



Minutes of the Third Sector Forum held on Thursday 16 September 2010 at 11.00am in Room 2, St Magnus Centre

Present: Inga Croy (Chair), Gaynor Jones (VAO), Olivia Tait (Crossroads Orkney), Hazel Aim (ODF), Gail Anderson (VAO), Jeremy Richardson (Blide Trust); Linda Lennie (Orkney Appropriate Adult Service), Michael Moar (Stromness Shopping Week), Pamela Wilson (Victim Support Orkney), Ali Gunn (CAB), Fraser Campbell (Advocacy Orkney), Fiona McIntosh (Scottish Health Council), Sheelagh Barnes (Enable) and Connie Shearer (Minutes).

In attendance: Eleanor MacLeod, Chair, Public Partnership Forum

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome to the speaker, Eleanor MacLeod. She also welcomed to the Forum for the first time Ali Gunn, Co-ordinator of CAB and Pamela Wilson of Victim Support Orkney & Shetland.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:- Sue Ward (Age Concern & Samaritans), Simon Gordon (OACAS), Erika Copland (Home-Start Orkney), Helen Moss (RSO), Leigh Dowie (Women's Aid), David Murdoch (OYDG) and Karen Williams and Amy Thomson (both 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 Linda and seconded by Fraser.

4. Matters Arising

Item 4, Elected Members: Gaynor had still not heard back from Hannah Laird regarding who would be attending the meetings. Gaynor felt it may be beneficial to have a rota of elected members attending so wrote to Hannah suggesting this and is awaiting a reply.

5. Credit Union Update

Gail Anderson explained discussions had taken place about the possibility of setting up a Credit Union in Orkney. She handed out a paper giving information about Credit Unions and said an open meeting by the HI-Scot Credit Union was to be held on 13 October at 1.30pm in the Supper Room of the Town Hall.

6. Single Outcome Agreement

Gail said that updated SOA indicators were circulated at the last PLG meeting. These needed to be looked at with a view of revision/suggestions and she would email the members who had worked on this previously to arrange a meeting date. Gaynor explained other partners were doing the same thing as some indicators were not relevant/ meaningful. SOA indicators cannot be changed significantly within the reporting year. However, they can be tweaked this time and amended more substantially for the next SOA.

7. Partnership Liaison Group Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were not yet available so Gail went over the main issues discussed:

- SOA and reporting.
- Orkney Community Plan.
- Joint Statement: due to someone not having seen this, further amendments were to be made and the document to go to the Steering Group in December.
- A task force had been set up to look at the impact of the recession on various sectors. Information was being gathered and looked at.

Full PLG Minutes would be available at the next TSF.

Gaynor asked if members were aware of the recession having an impact on their services. A number of groups reported increased referrals and people looking for advice. CVs were being received by people actively looking for work and volunteering was also increasing. Concern was expressed about the impact on benefits of individuals being supported and the increase in consultation papers regarding benefits.

8. Speak Up for Rural Scotland

Gail had previously sent out information/questionnaires to enable a collaborative third sector response. She encouraged all to return these to her by 25 October. Gaynor said that Sheila Garson, Chair of VAO, was involved with this and was keen that Orkney had a voice in this important decision-making. It was in the interest of every group to respond and make collaborative response.

Action: All

- **CRBS:** CRBS will be in Orkney on 7/8 October regarding new laws for the protection of vulnerable groups. Full information to be sent out in time for booking.

9. Presentation: Public Partnership Forum - Eleanor MacLeod

Eleanor introduced herself as Chair of the Public Partnership Forum (PPF). She explained the Forum was a network comprised of individuals and organisations, and was designed as a link between local health and care providers and the public. The PPF had three roles:- 1) to inform people about health and care services; 2) to engage the public in discussions on how to improve services; and 3) to support wider public involvement in decision-making. Meetings are held regularly and are open to everyone. Eleanor encouraged groups to become a member of the PPF as it offered a chance to be involved in consultation at an early stage, and would enable it to have a stronger voice to put across public and community views. She passed round handouts/registration forms and said further information could be accessed through their website www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/oppf.

Inga Croy thanked Eleanor for her interesting and informative presentation.

