



## Minutes of the Third Sector Forum held on Thursday 15 July 2010 at 11.00am in the McGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library

**Present:** Inga Croy (Chair), Gaynor Jones (VAO), Sue Ward (Age Concern & Samaritans), Linda Lennie (Orkney Appropriate Adult Service), Michael Moar (Stromness Shopping Week), Simon Gordon (OACAS), Andy Fraser (The Life Centre), Fraser Campbell (Advocacy Orkney), Sandra Tait (Orkney Blide Trust), Fiona McIntosh (Scottish Health Council) and Connie Shearer (Minutes).

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Inga Croy introduced herself as Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. For the benefit of new members, she asked everyone present to introduce themselves and then read an extract from a recent VAO Briefing Paper on the TSF, detailing the benefits of the Forum.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:- Gail Anderson (VAO), Erika Copland (Home-Start Orkney), Helen Moss (RSO), Hazel Aim (Orkney Disability Forum), Ann Stevenson (Riding for Disabled), Jeremy Richardson (Orkney Blide Trust), Sandy Firth, Gerd Peters (Scottish Health Council), Sheelagh Barnes (Enable), Pamela Wilson (Victim Support Shetland), Olivia Tait (Crossroads) Leigh Dowie (Women's Aid) and Karen Williams, Amy Thomson and Kirstie Ireland (all Employability Orkney),

### 3. Minutes of last meeting held on 12 May.

The previous Minutes were taken as a true and correct record of the meeting and were proposed by Sue and seconded by Simon.

### 4. Matters Arising

Item 9, Elected Members: Gaynor had spoken to Hannah Laird about an elected member coming to meetings to gain more of an understanding of the Third Sector. Hannah is to get back to Gaynor to let her know who this person would be.

Item 10, Report to Steering Group: Gaynor was to have given a report on the TSF to the Steering Group meeting in June but this had been deferred to their next meeting.

Item 12, Victim Support: The Victim Support service was now being run by the Shetland branch and the co-ordinator, Pamela Wilson, intends to come to the TSF but for this meeting sent an update which showed the service in Orkney was getting back on track.

Item 4, Funding: Members were invited to comment. Gaynor had spoken to senior civil servants in the Third Sector division and hoped to hear by December about available funding. They are currently reviewing the funding formula. Part of Gaynor's national work is to influence decisions ensuring Orkney is properly considered. Albert Tait has agreed to talk at a future TSF regarding the local picture when the outcome of the spending review is known. Gaynor had raised, at the last CPPSG, that the difficulties and challenges that lie ahead also present opportunities. The Third Sector are keen to find out what opportunities are available. Stephen Hagan advised that the council would be having discussions on this and agreed the Third Sector must have a role in those discussions. Time was passing and organisations needed to be able to plan for the next financial year.

Item 8, Capable Communities: Gaynor explained this document had been circulated for information previously but, as some members had not received a copy, it would be put on VAO's website.

**Action: Connie**

## **5. Single Outcome Agreement**

For new TSF members, Gaynor explained that the SOA was a community planning partnership document which shows what all partners in Orkney are doing and who is responsible for which bits of service provision. She said Gail was still to arrange for the Strategy Group to be resurrected to discuss any issues.

**Action: Gail**

## **6. Partnership Liaison Group Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting were not yet available but Fraser informed members that the last meeting was mainly concerned with the Fairer Scotland Fund and how that would be divided up.

## **7. Third Sector Strategy**

Gaynor said that the Orkney Community Planning Joint Statement had been completed and was getting its final endorsement. She suggested this now be taken off the TSF Agenda as a standing item. Although some felt the first draft had seemed unbalanced and biased towards the statutory sector, organisations had been able to put their views in.

## **8. New Facilities**

Gaynor reported that VAO Board had had several meetings to look at the legalities of the new facilities and the leasing arrangement for Powerbowl. The original lease did not have many benefits to VAO who wanted more flexibility and a more shared arrangement in terms of responsibilities. VAO were concerned they could spend £2-3m on a building which would be owned by OIC who would review the lease every five years and possibly say they wanted the building back. Gaynor said Policy & Resources were considering a demolition lease but also with a clause to say that OIC would still give support to find suitable town centre premises, should the Powerbowl option not work out. VAO were now at the stage of employing a solicitor to bring matters forward.

## 9. The local state and voluntary action in West Sussex: The results of exploratory qualitative research (Simon/Jeremy)

Simon explained he had requested this paper be circulated for information and asked members to bear in mind where partnership working could lead if independence was not maintained at all times.

Gaynor felt this was familiar territory, and she identified with a number of issues brought up, particularly regarding independence and some partners being more high level, but also liked the fact that solutions were suggested. She said that the CPP recognised the Third Sector strengths but also celebrated the differences.

Members felt this document should be taken as a warning message of where they could end up if they did not remain united, strong and independent. Concern was expressed that organisations could be 'forced' by the government to do specific pieces of work which they had not originally tendered for. However, where there was an existing service with no problems regarding the quality of service provided then they may not have to go down the tendering route.

Some organisations felt they were compromising their ethos and Gaynor said it was important to keep a balance and remember why they were providing their service but also to adapt whilst retaining their core values. She suggested it was important for groups to have 'away days' for their board/staff to plan where they are going, and this could be provided by VAO.

Members agreed this matter should be put on the Commissioning Group Agenda.

**Action: Gaynor**

Simon agreed to send the paper to Rosemary Colsell.

**Action: Simon**

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15 September at 11am in the MacGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library.

## 11. AOCB

1) "Competitive Tendering and the future of services for people with learning disabilities in Scotland" - Sheelagh Barnes had asked for this paper to be circulated for info. Several members had attended an Integrated Resources Framework meeting regarding the Orkney Health Care Partnership in which the voluntary sector had received a lot of praise from those attending. An interesting presentation had been given by Barbara Graham and Gaynor suggested she be invited along to a future TSF. This was agreed. **Action: Gaynor**

2) NHS - Gaynor had received a draft document from Jean Aim, NHS Orkney, "Communications and Engagement Strategy 2010". The document would be emailed to members for comments, by 6 August, either directly to Jean Aim or to Gaynor to put in a collective response.

**Action: All**

Inga thanked all for coming to this interesting and informative meeting.  
Meeting closed at 12.10pm.