



**Minutes of the Third Sector Forum held on
Wednesday 27th July 2011 in
Room 1 Kirkwall Library**

Present: Inga Croy (Chair), Gaynor Jones (VAO), Sheelagh Barnes (Enable Scotland), Hazel Aim (ODF), Sean Fotheringhame (OCTO), Loraine Littlejohn (VAO Board), Hannah Thomson (OIC), Frazer Campbell (Advocacy Orkney), Helen Moss (RSO), Sue Ward (Age Concern Orkney and Samaritans), Erika Copland (Home Start), Gail Anderson (VAO), Norman Livsey (WRVS), Vi Rorie (WRVS), Michael Moar (Stromness Shopping Week), Linda Lennie (Orkney Appropriate Adult Service), Keith Johnson (VAO), Fiona McKintosh (Scottish Health Council), Simon Gordon (OACAS), Anna Johnston (British Red Cross), Jeremy Richardson (Orkney Blide Trust). Shirley Ellis (VAO minute)

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from: Rosemary Colsell (OIC) and Peter Cockburn (Kirkwall Bowling Club)

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 1st June 2011

These were taken as a true and accurate record. Adoption proposed by Erika and seconded by Hazel.

4. Matters Arising

i) SCVO Roadshow

There had been no progress.

ii) Letter to Albert Tait (OIC)

Gaynor had written to Mr Tait welcoming the 3 year settlement and the 1% increase which had been agreed, but advising no money had yet been received.

Mr Tait had replied expressing his concern regarding money not being received, he had copied Gaynor's letter to the relevant directors, urging them to process payment as soon as possible.

It was reported that some organisations had now received payment.

iii) Early Years and Action Fund

It was noted that Helen and Erika had met in regard to the fund. It was envisaged that local authorities would work closely with 2 or 3 local organisations. This had not been taken forward but it was agreed the meeting had been worthwhile.

iv) Terms of Reference

Copies were distributed.

5 New Premises - Update

Gaynor thanked the Strynd tenants for their patience as they still await alternative premises and gave the following update:

- there had been a formal request made to OIC that the Travel Centre be made available as interim premises for the Strynd tenants. Sound proofing would be necessary for counselling rooms. Gaynor stated that a zero rent had been asked for but had not been agreed.
- OIC and VAO's Project Board are considering an alternative premises but this would take time. It was thought that if Strynd tenants did move into the Travel Centre and it proved to be a suitable arrangement then they could remain there.
- Bashir has contacted all tenants to re-ascertain space requirements.
- A meeting of OIC/VAO's Project Board is due to take place on Wednesday 3rd August to discuss future plans.
- CAB had contacted Gail to say that they were looking at the possibility of moving to Croy's in Victoria St. Some of the Strynd tenants had been contacted to see if there would be any interest in sharing those premises. Not all Strynd tenants knew about this option.

VAO are not moving from Anchor Buildings at the moment and money has been put into the building. If VAO were to move to alternative premises then this would be looked at as a long term arrangement. A long term leasing arrangement would be looked for, with favourable conditions, although they do not expect it to be rent free.

There followed further discussion when the following points were made:

- Hazel stated that ODF would have more room than they would need when they take over part of the ground floor premises of the Travel Centre.
- it was thought consideration would have to be given to heating costs should rooms at any new premises be larger than the ones being presently occupied.
- there could be restrictions of usage in some buildings.
- Croy's was well insulated and already broken down into smaller units. If VAO were looking for a two centre configuration could they consider Croy's as one of the centres. These premises were almost fit for purpose and as they would be available from December 2011 would it not make sense to use buildings which were already empty.

Looking towards the longer term it was hoped to keep within the council "gift". If Croy's was being considered then that would mean cutting some of the ties with OIC.

Gaynor stated that when a joint VAO/OIC solution had been found it was hoped that the same terms and conditions would be applied across the board. However, Croy's would be added into the next week's facilities meeting agenda.

Inga concluded by saying the above comments were much appreciated. She went on to say that VAO Board had a sincere desire to make this happen and to be resolved in the best way possible for all concerned parties.

6 Changefund

The Changefund Working Group had been looking at using the money for reshaping older people's services. Any decisions would have a 3 way sign off – OIC, VAO and NHS Orkney.

A bid had been submitted and it was hoped there would be an allocation to the Third Sector of around 40% of the £321,000 which had been allocated.

A decision had been made in June whereby the Third Sector had been allocated £112,000.

There would be a meeting next week when further discussions would take place between Orkney Health and Care (OH&C), S G Joint Improvement Team and other relevant bodies.

There had been some questions raised by councillors who were part of OH&C as to how VAO/Third Sector input would be monitored and reported.

It was reported that negotiations were almost complete. There would be one SLA and submission of only one report would be required.

Gaynor stressed that there would be no remuneration for VAO for administration of the fund.

7 TSF Working Group

i) Avante Report

This paper was just the start of a different way of thinking. The paper was thought to be a very important document and it had raised questions amongst VAO Board members. It was thought vital that other boards should have the chance to fully discuss the content and any comments be reported to VAO for collation.

Copies of the report had been given to directors on the CPP who were watching future developments.

