



Minutes of the Third Sector Forum held on Wednesday 9 February 2011 at 11am in Room 1, St Magnus Centre

Present: Inga Croy (Chair), Gaynor Jones (VAO), Gail Anderson (VAO), Anna Johnston (Red Cross), Helen Moss (RSO), Michael Moar (Stromness Shopping Week), Karen Williams (The Life Centre), Linda Lennie (Orkney Appropriate Adult Service), Kirstie Ireland & Amy Thomson (Employability Orkney), Norman Livsey (WRVS), Vi Rorie (WRVS), Belle Cormack & Mabel Miller (Arthritis Care), Peter Cockburn (Kirkwall Bowling Club), Hazel Aim (ODF), Simon Gordon (OACAS), Loraine Littlejohn (VAO), Keith Johnson (VAO), Bobby Leslie (OIC) and Connie Shearer (Minutes).

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, with a special welcome to Bobby Leslie of OIC, and asked everyone to introduce themselves

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:- Frazer Campbell (Advocacy Orkney), Sheelagh Barnes (Enable), Fiona MacIntosh & Gerd Peters (Scottish Health Council), Erika Copland (Home-Start), Jeremy Richardson (Blide Trust), Oliva Tait (Crossroads), Leigh Dowie (Womens Aid), Caron Jenkins (Arthritis Care), Sue Ward (Age Concern) and Ali Gunn (CAB).

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 24 November 2010

The previous minutes were taken as a true and correct record of the meeting and were proposed by Helen Moss and seconded by Hazel Aim.

4. Matters Arising

Actions on pages 1 and 3 have been completed.

Item 8, SLA: Gaynor thanked everyone who gave feedback about issues they had with their SLAs. It was decided to defer replying to OIC until they had completed their funding discussions. Gaynor noted there had often been discrepancies between 'audited' and 'examined' accounts. She read out a statement from AJB Scholes which indicated that by law it was not essential for small charities to have their accounts audited. This statement would be included in the response to OIC.

(Loraine Littlejohn joined the meeting)

Item 9, NHS request for Rep: Sheelagh Barnes had agreed to represent the TSF on the Managed Clinical Network Group for Neurological Services but, due to other commitments, has had to step down. After discussion, Simon Gordon agreed to attend as the TSF representative.

5. OIC Funding

Gaynor reported the good news that OIC had agreed the proposal for the Third Sector to receive funding for the next three years with a standstill budget and 1% increase. This announcement would protect the Third Sector in Orkney and, on behalf of the TSF, Gaynor expressed formal thanks to OIC for making that bold decision. She explained that colleagues south were not in such a good position and that Orkney might be unique in that respect.

Bobby Leslie commented that OIC felt the voluntary sector was a vital part of Orkney life and had much to offer. Orkney groups were very well run with a lot of dedicated volunteers and workers, and OIC saw that and wanted to help protect these valuable services.

Helen Moss reported that RSO had been advised they would be receiving the majority of their funding and, depending on OIC decision this week, was hopeful that RSO would be more sustainable in the future. Anna Johnstone expressed interest in the information regarding the Changefund which would hopefully help support organisations to be sustained in the longer term.

Gaynor said that, within the proposals for the next three years, there were discussions about moving from traditional grant-giving to procurement. She had talks with Albert Tait regarding OIC working with the Third Sector through this transitional period. Procurement Officers had suggested talking to the Third Sector regarding thresholds, specifications, etc with a view to doing this in September this year. However Gaynor felt this was too soon and Mr Tait agreed, saying it was essential that the voluntary sector was fully involved in developing future plans, particularly with OH&C, and suggested timescales of 2012 or later.

Action: Gaynor to write thank you letter on behalf of TSF regarding 3 year funding settlement

6. OH&C and the Changefund

Given Scotland's ageing population, the Scottish Government have allocated £70m for the next financial year across Scotland to the Changefund to develop plans to shape care for older people. Orkney would be allocated £321,000 and, although the money would be administered by NHS Boards, it was very much a partnership plan and delivery. A meeting had been held in Edinburgh to discuss local plans to be submitted to the Government by 28 February. Gaynor has submitted a Third Sector perspective on this saying there was absolutely a role for the Third Sector to deliver services for older people and also gave information on what the Third Sector could contribute within that plan. She said she had received emails from other groups, namely RSO, Age Concern and Orkney Care & Repair, indicating their willingness to become involved. Russ Madge had thanked Gaynor for this information and said he would feed that into the plan.

