

Draft Minutes of the Third Sector Working Group meeting held at 11.00 am on Friday 27th April 2018, VAO Boardroom, Anchor Buildings, Kirkwall.

Present: Gail Anderson (VAO), June Anderson (RSO), Frazer Campbell (BlideTrust), Erika Copland (Home start), Bryan Milner (CAB/REW Development Trust), Andrea Spence-Jones (AO), Olivia Tait (Crossroads)

In attendance: Gary Amos (VAO), Leona Norquay (VAO-minutes)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Gail welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Alison Gunn (CAB), Shona Flanagan (Pier Arts Centre) and Gillian Skuse (Age Scotland Orkney).

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2018

There were two amendments:

Item 10 – Partner update

HomeStart: remove the final phrase “and help”
Remove “REW Development Trust” from the CAB update heading.

With those amendments the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

a) Item 10 – Partner Update

Gary reported that he had received positive feedback from members about the digital platform and had carried out work to change the design in response to comments received.

4. Third Sector Funding

The reduction in Orkney Islands Council/Orkney Health and Care funding was discussed at length. There was concern about the late notice of the reduction and questions were asked about the criteria used by Education, Leisure and Housing to determine which organisations should face a 10% cut in funding. Surprise was expressed that Advocacy Orkney had received both the OHAC 2.5% reduction and the OIC 10% reduction given that independent advocacy was a statutory service.

The view was expressed that perhaps those making the decisions were unaware of the impact on third sector services of their decisions and it was thought that an event should be held perhaps in Trustees Week to which decision makers could be invited.

Gary reported that the previous Orkney Health and Social Care meeting he had attended had demonstrated a very inclusive approach towards Third Sector organisations.

5. General Data Protection Regulations

Members agreed that the recent Information Commissioners Office sessions had been very useful and had increased understanding of the GDPR requirements. It had been reassuring to know that ICO were willing to help and that compliance on the implementation date was not required as long as work had been undertaken.

The importance of Board ownership of the process was reiterated and it was confirmed that members had added GDPR to Board agendas as a standing item.

6. Lobbying Act

Information and guidance on the Lobbying Act had been circulated and the implications were discussed. It was thought not to pose too big a barrier to consultation with MSPs, MPs and Ministers.

7. Matter to Report to the Third Sector Forum (TSF)

Gail reported that Ewan Masson, Parliamentary Outreach Officer, would attend the next TSF meeting, which would be held on 21st June. Gail stressed the importance of a good attendance to demonstrate the work and impact of Orkney's third sector.

In response to her request it was agreed that Paula Campbell, Tesco Community Champion should be invited to attend the TSF meeting to explain Tesco's role in supporting local communities.

Action-Gail

8. Agreed Topics for future meetings

After discussion members suggested the following topics for future meetings:

- Funding
- Commissioning
- Risk Register
- Community Empowerment Act

9. Partner Update

- **REW Development Trust**

Brian explained recent experience of a charity being unable to fund a private enterprise despite the fact that the business would bring employment and enhance the economy. Gail reported that VAO had been in discussion with OSCR about this over many years to ensure the guidance provided reflected regulation however there were still grey areas. It was noted that OSCR had recently issued guidance on Charities and Trading.

- **VAO:**

Gail reported that discussions continued about the need for a national TSI body when Voluntary Action Scotland ceased in September.

The Community Led Care research led by Rosie Alexander had been completed and a draft report had been circulated to stakeholders for comment.

Naomi Bremner had given an excellent presentation of her research findings on poverty and disadvantage of children and young people in Orkney. It was hoped that once the final report had been produced she would give a presentation to the Third Sector Forum.

- **Crossroads:**

Oliva reported that Crossroads had disaffiliated from Crossroads Scotland therefore would need to find alternative sources of insurance, policy updates etc.

- **Advocacy Orkney:**

Andy reported that the organisation was receiving 68 referrals per week which was a challenge within existing staff resource.

- **RSO:**

June explained the current issue of disbursement of funding for Relationships Scotland nationally.

- **Blide Trust:**

Fraser reported that Blide would hold a Recovery Event on 14th May in collaboration with the Scottish Recovery Network. The session would include workshops on yoga, mindfulness and therapeutic photography and a service user would talk about recovery.

The closure of the Care Commission office was noted and it was reported that Care Commission insisted that all disclosures required by the Blide Trust should be carried out by them. The meeting questioned the legality of that and suggested that Blide go directly to Volunteer Scotland or Disclosure Scotland.

Fraser reported that he had arranged to meet Gerry O'Brian, Acting Chief Executive, NHSO, to discuss the Mental Health event report.

10. AOB

A second Meet the Buyer Workshop would be held on 24th May. Further details would be circulated when they became available.

Gail thanked everyone who completed the annual VAO service user survey which provided information required by VAO's main funder, Scottish Government.

The VAO AGM would be held on 11th June and a representative from the Third Sector Unit would attend to provide an update on current and planned work in response to the network review.

11. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held on Friday 25th May

The meeting closed at 1.07pm