



Minutes of the Third Sector Forum held on Wednesday 24 November 2010 at 2pm in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre

Present: Peter Scott (Chair), Gaynor Jones (VAO), Ian Cunningham (VAO), John Johnston (Harray Community Association); Eric Green (VAO), Bashir Hasham (VAO), Thelma Irvine (VAO), Rosalind Spence (Advocacy Orkney), Sue Ward (Age Concern & Samaritans), Erika Copland (Home-Start Orkney), Liz Innes (Home-Start), Olivia Tait (Crossroads Orkney), Hazel Aim (ODF), Belle Cormack (Arthritis Care), Mabel Miller (Arthritis Care), Peter Cockburn (Kirkwall Bowling Club), Gail Anderson (VAO), Jeremy Richardson (Blide Trust); Lorraine Littlejohn (VAO), Simon Gordon (OACAS), Inga Croy (VAO), Anna Johnston (Red Cross), Helen Moss (RSO), Ali Gunn (CAB), Sheelagh Barnes (Enable), Carole Macnaughton (RSO), Keith Johnson (VAO) and Connie Shearer (Minutes).

In attendance: Albert Tait, Chief Executive, OIC

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, explaining Albert Tait would be joining shortly to speak on Item 6.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:- Linda Lennie (Appropriate Adult Service), Pamela Wilson (Victim Support Orkney), Frazer Campbell (Advocacy Orkney), Karen Williams & Amy Thomson (Employability Orkney), Frances Troup (OIC), Myrtle Cassidy (Grieveship Residents Association), Bill Sutherland (Stromness Community Council), Roderick Macleod, Gary Amos (Orkney Library & Archive) and David Murdoch (OYDF).

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 16 September 2010

The previous minutes were taken as a true and correct record of the meeting and were proposed by Sheelagh and seconded by Hazel.

4. Matters Arising

Item 4, Elected Members: Gaynor had received a reply from Hannah Laird who said there had been no expressions of interest in attending the TSF by elected members. Ms Laird asked if there was a particular member who the TSF felt would be beneficial, and gave a list of names to Gaynor. The Forum decided to invite Councillor Bobby Leslie to attend. **Action: Gaynor**

(Mr Tait joined the meeting at this point)

Gaynor explained that the usual standing agenda items were being held back to the next meeting.

5. Presentation: Impact of Potential Budget cuts on the Third Sector in Orkney - Gaynor Jones

Gaynor set the scene prior to Mr Tait's presentation as there would be implications for the Third Sector. They were facing uncertain times and it was very difficult to plan for what might happen. She

explained OIC were looking to make cuts and were holding Roadshows to engage with the community. Orkney Health & Care (OH&C) is also defining its role in relation to shared services and the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is looking at the holistic impact to ensure there was no duplication of cuts to services.

VAO had sent out a questionnaire to voluntary organisations to look at the impact of the proposed cuts. A report on the responses to this questionnaire was produced and this was handed out to everyone. Gaynor said groups had given a lot of thought to the questionnaire. The Summary Report showed that Third Sector groups offered value for money and detailed how cuts would have an impact on the services they provided and how this would have a knock-on effect to staff, volunteers and community. Some groups thought they would have to close if they did not receive sufficient funding. All services had seen an increased demand for their services due to the recession but there had been fewer opportunities to secure grant funding. Defining 'Doing things differently' produced mixed responses with some services being unique. Others agreed there was a level of duplication which could be looked at.

It is vital that the value of the Third Sector is understood. There is a role for the Third Sector and they must be included in any discussions regarding cuts and looking at new ways of working together in partnership and moving forward together.

The Chair thanked Gaynor for her presentation.

Thelma Irvine noted that Gaynor's presentation showed how much the Third Sector should be working together with statutory bodies and it was very important that OIC elected members understood the important role the Third Sector played. She encouraged more involvement of elected members regarding the Third Sector and the important role it plays in the CPP.

6. OIC perspective on future finances and the role of the Third Sector in Public Sector Service delivery - Albert Tait

Albert Tait introduced himself and thanked the Forum for inviting him along. He said the Third Sector report was an important document for OIC to consider regarding the issues they are dealing with. He wished to note that he found OIC members to be very supportive of the Third Sector.

Mr Tait passed round copies of his hand-out. He outlined the background to the current financial crisis and said OIC had to make significant reductions to its budget. Mr Swinney had recently announced a one year budget but the cuts over the next three years could range from 12-20%. OIC's individual grant figures would not be known until 8 December and they had to make a decision on the proposal by 21 December. The Council faced major challenges in reducing their budget but no decisions had yet been made. Budgets were being prepared and new organisational and management structures were being considered.