Gaynor said it was an essential condition of grant that the Third Sector sign this off as part of the CPP as that was a condition to Orkney receiving money. Members felt this was an excellent opportunity to work with commissioners and help support people in the community. Gaynor is to send out a brief to members for their views and put together a Third Sector input. A separate meeting will be convened.

Action: Gaynor

7. Third Sector Forum Working Group

The Chair gave the background to this group saying it was a sub-group of the TSF set up following November's meeting with Albert Tait in November, to look at how to 'do things differently' in the future with reduced resources, statutory partners wanting less duplication of services and wishing to maximise capacity and strengthen the sector to be part of change. The first meeting set the Agenda and it was decided to engage a specialist consultant, Avante, to facilitate a planning day. Two further meetings took place to reflect on the resulting paper and made additions. This paper was sent out to members for comments/amendments and for Boards/Directors to look at before being presented to

the CPP. The next TSWWG meeting is to be held on 21 February with Albert Tait and Cathie Cowan (NHS Chief Executive) present.

Members commented that the document was a very useful tool for further negotiations and one way of finding 'our way in' in the longer term. It was a voice for all and was about inclusion for all and about every service being represented and having a voice at strategic level meetings. The Third Sector is varied and covers a wide spectrum so the Forum is very useful for making people feel included and having someone to represent the Third Sector is hugely important. Members wished to congratulate the Working Group for all the work they were doing.

8. Partnership Liaison Group Minutes

The PLG Minutes of 10 September had been sent out and Gail highlighted Item 8, Third Sector Partnership Statement, and informed members that the document should be endorsed next week. There had been a further PLG meeting in December, the Minutes of which would be available for the next TSF. Gail said some of the issues discussed at that meeting included:

- Low carbon transport funding.
- CPP action plan to see where partners were.
- Presentation from Karen Johnson on employability levels and issues - Gail would circulate this to anyone who wished it.
- Minutes of Steering Group - they welcomed the summary report of the Third Sector questionnaire and felt it was an important piece of work.

9. New Facilities

Gaynor informed members that, as they knew, the Scarthcentre proposal had fallen through and they had looked at other options. VAO also approached the landlords at Anchor Buildings on the off-chance they might be interested in selling that building which they were. OIC were approached with various proposals and VAO Board was invited to a meeting in December with Councillors to discuss these. OIC agreed to undertake a district valuation and a series of surveys to see if this would be a reasonable investment, and these are currently in the process of being completed but a decision would not be made until April. In the meantime, the VAO Board is working on an action plan to get information needed to take to this to the next stage.

Meantime, the Strynd building continues to cause concern with major subsidence taking place over Christmas, and the tenants' Boards are indicating their staff must be moved out. OIC officials on the facilities project board had undertaken to keep the building safe. However, an interim solution for these tenants is being looked at.

10. Measuring Social Impact - March 15th in Kirkwall

Gaynor explained this was sent out to advertise a training session to be held by the Social Enterprise Academy. It is a Government driven event regarding how organisations quantify what they do in monetary terms and will be held in Kirkwall on 15 March.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 30 March at 11am in the MacGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library

12. AOCB

- 1) Victim Support: Gaynor had heard from Pamela Wilson, Coordinator of Victim Support, who said they had been advertising for volunteers in the local press and had received 10 applicants.
- 2) SCVO: The Third Sector manifesto for 2011 - *How to Do Things Differently*, had recently been launched and could be accessed through the SCVO website
- 3) Shared Services: Gaynor had attended a national conference regarding shared services and improved joint working. A variety of speakers discussed this in the context of the current financial climate and projections were that there would probably be no real change in financial growth until the 20/30s. Therefore local authorities, relevant private sector bodies and the NHS must configure themselves to do things differently, think about re-shaping services and merging with statutory partners to do things for the benefit of communities. A speaker from Audit Scotland said it was a real struggle for people to cross traditional boundaries but highlighted Orkney as an area of good practice in this. He said it was clear that OIC and NHS had been working on this for some time and this was held in high regard across Scotland.
- 4) Joined-up services: Gaynor will be attending a meeting on 16 February with statutory partners and Jobcentre+, regarding closer working together in the current financial climate etc., and the best way of sustaining services while minimising costs.
- 5) Royal Wedding - holiday?: Hazel Aim enquired as to what other groups had decided with regards to giving staff a public holiday to celebrate the Royal wedding on Fri 29 April. VAO would be having a public holiday pending endorsement from the VAO Finance & Office Management Committee. Other groups would be working on that day but offering staff another day off instead.
- 6) Issues: The Chair asked whether members still wished to have 'Issues (not minuted)' on the Agenda and it was felt this was a useful time to discuss matters privately and so it would, therefore, remain on the agenda.