

**North Alliance Strategy Group,
Nairn Community Centre 4th December 2014**

In attendance: Diane Miller (Aberdeenshire CVS) Linda Clark (Aberdeen City), Kevin McDermott (CLD Aberdeenshire), Edwina Lloyd (VAO), Wendy Hand (VAS), Donald John MacDonald (Western Isles CLD), Kirsty MacDonald (Volunteer Centre Western Isles), Diane Miller (Aberdeenshire Central CVS), Liz Howarth (ACVO), Jenny Devlin (TSI Moray), Karen Delaney (Moray Council), Roisin Taylor (Lead Scotland)

Apologies Kerry Spence (Orkney Islands Council), Karen McArdle, University of Aberdeen)

Topic	Action: what's to be done?	By whom?
1. Welcome	<p>Edwina, former Chair and now secretary, welcomed Linda as the next Chair of the Northern Alliance Strategy group and thanked all for their support during the previous year.</p> <p>Concern was noted re the Shetland, Orkney and Highland statutory partners meeting attendance and if representation could be delegated. Contact to be made.</p>	EL
2. Minute of last meeting and matters arising	<p>The minute of the Strategy Group (SG) meeting of 19th August was agreed. Matters arising were....</p> <p>KTP project – classed as good or very good. Article for the NA website (the peer reviewer reports) to be requested from the University of Aberdeen.</p> <p>Education Scotland invite to meeting – Peter Hamilton to be contacted to attend next meeting.</p> <p>CLD Standards Mark – Further work undertaken. Considered not appropriate for the North Alliance to apply.</p>	<p>EL</p> <p>LC</p>
3. Finance & future funding/Business plan	<p>The NA budget, currently held by Aberdeen Council, is in the process of being transferred over to VAO as new holders of the account. CVS Training Initiative will continue to administer the funds for travel and subsistence, VAO will administer the funds for all other expenditure and income. Any invoices outstanding from Aberdeen, should be cancelled and re-issued when the funds come in to the VAO account. SG members will be informed when this happens.</p> <p>At the 2014 Conference, Education Scotland (Vince Moore) had asked why the NA had not put in a bid for funding this year (see previous minutes, short time frame, criteria produced late, very statutory focussed). Decision to put in an EOI for funding for the 2015 Conference at least, as they recognise it as a good practice example.</p>	<p>EL</p> <p>?</p>

	<p>Linda to talk to Peter Hamilton also.</p> <p>CLD plans for each area to be partnership plans, <i>“Requirements for Community Learning & Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013”</i>, how are each of the NA areas working on this? Lead officers in each council area are to attend a meeting in January 2015 to update on plans, are there any CPD requirements needed, are the third sector involved? Decision to circulate a Survey Monkey to Lead officers via SG members asking if CPD is needed and how the NA can help. Kevin to send the SCDC Briefing on the Guidance for circulation with these minutes and for the website.</p> <p>“How good is our third sector” – EOI to be put in for funding to assist with training on that from Education Scotland. Roisin to provide more info on that project at the next meeting as LEAD are a partner with Education Scotland on this pilot. Links requested for the NA website when the pilot report is completed.</p> <p>Business plan: No grant funding at present. Meet later to discuss eLearning and study visits. Weather eye open for likely sources of funding for specific projects. CLD Standards mark, see 2.</p>	<p>LC</p> <p>EL</p> <p>KMc</p> <p>RT</p> <p>All</p>
4. NA Fund for CPD (£3K)	<p>Training in idea, planned or in the process or completed.</p> <p><u>Aberdeen & Shire combined (£6K)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuro Linguistic programming, with a 6 month follow up by the University. • Evaluation Support Scotland – logic modelling • Speak Up Speak Out • Social Enterprise Academy – 2 courses <p><u>Western Isles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Literacy Tutor training, 2 day session, 6 tutors with accommodation. • Youth Work and social media • 5 sessions on different islands on capacity building (Volunteer Management) <p>Request for articles and photos for the website</p> <p><u>Moray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delving Deeper • Digital Stories <p><u>Orkney</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes training 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEAD, thinking digitally local course. Conversations with LEAD to follow. • Develop training from the CLD consultation. • Scottish Mental Health First Aid training • Self Harm training • More Open mic sessions so that partners are aware of activities <p>Reminder to have evaluations input to the Survey Monkey. Kevin to update the link and questions and send as a draft to the SG.</p>	KMc
5 Conference 2014	<p>Great conference report presented and the information on the website. Thanks extended to Cecily the Conference Organiser. http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/NORTHALLIANCE/index.asp?pageid=592990</p> <p>A closer look at the Dragon's Den required. Conference sub group to look at possible alternatives. Sub group to be selected at next meeting and to ask membership for their preferences for 2015 Conference.</p> <p>Conference quality considered very good, with evaluations scoring the opening speech very highly. Total cost so far, £11,914.05.</p> <p>Extended report requested by the Conference sub group 2014 and VAO costs for this of £200 plus VAT approved.</p>	
6. LEAD training – numbers and allocations	<p>21 notes of interest have been received from all 7 North Alliance areas and an Introductory session is planned before Christmas.</p> <p>6 folk have firmly applied and 1 awaiting.</p>	
7. The Knowledge Transfer Partnership	As in 2.	
8. AOCB	None	
9. Date of next meeting	<p>Requests out for February 5th or 12th 2015 in Nairn.</p> <p>VC is available, please contact Edwina to request this facility in good time.</p>	EL