



Minute of the Third Sector Forum meeting held at 11am on Thursday 22 September 2016 in the McGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library

**Present:** Sheila Garson (VAO), Gail Anderson (VAO), June Anderson (RSO), Frazer Campbell (Blide Trust), Michael Cromby (Home Energy Scotland), Bryan Milner (CAB), Samantha Payne (Red Cross), Gerd Peters (Scottish Health Council, Orkney).

**In attendance:** Cecily Cromby (minutes)

## 1 Welcome

Sheila welcomed those present and thanked them for attending

## 2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Phyllis Braby, Zelda Bradley, Helen Castle, Erika Copland, Simon Gordon, Jan Judge, Michelle Koster, Gillian Skuse, Andy Spence-Jones, Sue Sulat, Olivia Tait, Nic Thake.

## 3 Minutes of previous meeting held on 21 July 2016

The minutes were approved.

## 4 Matters Arising

**Item 3. Orkney Community Justice Partnership (presentation by Gillian Learmonth, Planning, Performance and Information Office, Community Justice).** The presentation was circulated to members.

**Item 4. 'Meet the buyer' event.** Gail noted that she attended the event. The event focussed on organisations that provided training and support for groups bidding for council contracts, rather than information on the type of services that the council would be commissioning. Gail advised that the event was discussed at the TSWG and the wider issue of commissioning is on the agenda to discuss in more detail at a future meeting. She advised that she would try to get support in place for groups locally. There was still uncertainty as to when OHAC would introduce commissioning.

**Item 8 iii. The Orkney Partnership Board (TOPB).** Gail informed members that VAO had secured funding from the Community Choices Fund to conduct a consultation across the isles in Partnership with TOP and the IJB and to pilot Participatory Budgeting events. Funding of £36,000 was available to award small grants through the PB process. Gail noted that it was a complex piece of work and that details were still being finalised. Gail would meet next week with Gillian Morrison and Caroline Sinclair to discuss the work and noted that she was pleased that there was an opportunity to establish Participatory Budgeting in Orkney. The programme deadline would be March 2017.

## **5 Third Sector Forum and Third Sector Working Group: Review of Structure and Remit survey results to date.**

Gail provided an overview of the survey responses received so far (the deadline had been extended to 27 September 2016). 32 responses had been received and the majority of respondents (84%) had completed the survey on behalf of an organisation. 37.5% of organisations were involved in health and social care and 28% in support and self-help. The majority (70%) were based in Kirkwall.

The majority of responses to the question asking why they did not attend the TSF stated that subject matter was not relevant and comments included that they did not know about it or did not understand the aims. Only two respondents stated that they had an issue with the date/time.

In response to the question on topics of interest, sector specific issues such as funding, governance, etc, were important and took precedence over partnership issues, although updates on policy were thought important.

In response to the question on how they wished to engage: 71% expressed an interest in email updates on issues of interest; 65% face to face; and 56% would like to receive Forum minutes and papers by email. A social media platform was also of interest to respondents. (More than one choice could be selected.)

The majority of respondents favoured quarterly meetings with VC facilities; 41% would be interested in subgroups on topics of interest and 45% in online forums. Most felt that meetings should be held in Kirkwall, while 31% favoured the option to rotate meetings.

Other suggestions included: ensuring that feedback on issues raised reached the forum; that online forums be held between meetings; that there are lots of issues and topics to choose from; that the TSF is a great resource and it needs to be made available to everyone.

Gail advised that responses from the Isles were vital to the consultation and encouraged people to complete the survey if they had not already done so.

Gail noted that the responses were useful and that they would be discussed in detail at the Sub-Group. She invited anyone wanting to get involved with the Sub-Group to speak with her.

## **6 i) The Orkney Board (minutes attached)**

Gail noted that the minutes provided a flavour of the work of the Orkney Board and noted that the minutes included a useful presentation on development planning and locality planning. Gail asked members for comments/questions. None were received.

## **ii) Orkney Health and Care**

### Representatives' induction

Gail advised that existing representatives along with those newly appointed would receive a day's induction hosted by VAO and OHAC on 23 September. Olivia and Gail would attend to explain the support available to the carer and third sector representatives, respectively. Gerd

would also attend to explain the role of the Health Council. Gail noted that OHAC had appointed buddies for the representatives to assist with protocol, language, etc.

#### Orkney Peer Network

Pete Donald (VAO) would attend the induction session to explain the online forum that was currently being developed. Gail noted that the online forum did not prevent involvement from people not wishing to engage in that way.

A full review of the process would be conducted and presented to the IJB Board by the end of March 2017.

#### **iii) OIC Change Programme (verbal update)**

Gail explained that the Change Programme was linked to the need for OIC to make £9m savings over the next 3 years. Gail advised that she had recently attended a meeting on the Change Programme. Colin Muir from the Improvement Service had spoken at the meeting on creating efficiencies.

She noted that there had been misunderstanding regarding the role and remit of Development Trusts, which were all charities. Members discussed experiences of Development Trusts being expected to take on roles from OIC and the need to ensure that Trusts were able to determine their roles themselves. It was noted that most Development Trusts already provide services over and above those required.

