



Minute of the Third Sector Forum meeting held at 11am on Thursday 23 March 2017 in the MacGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library

Present: Gail Anderson (VAO), Hazel Aim (ODF), June Anderson (RSO), Phyllis Braby (Orkney Heart Support Group), Frazer Campbell (Blide Trust), Pat Shields (Orkney InfoNet and Access Panel Orkney)

In attendance: Cecily Cromby (minutes), Elsie Cooper and Sandra Leslie (HomeStart Orkney)

1 Welcome

Gail welcomed those present and thanked them for attending

2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Hilary Allen, Helen Castle, Sheila Garson, Angela Green, Sam Payne, Gerd Peters.

3 Minutes of previous meeting held on 20 January 2017

The minutes were approved.

4 HomeStart Orkney – presentation by Elsie Cooper

Elsie provided members with an overview of the work of HomeStart Orkney. She advised that HomeStart had been operating in Orkney for just over 15 years and is part of HomeStart UK. The organisation employs three part-time co-ordinators and is managed by a Board of voluntary trustees. Currently 16 volunteers provide support to 27 families.

Elsie explained that HomeStart provided support to families in a range of different situations: sometimes where parents were experiencing difficulties such as isolation, anxiety and post-natal depression; and sometimes where the child had behavioural problems. Referrals were received from a variety of organisations including Health Visitors, Social Work and a range of third sector organisations. Parents were also able to self-refer. The only criteria for referral was that the family must have at least one child under the age of five.

Elsie explained that volunteers offered friendship along with practical and emotional support for parents. The service was non-judgemental and confidential. In addition HomeStart ran regular drop in sessions and had recently started a baby group for children under one year in addition to the general drop in.

Elsie explained that her Big Lottery funded role was to expand the service to the North Isles. She explained that there was a considerable need for support for families in sometimes isolated communities. She noted that the cost implications of taking the service to the Isles

was large, both in terms of money and time. She noted that the service incorporated support via Skype and messenger services.

Following a short video highlighting the work of volunteers and their matched families, Elsie and Sandra took questions from members. The relationship between volunteer and parent/s was discussed and Elsie advised that lasting friendships were often made. She explained that this was not an issue as once a friendship was established the volunteer would cease the role with HomeStart and remain as a friend. Sandra explained that the timescale of involvement with a family was dependent on need. Some involvements were time limited, for example the provision of support following surgery, and others were much longer term. All support was designed to be part of an enabling process.

Issues relating to service delivery in the Isles was discussed with difficulties surrounding logistics and confidentiality noted. Elsie noted that HomeStart volunteers did not necessarily need to be parents themselves, as skills and experience can be gained from looking after younger siblings or other family members. She explained that HomeStart had a wide age range of volunteers both male and female. Members discussed the difficulty of volunteer recruitment, especially for committee members. The increased demand for services from HomeStart and other voluntary organisations was discussed. Members noted that the reduced capacity of Social Work services was part of the reason for this. Gail advised that she would like to arrange a meeting for Social Work and third sector organisations.

5 Matters Arising

Item 4: Community Justice Partnership Model FAQs. Gail advised that she had put a request to members regarding a facilitated session on engaging with the new model. Nothing had been decided but the issue was still on the agenda. She noted and it was agreed that the Partnership felt that relations were good with the third sector.

Item 7: Robert Gordon's University. Gail advised that she had not yet heard back from the groups who had not signed the Information Sharing Protocol. She will follow this up. She noted the need for discussion regarding the use of the Protocol in practice.

Item 9: Your Island Your Choice funding. Gail advised that an event would be held on Saturday 25 March and that all islands except Sanday, Wyre and Egilsay would be represented. She noted that 13 islands had carried out their own events and that funds for 34 projects had been awarded.

6 Third Sector Forum

i. Draft restructure diagram (attached)

Gail noted that the draft strategy was in the process of being revised with the aim of being more concise and accessible. She advised that the strategy had been discussed at length by the TSWG. She advised that members were happy with the suggestion of quarterly meetings of the TSF, with one business meeting and three themed events. She advised that the TSWG would remain and noted that members of this group were from organisations who had Service Level Agreements with statutory bodies. Gail ran through the attached diagram and

advised that the quarterly TSF events would be open to everyone. The aim of the themed meetings was to encourage smaller groups to attend meetings that would be more relevant to them. Gail advised that she had spoken with members of heritage and cultural organisations and noted that they were keen to be more involved.