An explanation was requested in regard to the Illustration on P3 of the report:

Members were informed OIC were working towards a European ruling, whereby commissioning contracts would be put out for worldwide, not just local tender.

ii) SLA

Gaynor gave the context of agreement, saying it had come about due to inconsistencies in grant provision. It was purely a third sector issue with the paper having gone to the Commissioning Group. Albert Tait and Cathie Cowan were both aware of the document. Members were informed of Mr Tait's commitment to making things run smoother in regard to third sector matters.

Full discussion followed with members raising a number of points:

- some members felt they signed their agreements under duress. In some cases reserve funds were being used to maintain services
- there was no across the board controls from OIC
- some organisations were still awaiting funding
- funding should be allocated for 3 years, not on an annual basis
- there were still mixed messages at different levels
- funding should only be withdrawn if SLA not adhered to
- members should be informed of any changes to SLA's before the start of the financial year

It was suggested that individual organisations should write to Albert Tait making reference to the letter which had been sent to him on 8th June.

8 Christie Commission

A report had been published on how the third sector fits with Public Sector Reform. This should be on the next agenda.

Action: Gaynor to send link

9 SOA

Inga welcomed Hannah Thomson, Community Planning Officer who referred to the National Outcome 15 (extract from 2009-2011 paper copied to members)

OIC would still take the lead on community planning rather than adopting a more inclusive approach.

Hannah asked members to get back to her with what the Third Sector considered to be headline priorities for the next three years. Members were advised that Hannah needed the draft document ready for early September in time for submission to the Steering Group.

It was thought that members needed to know more of the content of the new document before they could make comment as to what the third sector would like to see included.

Members agreed to submit any responses to VAO for collation.

Action: VAO to collate responses

As the next TSF meeting would not take place until 28th September it was agreed to schedule a short meeting for mid August once more information had been received from Hannah.

Action: VAO to organise meeting for mid August

10 Orkney Disability Forum - Hazel Aim

Hazel introduced Sean Fotheringhame who was being employed by OCTO under Talent Scotland's Graduate Placement Scheme, for 1 year. It was thought to be a good scheme which members were advised to look into. Involvement was through HIE and a relatively simple process.

ODF had always tried to be more self-sufficient. Hazel explained that DAB were funded from OIC whereas OCTO were funding directly from Scottish Government. Now, due to funding cuts it was foreseen there would be a major impact on service provision for the community.

Members were told how ODF and OCTO shared costs, if OCTO had not been set up then ODF would have been in crisis. Organisations have to be more sustainable.

Hazel went on to say how ODF are now running the Travel Centre, which is going well. They plan to move into the premises and as there is spare office accommodation they are keen to share the space with other voluntary organisations.

Other ideas which Hazel said were being considered included:

- Breaking into the lucrative tourist market - disabled tourists struggle to access services
- Left luggage facility
- A concentrated centre for people to access disability living aids

Hazel said they were always looking for new ideas and would be pleased to hear from anyone who had new ones. She would also be happy to advise anyone on how they can become more sustainable.

Inga thanked Hazel and commented how she thought ODF was a good role model for other organisations.

11 Public Social Partnerships – Sheelagh Barnes

Sheelagh stated the "PSP in Scotland" document would be the basis of Enable and OIC taking forward the work of reviewing the future for 7 clients in Orkney ie what the clients wanted for themselves. There will be various people involved in the group, Gill Smee, Gill Shearer, Frances Troup, Derek Aitken (Personalisation Agenda)

Critical partners would discuss with the 7 individuals their specific needs.

It was thought the process was at the beginning of the mid-phase, and should be formalised by the beginning of next year.

It was envisaged that the service would no longer come from OIC/Enable, it would be self-funding.

Lorraine Littlejohn and Hazel Aim left the meeting.

Sheelagh went on to say there will be training which she and relevant OIC staff would attend. They in turn would inform clients, family members, individuals, service providers what the processes would entail.

Furthermore members were informed it would not necessarily be Enable who was chosen to implement the scheme.

Workshops had been held, meetings had taken place with family members and although Sheelagh thought this was an exciting time, she also stressed that Enable were sensitive to all the people who were involved and that the most important people in the whole process were the 7 individuals who these changes would mostly affect.

Gail Anderson left the meeting.

It was thought that the initiative was driven by Scottish Government but Sheelagh commented that her main concern was for her clients. It wasn't up to her to say if it would save the Scottish Government money or not.

Sheelagh ended by saying that Enable would work with European, Westminster and Scottish Government to move away from the traditional way of service provision and more towards client needs. All parties must come together to give individuals the opportunity to say what they want in their lives.

Inga thanked Sheelagh for her interesting contribution.

12 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of TSF will take place on Wednesday 28th September at 11am in Room 1 at the Library.

At this point Inga commented that this was Gaynor's last meeting. Members joined her in wishing Gaynor well for the future and thanked her for all the hard work she had done on their behalf.

13 AOCB

Fraser informed members that Orkney Forum would be celebrating black history month with a launch on Saturday 8th October. He was researching into the contribution which black people had made to life in Orkney. He asked if anyone had any stories or information which he could use they would be much appreciated.

Personal thanks were given by Helen on behalf of RSO, for all the many ways in which Gaynor had supported them over the years.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm