



Minutes of the Third Sector Forum held on Wednesday 28 September 2011 in the MacGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library

Present: Inga Croy (Chair), Gail Anderson (VAO), Hazel Aim (ODF), Sue Ward (Age Concern Orkney and Samaritans), Erika Copland (Home Start), Vi Rorie (WRVS), Michael Moar (Stromness Shopping Week), Simon Gordon (OACAS), Jeremy Richardson (Orkney Blide Trust), Archie Knox (VAO), Granville Solloway (Heart Support Group), Peter Scott (VAO), Eric Green (VAO), Bashir Hasham (VAO), Mike Cooper (Care & Repair), Peter Cockburn (Kirkwall Bowling Club), Bobby Leslie (OIC), Samantha Ranson (Victim Support Orkney & Shetland) and Connie Shearer (VAO minutes)

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting with particular mention of Gail Anderson who was attending her first meeting as the new Chief Executive of VAO. She asked members to introduce themselves and gave a special welcome to Samantha Ranson of Victim Support Orkney & Shetland.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from: Fiona MacIntosh (Scottish Health Council), Frazer Campbell (Advocacy Orkney), Helen Moss (RSO), Linda Lennie (Orkney Appropriate Adult Service), Sheelagh Barnes (Enable) and Jan Judge (VAO).

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 27 July

P2, Item 5: After the paragraph commencing "Gaynor stated that", add the sentence "However, Croys would be added into the next week's facilities meeting agenda."

P4, Item 10: In the first paragraph, ".. for 5 years" should be replaced with "... for 1 year".

With these two amendments the Minutes were taken as a true and accurate record. Adoption was proposed by Sue and seconded by Hazel.

4. Matters Arising

Item 4, ii) Letter to Albert Tait: Gail enquired whether any groups were still waiting for their money and Hazel confirmed they had not received anything yet as their SLAs were in dispute.

Item 5, New Facilities: In response to the request by the groups involved to consider the Croy's option, Gail informed members that this matter had been discussed with OIC who confirmed that this option, ie Croys, would not form part of an OIC support package for new facilities.

Gail then asked members whether, given the number of sensitive, confidential issues surrounding the work being done with regards to new facilities, they would agree to this matter not continuing to be a standing item on the TSF agenda but to receiving updates as and when matters progress. This was agreed by all.

Item 6, ChangeFund: Concern had been expressed at the last meeting of the OHAC Board about VAO taking the lead and receiving the full amount allocated to the Third Sector. Since then VAO and third sector partners had signed the agreement, presented it to OH&C and it had been approved. They were still waiting for the money but Gail will follow this up. Gail also informed members that the ChangeFund model is to be extended to include children and re-offenders services and she will keep members updated on this.

Item 7, i) TSFWG, Avante Report: A meeting had been held on Fri 23 Sept at members' request. Gail said initially this was to have been a short-term group looking at funding, etc, but they had met on Friday to go through the Avante document and confirmed that much of it was still current. Given the chance for potential involvement in the reshaping of public services at the moment, the group wished to continue with a specific remit to advise VAO in order that representation would be more effective when identifying opportunities. The VAO Board had considered this and felt the group could be an advisory group within their structure. Gail asked for any views on the TSFWG becoming an advisory group. Comments included:-

- organisations currently not part of the TSFWG may like to be considered as a member;
- concerns that this group would 'cream off' people from TSF - perhaps a democratic election process should take place for members of TSFWG;
- this was a healthy development for larger groups working with statutory bodies and in receipt of contracts to meet and discuss issues;
- important that this group does not undermine the TSF - the TSFWG would report to TSF/VAO who then report back the VAO Board;
- it was important to recognise that all Third Sector groups are independent organisations and will continue to put their own views put forward to OIC and NHS;
- it is important that smaller groups let the TSF know what their issues are so we can strengthen the TSF and keep a balance with smaller groups issues on the agenda;

It was agreed to take this matter to the next TSF to discuss how to move forward and agree a remit for the TSFWG.

Item 7, ii) TSFWG, SLA: Gail had received a letter from Elaine Grieve, OIC, who reported a new working group had been set up to look at anomalies. This is to be taken to the next Commissioning Group and she will report back.

Sue (from a Samaritans perspective) referred back to the New Facilities item and said that as OIC have confirmed that Croys will not form part of a support package, she would like the groups which were interested in Croys to now make a decision on what they wanted to do. Samaritans were being left in an uncertain situation. Peter Scott seconded that saying the matter of finding new facilities had been going on too long as it is. VAO facilities group had been working hard on this project and were now working with Bashir and moving forward with, hopefully, good results.

5. Single Outcome Agreement

Following the presentation at the last meeting, Gail reported that she had only had one response to the draft National Outcome 15. Copies of this Outcome were handed round but Gail said it was too late at this stage to make changes. Gail hoped members would agree it reflected where the Third Sector was and noted it mentioned the importance of the Third Sector. She stressed this was still a draft. Jeremy said he had written to Hannah Thomson as there had been no mention of OBT's Clubhouse which had been a success for the Fairer Scotland Fund.