The need to attract membership and encourage attendance from the smaller groups and organisations was discussed. The option of a separate sub-group for smaller organisations was discussed and Pat suggested that smaller groups may feel isolated if channelled into such a group. The need to limit jargon and formal language was noted as this can be a barrier to smaller voluntary groups.

ii. Draft Terms of Reference (attached)

Gail asked members to look at the draft Terms of Reference and forward comments to her and/or Caron Jenkins.

7 Orkney Health and Care (OHAC)

i. Strategic Commissioning Plan Performance Report (attached)

Circulated

ii) Locality Consultation Report (attached)

Circulated

iii) Attending Anywhere Briefing Note (attached)

Gail advised that this was a proposal from Australia regarding the use of technology in remote areas. Members noted the poor digital connection in the Isles.

iv) Strategic Commissioning Plan Refresh (attached)

Gail advised that the Plan had been approved by the IJB Board and thanked members for their input.

v) Review of Community Representatives (verbal update)

Gail noted that the recruitment of third sector representatives to Locality Groups had been unsuccessful. She explained that a review of the process had been conducted and that valuable feedback had been provided. She advised that Locality Groups would now not be formed. Instead, OHAC would visit each parish and island over a two year period to consult and discuss community needs.

Pat advised that she attended the Your Community Your Say meeting in Stromness in January and that only six members of the public attended in addition to organisational representatives. Gail advised that the timescale for the consultation on the mainland was very tight and that it had not been possible to circulate the survey first, which in the isles had

encouraged more people to respond. Members discussed the difficulty of encouraging attendance at public meetings.

8 The Orkney Partnership

i) Board Meeting 16 March (verbal update)

Gail advised that the Locality Report was presented at the meeting on 16 March. The skills audit was also discussed at the meeting and Gail advised that a small group attached to the Vibrant Economic Environment group would take this work forward. She advised that the audit had focussed on the identified 'prime' age group of 19-45 years. Members agreed that this was not applicable to Orkney and that issues of an older working population needed to be discussed.

9 Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

i) Asset Transfer Guidance (attached)

Gail noted that the guidance was important for voluntary organisations and asked members if they needed further information. Frazer advised that the Blide Trust would help organise a Community Assets event with Highlands and Islands Enterprise planned for June. Gail advised that she would circulate relevant papers.

ii) Participation Requests Guidance (attached)

Gail highlighted the importance of the Guidance for third sector organisations.

8 Members Update

Blide Trust: Frazer advised that the Blide hoped to organise a mental health public consultation event in May. He noted that the event had backing from Cathy Cowan who had stated that she would like NHS managers to be involved. Frazer informed members that the Blide Trust was marking its 25 anniversary with a drop in celebration on 30 March.

Orkney Heart Support Group: Phyllis advised that the Orkney Heart Support Group AGM would be held in April. She noted that they currently had 74 members.

Orkney Disability Forum: Hazel informed members that there would be an independent living open day held on 29 March in the Youth Café, Kirkwall Town Hall. Hazel advised members that while carers could not order items on behalf of other people, ODF could order it for them. She advised that ODF and Dial-a-Bus had and would continue to work closely with VAOs befriending team and other organisations in planning a number of events.

Relationships Scotland Orkney: June noted that RSO had 10% more referrals in 2016-17 than the preceding year. She advised that an increasing number of cases were of a complex nature and that staff often had to deal with disclosures. She noted the difficulty of referring to the Community Mental Health team when cases presented with issues above the remit of RSO. Gail advised that other organisations had similar issues and that a collaborative approach was

needed. June advised that she would raise the issue through the healthy and sustainable communities group and Gail advised that the representatives would take this issue to the IJB.

VAO: Gail advised that VAO would celebrate its 50th birthday this year and that this would be celebrated at the AGM. She asked that organisations who VAO had helped to establish attend the AGM and share their stories. Gail discussed a recent request from the Big Change programme which looked at how the most vulnerable children in our community were supported. She asked that relevant organisations respond to a recent email requesting information on this.

9 AOCB

Listening group in Dounby: Pat informed members that the Milestone Church in Dounby had established a listening group to provide a one-to-one support service for members of the community. She noted that there had been no uptake of the service at present and members discussed the issues of confidentiality in a small community. It was suggested that the service could be promoted in the newsletters of member organisations.

Touched by Suicide: Frazer advised that a public meeting of the Touched by Suicide group would be held on 30 March.

10 Dates of next meetings

18 May 2017 – VAO Board Room, Anchor Buildings

20 July 2017 – MacGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library

21 September 2017 – VAO Board Room, Anchor Buildings

23 November 2017 – MacGillivray Room, Kirkwall Library