

Enterprise and Learning Group discussion

August 30th, 2017 at VAO offices

Present: Brian McMillan (Firstport), Carl Mullins (Flotta- digital start-up), Mark Jenkins (Westside Cinema), Leigh Gould (The Blide Trust), Ross Groundwater (Lifestyles Centre), June Ross (start-up allied health professionals), Francesca Couperwhite, (HIE), Natasha Findlay (Enable), Jordan Low (Economic Development OIC)

After an initial introduction about the value and potential of an Enterprise and Learning subgroup there was a discussion about 'what is social enterprise' as a number of the organisations present were still not totally clear about the concept and how the voluntary sector contributes.

The idea of forming a group was met with a tepid, but positive response. The concept of a network that met regularly was recognised as being of benefit. There was a feeling however, due to the increasing demands on a volunteer's time, that a meeting such as this would have to be very relevant.

Quarterly meetings felt about right to those in the room. But it was agreed that if something pressing or time-limited came up the flexibility should be there to meet more frequently.

A discussion then took place around digital involvement including chat rooms, Facebook groups, discussion forums etc. Everyone agreed that having an appropriate and simple digital presence would be as important to the success of the group as the physical meetings. This would allow participation from the isles, or from those out-with Kirkwall.

It was thought to be unreasonable to expect this group to lead and manage itself at this stage.

Next steps:

Further discussion to identify how the group could develop.

Arrange the next meeting. A good discussion point might be 'Am I a Social Enterprise?'