6. Partnership Liaison Group

The Minutes of 10 June were handed round for info. Gail highlighted Item 8 which mentioned the Avante paper. She had talked about this at the meeting and it had been well received. Item 8.2 reported on the parental role of the Third Sector and Elaine Grieve is to come back on this, feedback of which will be in the next PLG minutes.

7. Victim Support - Samantha Ranson

The Chair welcomed Samantha Ranson who introduced herself and thanked the group for inviting her along to speak about Victim Support Orkney & Shetland. She handed round information about the organisation and gave an overview of the services they offer. Samantha spoke about the volunteers they have on both islands and the work they do. Responding to questions, she explained how referrals were dealt with in Orkney and how it was hoped to recruit more volunteers and committee members to enable a base to be set up in Orkney in the future. Members encouraged her to maintain links with VAO and the TSF to enable the group to develop in Orkney as it was felt there was a need to have a base here.

The Chair thanked Samantha for coming along and wished her well in developing the service.

8. Appointment of third sector representative to the OADP Commissioning Sub Group/Strategy Group

Gail explained this referred to funds that OADP will provide for services on a commissioning basis through the commissioning and tendering process. The Strategy group wish to set up a small sub group to examine bids and make recommendations for awards, and requested a Third Sector representative, who does not currently receive funding from them, to sit on that group. Jeremy said he was pleased that the way they are doing things is changing and volunteered to be the Third Sector representative for the moment but that if he received funding in the future he would have to step down. Gail noted this, thanked him and said members would await his feedback in due course.

9. Christie Commission

Following the last TSF, Gail said a link to the report had been emailed to members. Gail read out the priorities of the Commission and invited comments. She felt the Third Sector was well placed to contribute to this agenda and she will come back to this as things progress. Simon asked if COSLA had responded and Gail said she had not seen anything yet but will keep all informed of any additions to the responses to the report.

(Lynda Bradford joined the meeting, 11.45)

10. Proposed consultation on possible Telecare and Day Care charging - OH&C

Lynda thanked members for inviting her to come along to bring them up to date with the proposed consultation on Telecare and Day care charging. She explained that, following approval by OIC at their meeting next week, a public consultation exercise would take place from 10 October - 4 January. There is the potential that Third Sector groups may be asked about this so she gave a brief overview of the proposals and the four options being considered:-

1. No charge;
2. Charge at flat rate of £3.40/week;
3. Charge based on ability to pay, ie, finance assessment and charge levied against findings;
4. Hybrid of 2) & 3), ie flat rate but would move to an ability to pay model - this is currently the preferred option.

They would also propose to charge for replacement of equipment which was damaged or lost and there would be only one charge per household. Lynda stressed that any charge is only in terms of covering the costs of equipment, ie, there would not be a contribution to the cost of responder services.

The Consultation will be done in various ways: service users/carers/guardians, etc will be written to personally and invited to respond; it will be posted on OIC website and also through Survey Monkey; and two public meetings will be held, in Kirkwall and Stromness (proposed date, 21 November), with isles population able to take part via video-conferencing facilities. The consultation process will shut on 4 January 2012 and responses collated before moving to the next stage.

Lynda then answered questions from members, confirming that the Day Care consultation was being postponed for the moment as this would be a much bigger consultation but that she would come back to speak to members about this. The Chair thanked Lynda for coming along.

(Peter Scott left the meeting)

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 30 November, 11am, Kirkwall Library. After discussion it was agreed Richard Harrison of the Smoking Cessation group be invited to give a presentation.

12. AOCB

1) Consultations: Gail reported a number of consultations were coming out. Groups may well have received these but she would email links to anyone interested.

2) Disability Forum

- i.* Hazel informed members that ODF had registered for the Royal Bank of Scotland Community Force vote (<http://communityforce.rbs.co.uk/>). Communities can vote for up to 3 projects in their area and successful groups would receive £6000 for their project. Hazel encouraged members to log on to the site and vote for ODF.
- ii.* Hazel enquired about the local Social Enterprise Partnership. Gail confirmed this group was still around but is now called Social Enterprise Group Orkney. It is part of the Community Economic Development Forum and has been quiet lately. A survey had been sent out two months ago to all known social enterprises but received a lukewarm response. However, it was hoped someone would be employed shortly to support social enterprise development. If members had any specific questions or support needs, Gail asked them to let her know and she would take that forward.
- iii.* Equalities impact assessment: Hazel said this was now on OIC's website and she encouraged everyone to check this to make sure the process was being carried out to members' satisfaction.

(Archie Knox left the meeting)

3) Samantha Ranson, Victim Support, encouraged people to get in touch if they wished further information on the service and handed round posters, pens, etc.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 12.30pm.