NM4QtQ)
  2. Card Factory local: [Local Community Grant Fund | CF Foundation](https://www.cardfactoryfoundation.org/community-grant-fund)

Tracy closed the meeting and wished Alison and Erin all the best.

**Actions**

* + - 1. Feedback to Graham and Susan any ideas for future event – subgroup

If unable to attend, please email: [victoria.isbister@vsgwl.org](mailto:victoria.isbister@vsgwl.org)

Happy to include any service updates in the minutes.