It was important to listen to the community about their needs and what they wanted OIC to protect. Therefore, a big community engagement exercise was being undertaken. Feedback so far showed the main priorities were care, education and transport. However, these issues also produced the largest expenditure.

OIC currently provide £1.8m funding to the Third Sector and they are aware that issues to consider include a 3-year funding deal, the future of the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) and outsourcing services. The FSF of £345,000 is to be paid out as part of the over-all settlement to OIC and discussions would need to be take place in terms of how to utilise that money. There was, however, no guarantee of any funding of projects beyond 2010/11.

Partnership working would be strongly promoted and the future of Orkney Health & Care should be very important to the Third Sector. These two groups could work together and provide a more efficient and effective model for delivering services. Mr Tait and Cathie Cowan (Interim Director of Orkney Health and Care) are looking at integrating the services and think the Third Sector is critical

in delivering such services. OH&C are looking to shift the balance of care and encourage independence and self care. Their priorities are to review all models of care and service delivery and revisit the whole criteria to take advantage of technology to provide new ways of working. Management costs are to be reduced and investment put into front line services. The role of the Third Sector is also to be considered. Mr Tait said he was keen to outsource things where appropriate to do so.

Procurement was a key issue which need to be resolved but OIC were tied by regulations. It was important, however, to support the Third Sector and Mr Tait had discussed this with elected members and recognised that the Third Sector needed certainty so hoped to deliver a 3-year funding deal.

(Keith Johnson joined the meeting)

The Chair thanked Mr Tait for his presentation and positive thoughts on the Third Sector. There followed a general discussion on the presentation with the main points discussed being:

- Early decision would be appreciated on FSF.
- Procurement guidance: Mr Tait suggested OIC's Procurement Manager, Gary Butler, could speak to the Forum, or a smaller working group about procurement.
- Like-for-like wages: small organisations could not afford the same rates as OIC.
- Outsourcing

(Lorraine Littlejohn left the meeting)

Mr Tait wondered what the main 'ask' of OIC would be? Suggestions were:

- Important to know before February what the OIC settlement will be. Even an indicative allocation and length of settlement before Christmas would be useful as restricting services, redundancies, etc might be necessary.
- Inclusion - Third Sector groups often heard about OIC meetings in retrospect. They did not get invited to discussions and felt they had no access to councillors who made decisions on things like tendering.
- For OIC members to be more knowledgeable about what is currently available in the Third Sector.
- Third Sector groups to continue to 'own' their service whilst working in partnership with statutory partners.

(Hazel Aim left meeting)

Anna Johnston, Red Cross wished to record that she was in privileged position recently to work with the OH&C intermediate care team. She was very impressed with all the services involved who provided a very successful outcome for the service users.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions.

Albert Tait and Gaynor Jones' presentations and the Questionnaire report will be circulated electronically to all members. **Action: Gaynor**

7. The Way Forward? - group discussion

Discussed in 6.

Gaynor summed up:

- It was agreed to set up a working group from Third Sector members to look at the issues around 'doing things differently' and link that in with OH&C. OIC members also to be approached re these issues. This group would also explore the redesign of Third Sector provision in Orkney, and bring information back to the Third Sector Forum. Gaynor asked for

volunteers - Frazer Campbell (AO), Sheelagh Barnes (Enable), Ali Gunn (CAB), Jeremy Richardson (Blide), Helen Moss (RSO), Anna Johnston (Red Cross) and Simon Gordon (OACAS)

- Working group to also meet with Cathie Cowan and Albert Tait regarding Orkney Health and Care; and Gary Butler regarding Procurement.
- Re-engage with OIC elected members and encourage an interest in what the Third Sector can offer. It was agreed to do 30-minute presentation prior to a Council meeting.

Action: Gaynor

The Chair thanked all for their contributions.

8. Service Level Agreements

Gaynor reported that the Commissioning Group wanted views regarding the latest batch of SLAs issued. Some people were not prepared to sign and had even been asked to sign this year and last year at the same time. Others had signed in order to get the money. VAO's SLA had raised implications, picked up by auditors, regarding VAT registration. Members felt regular meetings should be held to discuss any amendments prior to SLAs being distributed. This will be picked up at the next Commissioning Group meeting.

9. Request for representative

Gaynor had received a request from Marie O'Sullivan, NHS, for a TSF representative on the Managed Clinical Network Group for Neurological Services. The meeting takes place on Wednesday 8 December and Sheelagh Barnes agreed to attend. Anna Johnston is already a member.

10. AOCB

There was no other business.

11. Date of next meeting

Gaynor is to schedule meeting dates for next year and send these out to members.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming along with particular thanks to Albert Tait for his very lucid contribution to the meeting. He highlighted the challenges ahead and was hopeful there would also be opportunities for the sector.