10. New Facilities

Gaynor confirmed that the terms and conditions of the lease on the Powerbowl site could not be agreed and this option was now off the table. Other sites had been considered with a bid being made for the shop and office space at Scarthcentre with a view to a conversion project supported by OIC. The Council had pledged grant assistance to purchase the Scarth Centre. Unfortunately, it went to a closing date and the VAO offer was unsuccessful. Gaynor discussed options with the new owner regarding other properties they owned but nothing has been decided yet. She gave assurances that VAO are working hard to come up with a plan B to maintain momentum and keep council support on the table.

TSF members wished to record their appreciation of the time, work and effort which VAO Board and staff put into this project.

11. Terms of Reference

This was updated to include two previously adopted Terms:

- “An elected member will be in attendance at Third Sector Forum meetings whenever possible.”
- “Minutes will be sent to Community Planning officers to go on CPP website.”

Gaynor reported that CPP had requested copies of Terms of References from thematic groups to make them ‘Council-standard’ but she had declined. The Terms of Reference of the TSF are agreed by TSF members only.

12. TSF Report

This had been circulated for information. It had been drawn up at the request of the Community Planning team who had asked about the significant things discussed at the TSF over the past year.

13. OIC meetings re future cuts and services

With OIC looking to make major cuts in finances, concerns were raised about the effect these would have on Third Sector organisations. Budget planning was proving difficult as no-one will know what funding they are to receive until February, following the outcome of the Government spending review. It was hoped that the Third Sector may be able to provide some of the services which OIC will be cutting back on. Gaynor had discussed this previously with Duncan Macaulay, Director of Social Services. She also spoke to Albert Tait who indicated this would be an opportunity for the Third Sector to respond to what was needed.

Groups were concerned that some elected OIC members did not fully understand what the Third Sector provided and saw the Sector as a drain on financial resources rather than a benefit. Groups felt they provided professional services and, as such, should have equal access to information which statutory bodies receive regarding future planning requirements in Orkney. Commissioning and procurement issues are also a concern with the move to services being put out to tender. The other significant issue is TUPE and pension funds. Gaynor is looking at how these differences are resolved in other parts of the country to see if these can be adopted in Orkney.

It was agreed that we should do some work as a sector in preparation for proposed cuts and discuss with the council and CPP.

Actions:

- ***Gaynor to circulate a questionnaire regarding the implications of 20% cuts over 3 years, the impact of the recession and the value of the sector. Once responses were in a group would be formed to give a presentation to OIC on the value of the Third Sector.***

- **Albert Tait to be invited to attend November TSF.**
- **VAO Briefing Paper to be produced re TUPE.**
- **Ali Gunn to ask John Foulis re speaking about unions at a future TSF.**

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17 November at 11am in the MacGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library.

15. AOCB

- 1) Pamela Wilson, Co-ordinator, Victim Support Orkney, (visiting from Shetland where she is based) introduced herself and gave an update on the organisation. Phone support was currently being provided but face-to-face support should be available in November. Information about the service was printed on the back of police letters to victims and this had resulted in increased referrals.
- 2) Sheelagh Barnes wished to highlight an Epilepsy Course which would be taking place on Friday 8 October, 9.30-3.30. This was a free training course for professionals.
- 3) Sheelagh had met Liam McArthur MSP regarding the number of children with autism. He said a Bill was going through Parliament but he was keen to hear from others involved with autism issues. He will contact Sheelagh again so if anyone wished to meet him please phone Sheelagh on 870080.
- 4) Fiona Macintosh informed members that the NHS Participation Standard was currently being launched. This would be used to measure how effectively NHS Boards assessed their services. The document is available on the website and a leaflet is to be produced for the public. A Participation Tool Kit is also available to support Boards in gaining views from the public. See www.scottishhealthcouncil.org for further information.
- 5) Gaynor reminded all of VAO's AGM on Monday 27 September, 7pm at Orkney College. The speaker would be Cathie Cowan, Chief Executive of NHS Orkney.
- 6) Gaynor also highlighted a conference to take place on 8 December: *Shared Services and the Scottish Public Sector*. Further information can be accessed at www.mackayhannah.com.

Inga thanked all for attending.
Meeting closed at 12.50pm.