Third Sector Strategy Group

3rd October 2024, 1pm – 3pm

**Present**

Jocelyn Crawford (WLCAN), Alan McCloskey (VSGWL), Louise Crozier (CAB), David Stewart FEDCAP), Collette Moran (School bank), Karen Campbell (MH Advocacy), Tracy Kerr (VSGWL), Victoria Isbister (VSGWL), Mike Niles (Carers of WL), Stuart Barrie (VSGWL), David McDonald (Whitburn), Simon Henderson (Simply Play)

**Apologies**

Marcia Moreira (Health in Mind), Neil Barnes (WLCAN), Mark Vance (WLDAS)

1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Previous minutes & matters arising

Minutes approved. Raymond fedback the results of the survey which included that members found guest speakers valuable and that 2 monthly was preferred to 6 weekly. Brief discussion surrounding providing reports ahead of meetings. Those present agreed that it could end up time consuming – both the writing and reading of reports –leading to inconsistency of some written, some verbal, some missing. Agreement that it would be useful to add links into the minutes where people can then read further about particular issues of interest. Noted that it is good to have minutes within a week of meeting for additional clarity and detail about things heard. Minutes have been going out a week before, can go out sooner.

1. Guest Speaker: [Fiona.Huffer@nhs.scot](mailto:Fiona.Huffer@nhs.scot): West Lothian H&SCP Neurorehabilitation Group

Please see presentation. They have completed a self-evaluation which highlighted gaps (such as reaching unpaid Carers) would like to work better with the Third Sector to better support the people in WL.

* + - * Looking for volunteers – both users and organisations to join meetings online. Please share presentation / contact details.
      * Meetings 1hr every 2 months online
      * CAB said they would be interested in a conversation.

1. Election of new Chair

Raymond has one more meeting before retires at Christmas. Now open to nominations! Agree agenda with Victoria every 2 months - no behind the scenes work. Important role, engaging with local authority and TSI.

1. Council/Sector Working Group updates & reps

Donald Forest has joined the working group bringing valuable insight. Alistair Shaw is standing down at the end of month. Alan met with council officials last week and is actively pursuing to have head of service sit in which would allow group to be more strategic as well as continuing to pursue multi year funding. Community fund opening early January – watch out for guidance and application form on Council platforms.

1. Community Planning Partnership presentation on Sector

CPP meeting did not go ahead at short notice due to property unavailability which was disappointing. It has not as yet been rescheduled. Next meeting Dec 2nd. Still want opportunity to present.

1. VSGWL report

Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Year 4 launched on Monday. Applications accepted until Noon October 31st. Q&A session held this morning. This was recorded and will be on our website. <https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/organisation-support/funding/>

Community centre review. Alan included concerns about the impact on communities in the Gateway report to Economy, Community & Empowerment, Wealth Building PDSP couple weeks ago. The Council proposes to review and potentially close local community centres to save one million pounds. VSGWL are meeting with management committees in November to listen and explore potential alternatives and open up communication with Council.

https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/events/

Survey is now live! Please feedback. https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/vsgwl-survey-2024/

Tracy updated about ongoing work to update service locator tool on our website by April 2025 – focus group met and looked at test website and fedback. We will be contacting local organisations in due course to check information held is correct and putting in place processes so that information can be easily updated in the future. https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/service-locator/

Community Benefit Gateway. Does anyone ever get anything? People bid for items / services needed and these are then gathered by NHS procurement. Successes include scales, cold water therapy and cherry pickers! Can come down to luck / timing, who needs what and who has what.

1. Forum/sector updates, developments, or consultations, e.g.
   1. PDSP Reps’ updates/feedback

Simon taking over as Education Rep when Raymond retires. Mike Niles is new Social Care rep and Stuart Barrie Corporate rep. Email Victoria if you would like included in any of the mailing lists. Helen advised she’s unsure whether she will be allowed to continue as rep for Public Community and Safety due to the changes in WLYAP’s tender. These changes are impacting on the whole network as part of the effectiveness is attending variety of meetings to gather / share information. Would be useful to have vice reps to ensure regular cover at all PDSPS.

* 1. WL Food Network

Trustees are considering a proposal from the larder. Panel meeting this afternoon to discuss Q3 funding - £45,000 available.

* 1. Children and Families Forum: Meetings now every 2 months. Next is October 22nd.
  2. Employability Forum

Changes to Partnership for Parents’ contract. The Larder won lot 3. Two new providers in West Lothian, Routes to Work and Impact Arts delivering Lot 1 / Lot 2.

* 1. Community Race Forum

Tracy advised it’s Black history month. A calendar of events happening across area is being pulled together. MD is working with asylum seekers in Cairn hotel to find ways of working together. MD represented the forum at African Women’s network event in Bathgate 2 weeks ago and is hoping to look at funding for forum event next year.

* 1. Volunteer Network

Martin from Safe Families gave a presentation. Volunteer Fayre scheduled w/c 27th January. Victoria connected a couple of members of the network who had spoken about aims and objectives from previous meetings.

* 1. Social Enterprise Network/Forum

Thanks to everyone who came to recent events: Income maximisation and the networking breakfast around marketing. Both well attended with interesting speakers. Looking to do more events including Christmas networking. Marketing materials available on Business Gateway site. Sumit event Edinburgh EICC Nov 7th £75. WL College event in October. VSGWL will be advertising for a consultant in the next week or so to support Social Enterprise.

* 1. Climate Action Network

Jocelyn fedback about recent successful event around water confluence. Closed eco development fund – applicants will hear shortly. Soon giving away orchard trees to members. Hope to do work around energy over the winter.

* 1. Older Peoples’ Provider Forum

Winter Fuel payment discussion. Guest speaker: Cruse.

* 1. Any others?...

1. AOCB: none
2. Next meeting details: November 21st 1pm

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| TSSG Dates 2025 | Raymond | Completed |
| Advertise forum chair | Victoria with action note | Completed |
| Update PDSP reps on website | Victoria & David | Completed |
| PDSP deputy request | Victoria with action note | Completed |