

## Third Sector Employability Forum

Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm

Hybrid: / **20-22 King Street, Bathgate, EH48 1AX**

Chair: Liyan Adnan (VSGWL)

Present: Alan McCloskey, Stuart Barrie & Victoria Isbister (VSGWL), George Scott (WLC), Fin Russell (Impact Arts), Electra (Firefly Arts), Scot Smith (Routes for Work), Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco), Louise Crozier (CAB), Gareth McKenna (BUSC), Adam Brown (Street League)

### **1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions**

Liyan opened the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves. No apologies.

### **2. Previous minutes**

No actions and no matters arising from November 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Council update (George Scott)**

Clare Stewart is the new Economic Development service manager. Eight staff from supporting employment have moved over and integrated well.

Some communication received regarding local growth fund - specific details to follow at local authority level. Expectation is 70% Capital, 30% revenue. UK Government. How will this affect WLC Employability services? George answered that yes there could be an impact, but we don't yet know what this will look like.

NOLB (no-one left behind): no information ahead of Scottish Budget is next week.

### **4. LEP - January 15th**

Agenda has been issued. Few visiting speakers inc Jason Thomson and Angela Moohan attending. Parental Employability tabled and young people employability. Annual investment plan is the main output for LEP and will agree schedule of meetings which will allow for third speaking opportunities.

Recently shared refreshed LEP framework and Good Practice Guidelines documents published in December. Liyan working on LEP induction which will add to these really important documents.

Alan, Liyan and George attended national event in Glasgow in December which included range of workshops. Scottish Government were in attendance.

Strategy event held in October identified new work streams for LEP to break into, number of areas including young people / ASN, lived experience, customer care, commissioning group and data. Each member has been asked to volunteer for a working group. Subgroup structure will accelerate work.

Discussion around parental contract. Importance of collaboration and partnerships in the third sector.

### **5. Service Updates**

CAB: Positive numbers for partnership for parents. Liyan is shadowing in a couple of weeks' time - this is open to anyone in the third sector.

Street League: 10-week programme starts Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Xcite Bathgate.

Mon-Thurs, 12 spaces, 10 weeks, £55 training allowance. 10am, employability workshops, employer talks, sport led afternoon - gym, football and multi sports. Opportunity to use computers and access support. Referrals open to any 16-24yrs.

The Larder: Programmes include Power to Grow and Cashback for Communities. Delivering training programmes to schools. Offering support across range of sectors, moved away from Hospitality. Barista skills popular.

Impact Arts: Delivering creative programmes: lone parents, ethnic minority. Entry level employability - using arts as vehicle to build confidence. In last 3 months of funding - priority now is strengthening partnerships. Upcoming events online and in Bathgate. Theme for this phase is writing cookbooks - celebration is March 18<sup>th</sup> at Howden Park.

Kidzeco: Supports families with kids under 5. Hosts a variety of classes including cookery and baby massage. Part of partnership for parents. Volunteering focus. 882 hours of work experience. Take volunteers from schools as accept from age 14. 8 volunteers come with support. Retail, customer service, warehouse and quality control, helping with classes, in café and play space.

Routes to work: Presented in December to partnership for parents GIRFEC which has led to partnership work. Presenting at family nurses' team next week - Cooking on a Budget. Delivering accredited training in Uphall and West Calder.

Firefly Arts: 16-23yrs old who aren't in education with an interest in performing arts. First cohort started in August, at capacity. At the end of the Semester Produced short film and went to Edinburgh Playhouse. Royal Conservatoire of Scotland delivered training. Second semester started this week: focus on individual learning. Large number of partners. Keen to develop links within third sector.

First West Lothian employability practitioners conference was positive and one of George's colleagues will be creating practitioners' network. Next meeting is January 28<sup>th</sup>. Flexible working training - details to follow - opportunity to share language and knowledge. George will share who his replacement is once he knows. We all wished George well on his retirement.

How will Community Centre management, new systems, affect employability? Stuart advised that there will be a standardised booking system and rates from April 1st. Groups all paying different rates so some will pay more and some will pay less. Efficiency savings based on occupancy data. Council have looked at days / times of existing groups.

## 6. AOCB

- Liyan is on DYW board who are planning an evening event targeted at schoolteachers, Feb / March, at WL College to showcase third sector employability. **Action**
- Future meeting locations: Opportunity to hold Forums in third sector
- SDS team invite presentation at March meeting

### Actions

1. Email flyer to Liyan who can pass it round - Adam
2. Share DYW event details once known - Liyan
3. Members to get in touch if they would like to host Employability forum

<b>Forum Meeting TBC</b>	<b>LEP Meeting</b>
April 30 <sup>th</sup> - The Larder tbc	May 7 <sup>th</sup>
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	July 2 <sup>nd</sup>
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	August 27 <sup>th</sup>
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	October 22 <sup>nd</sup>
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	December 17 <sup>th</sup>
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	February 11 <sup>th</sup>
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	April 8 <sup>th</sup>

*Please let us know if you are joining online, coming in person or giving apologies.*

**Useful links**

- [Home | West Lothian 4 Community](#)
- [Room Hire - Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian](#)
- [Sign up to our e-bulletin - Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian](#)