



Minutes of the Third Sector Forum held on Wednesday 12 May 2010 at 11.30am in the McGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library

Present: Inga Croy (Chair), Gaynor Jones (VAO), Gail Anderson (VAO), Amy Thomson (Employability Orkney), Kirstie Ireland (Employability Orkney), Fraser Devine (VAO), Sue Ward (Age Concern & Samaritans), Jeremy Richardson (Orkney Blide Trust), Linda Lennie (Orkney Appropriate Adult Service), Erika Copland (Home-Start Orkney), Michael Moar (Stromness Shopping Week), Olivia Tait (Crossroads Orkney), Simon Gordon (OACAS), Hazel Aim (Orkney Disability Forum) and Connie Shearer (Minutes).

1. Welcome and Introduction

Inga Croy introduced herself as the new Chair and VAO director and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Karen Williams (Employability Orkney), Sheelagh Barnes (Enable), Helen Moss (RSO), Frazer Campbell (Advocacy Orkney) and Leigh Dowie (Women's Aid).

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 17 March

Item 9: 1st sentence: delete 'funding arrangements and', and after 'level' add 'ie, impact of the joint statement'.

Item 10: 2nd sentence: delete 'due to over-subscription'.

With these changes the Minutes were proposed by Sue and seconded by Erika.

4. Matters Arising

Item 4, 9(2), Funding: Gaynor had spoken to Albert Tait regarding his coming to the Third Sector Forum to discuss future funding. As OIC have not yet made any decisions regarding future funding, it makes sense to defer this until after the spending review and invite him to the TSF later in the year. 3-4% cuts were inevitable over the next three years and groups should consider doing more joint work. The Scottish Government were looking at 15% cuts across the country and wanted to maintain the workforce and service delivery but for less money. Gaynor to keep groups informed of any developments.

Item 7, PLG: Gaynor thanked those who had put in proposals but informed members that the Steering Group felt FSF under spend should be spent on a one off, bold project, This has been referred to the PLG to come up with proposals.

Item 12, New Facilities: Gaynor is to meet Albert Tait and the Planning Dept to discuss the first draft of the lease for Powerbowl, prior to a lawyer looking at it. Bashir Hasham had spoken to tenants regarding space requirements and, once the lease was sorted, an architect would be brought in. Gaynor encouraged groups to talk to the new tenant rep, Sue Ward, and said that updates would be posted on VAO's website.

5. Single Outcome Agreement

Gail asked if the group had any issues regarding reporting on indicators. Several members had no response and thought the indicators went to VAO for inputting. Gail said the Strategy Group would be resurrected to discuss any issues. **Action: Gail**

6. Partnership Liaison Group Minutes

No meeting had been held since the previous one.

7. Draft Orkney Community Planning Partnership Joint Statement

Gail explained this document was an 'Orkney-fied' version of the National Joint Statement setting out how partners should work together, particularly in the Third Sector. Gail gave a brief run through of some of the items, noting that the document respected and recognised the need for Third Sector providers. The document had been circulated to all partners for comments and amendments. Members were encouraged to take this to their Boards and feed back any comments to Gail who will collate responses and report back to the Editorial Group on 4 June.

8. Capable Communities

Gaynor had circulated this document for information as it provided a fresh approach to doing things differently regarding public sector provision.

9. Elected Members

Gaynor read out an email from Hannah Laird, Community Planning Officer, who was enquiring whether the TSF wished to have an elected member at its meetings. After discussion it was unanimously decided to allow an elected member to attend the Forum. Gaynor is to find out more about their reasons for wishing to attend and give feedback at the next meeting. **Action: Gaynor**

10. Report to Steering Group

Gaynor said that thematic groups would be reporting regularly to the Steering Group and it was the turn of the TSF at the next meeting on 15 June. Gaynor said it would be useful to have something specific to discuss and it was agreed she would draft something to send round members prior to the meeting in June. **Action: Gaynor**

11. Tender Writing Course

Gaynor said Edwina Cook of VAO was in the process of setting this up again for May/June. The Social Enterprise Academy were also holding courses and members felt their courses were good but very little was received beforehand. Gail had spoken to Kirsten Nicolson of the Business Link about the merit in having local input into this.

(Erika Copland left the meeting at this point)

12. Victim Support

Gaynor asked Linda Lennie to update members on Victim Support. Linda explained that the service had had an unsettling year and the decision was made in Inverness to close the Orkney office and run the service from Shetland. The Orkney Board and volunteers, regrettably, resigned. Support to clients in Orkney would be given by telephone only from Inverness and Shetland. The Witness Service, which had two volunteers, would be staying as it was run separately.

Gaynor said the Victim Support Coordinator in Shetland had been in touch to say that, although the service would be run from Shetland, it would be Orkney & Shetland Victim Support and they intended to recruit new volunteers to have a presence in Orkney. Gaynor encouraged her to attend the Third Sector Forum and keep a strong profile in Orkney.

Gaynor expressed thanks for the commitment that the volunteers of Victim Support gave to this much-needed service over many years. Linda said the volunteers had been extremely grateful for the help and support given by other organisations throughout Orkney, and particularly by VAO and the tenants in Anchor Buildings.

(Linda Lennie left the meeting at this point)

13. Care Directory

Fraser Devine gave a background to the Directory of Third Sector Care and Support Services. He explained that a number of smaller, volunteer-led groups felt uncomfortable coming to the TSF and the groups were wondering how to move forward.

Gaynor pointed out that the TSF Terms of Reference had a policy to set up sub-groups and this might be a possibility for the smaller groups whereby they could then be invited to the TSF if there were particular items of interest on the Agenda. Another possibility was they could set up their own group and feed back to the TSF, either themselves or through Fraser Devine. After discussion it was agreed that another meeting of the Care Directory Group be convened to explore how this would work.

Action: Fraser

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 July in the MacGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library.

15. AOCB

1) Gail informed members that the PLG had produced a “Community Consultation and Engagement Guide” about consulting people in the community which could be accessed through their website www.orkneycommunityplanning.org.uk.

2) Hazel informed members that the ODF CIC bus was now available for private hire.

Inga Croy wished Hazel good luck with her venture and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 12.55pm.