Gail advised that a discussion had taken place at the meeting about outsourcing OIC services to the third sector and noted that there was considerable misunderstanding regarding the role and remit of social enterprise (a workshop on social enterprise was planned as a result). It was noted that the third sector would be happy to be involved as long as it was fully involved in planning and not viewed merely as a cheap option.

Gail advised that she would forward to members a report from the meeting when available. She noted that this would also be discussed at the TSWG.

#### **iv) Welfare Reform Working Group (papers attached)**

Gail and Frazer noted that it was a helpful paper and it was useful to keep staff up to date.

Bryan noted his concern with section 3.7 of the report in that it might be open to the misinterpretation that people in receipt of Universal Credit were obliged to visit CAB. He was also concerned that it implied that data would be fed back from CAB to other agencies. It would not. CAB have a representative on the Welfare Reform Working Group and Bryan advised they would feed back their concerns at the next meeting.

#### **v) Interagency Working Group on Refugees (verbal update)**

Gail advised that the group were currently working on plans should Syrian refugees arrive in Orkney. Once finalised the plan would be circulated to members.

## 7 Members Update

**Red Cross:** Samantha advised that she was new in post. She noted that the Red Cross were trying to increase their volunteer base as current capacity was low – at present they had only 3 volunteer drivers which was not a sufficient number to cover the service 5 days/week. She informed members that she was conducting a mapping exercise to ensure that services were covered without duplication and that she was keen to publicise the Red Cross guest house and step-up/step-down facilities.

**Blide Trust:** Frazer advised that a new Touched by Suicide Group had formed with support from Edwina Lloyd at VAO. The first meeting would be held at 7pm on 27 October in a room at Tesco. He noted that Tesco would provide the room, and tea and biscuits, for free and that the venue would provide a neutral space for people to attend without being noticed. He noted that Manda Balfour was providing support and that Touched by Suicide Scotland (Glasgow) had been very supportive and had provided training.

**RSO:** June advised that RSO had appointed two new staff members, a Family Link Worker and administrative maternity cover. She noted that the Family Link Worker would take the service out to the isles. She advised that RSO had received funding from the Robertson Trust for substance misuse work which would include the CRAFT (Community Reinforcement and Family Training) intervention programme, a support service for family members and carers affected by someone else's substance misuse.

She explained that RSO were experiencing an increased demand for services at present and that this was the case at other services also. She noted that the Community Mental Health Team were stretched and that this was putting additional pressure on third sector services. Gail advised that this would be on the agenda at the next TSWG.

**CAB:** Bryan noted that Orkney CAB would soon receive an audit by Citizens Advice Scotland. He advised that there had recently been difficulties in governance of Citizens Advice Scotland and noted that CAB Boards across Scotland, including Orkney, had been working to resolve the issues.

**Home Energy Scotland:** Michael outlined the work of Home Energy Scotland and advised that he was working in partnership with other agencies in Orkney to improve the thermal efficiency of homes and reduce householders' energy bills. He highlighted the links between fuel poverty and health and the importance of ensuring that people were made aware of the help available from Home Energy Scotland and partner agencies.

He advised that Home Energy Scotland had recently launched a new referral portal to enable partner organisations to refer clients directly for an energy assessment and noted that OIC and THAW were using the portal. He noted that this method of referral was particularly useful for vulnerable clients and that the referring agency could follow an audit trail from the initial enquiry to the outcome using the portal. He invited members to contact him if they would like to receive training on using the portal.

**SHC:** Gerd advised that he was involved in integration work at a national and county level and that he would be participating in the IJB event taking place on 23 September. He noted that

NHS Orkney were still facing financial and recruitment issues. He advised that SHC were working with Advocacy Orkney on a new plan and that progress was being made in work to tackle obesity in Orkney.

He noted that the SHC had their 4 year review this year and highlighted the success of the recent fresher's fair at Orkney College.

**VAO:** Gail explained recent staff changes at VAO, Cath Russell had left and been replaced as senior office administrator by Ingrid Berry.

Cecily discussed the work to update and produce a new community directory for Orkney and advised members to get in touch with information about their organisations if they had not already done so. She advised that organisations could have multiple entries based on the different services they offer.

## **8 AOCB**

### **Consultations**

Gail informed members that a number of consultations were taking place including a Scottish approach to taxation, a Child Poverty Bill and a consultation, which included over 100 questions, on how best to use the new Social Security powers in Scotland. Gail encouraged members to respond. Cecily will circulate details of the consultations.

**Action: Cecily**

### **Keeping warm in older homes event**

Michael informed members that an event on keeping warm in older homes would be held on 27 September. Home Energy Scotland, THAW, Historic Scotland and the Kirkwall Townscape Heritage Initiative would all be present to provide information and advice. He noted that two sessions would be held in the Kirkwall Town Hall from 12.00-2.00 and 7.00-9.00.

## **11 Dates of next meeting**

November 17 2016 VAO Board Room