Chair: Linden Raeburn (WLC) Linden.Raeburn@westlothian.gov.uk

Secretariat: Victoria Isbister (VSGWL) Victoria.Isbister@VSGWL.org

**Present**

Gillian Dunnigan (Social Security) Ray Fallon (VSGWL) Elizabeth Campbell (HCL)

Susan Proudfoot (CAB) Jennifer Harley (Team Jak) Leighann Bishop (Xcite)

Lisa Callaghan Maureen Colquhoun (WLC)

**Apologies**

Sharon Rae / Sandra Stark (OPAL) Claire Garton (NHS) Pat Henderson (Carers)

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Linden opened the meeting and noted apologies.

1. **Last minutes and previous actions.**

Linden thanked Victoria for previous detailed minutes particularly service updates and to Tricia Henderson for help with moving logo. Did best could with resources provided.

1. **Guest Speaker: Leighann Bishop**
* New to Ageing Well role following Avril’s retirement but been with Xcite for 9yrs.
* Ongoing range of physical activities for 50+.
* Completed impact assessment to identify what’s missing - Men’s groups and Seated / low-level exercises for those not quite able.
* Event planning: couple in September then Silver Sunday ~ Nov 17th.
* Received funding from Love 2 Move, available to all however targeted for those with dementia as exercises work brain independently on both sides. All instructors undertaking training, once qualified will roll out across Xcite and community.
* Please get in touch if you need any information or help.
1. **Volunteer Fayre update: Wed June 5th: Bathgate Partnership Centre**
* Maureen fedback that Fayre was successful. MacMillan / Advice shop had 2-3 potential recruits who are coming along to information day Thursday. Maureen thinks it may be good having follow up event.
* 11 services attended on the day. Public attendance could have been better despite wide advertisement – what / where else could it have been advertised? Good footfall in the partnership Centre on the day.
* In previous years held 4 or 5 fayres. Do more or stick with one event?
* Ray said she is currently working with Midlothian and Lothian TSI’s on promoting volunteering, consensus that it is difficult to find volunteers. Ray wondered whether organisations were recruiting independently rather than through third partis such as TSI. Ray feels there is a limited scope of vacancies and is looking forward to meeting with 2 corporate organisations next month.
* Linden spoke about positive results from pathways placements and recent talk with Women into Work - 4 of whom were interested. Temp placements often lead to something permanent. Shadowing is also useful for experience.
* HCL - 10 or 11 enquiries on the day. Some of their volunteers have left for paid part time positions due to cost-of-living crisis.
* CAB – not many enquiries on the day.

Fayres can happen any time of year, open to suggestions. Decided January could be good time.

1. **Celebration Volunteer Event Planning: Big event 2025**

Should begin planning sooner rather than later.

1. Subgroup: Meet once a month: online or in person.
2. Volunteer ideas: Ask volunteers, what event would they like?

“Fancy” evening event? Afternoon tea? Dancing?

1. How many volunteers are there throughout West Lothian? Mo working on mapping exercise. It would be interesting as well as positive news story if had accurate numbers.
2. **Service Updates**
* Team Jak: Enjoyed meeting people at fayre. Many people use volunteering as work experience to get a job, something to add to CV. One person travelled from Edin by bus to attend Fayre. Team Jak have regular corporate volunteers and their time is greatly valued. Recently, they were wrapping up lucky dip gifts for fundraiser. Events next month include Big Breakfast on 1st Sunday of the month which is always well attended by families.
* VSGWL: Out and about promoting volunteering, exploring best practices, sharing resources.
* CAB: Has double number of volunteers from last year, continual recruitment. Form filling takes a lot of time. Would be good to have more people for Saturday service, few students are moving on.
* Xcite: Few volunteers on the system. Open to discussions about placements
* HCL: Circular community bus runs from Uphall through Broxburn. Due to funding changes, have had to make small changes to timetable. Website updated, paper copies available. Good local feedback. Free travel with concessionary pass. Looking at range of environmental impact issues i.e. vehicles, drop off / pick up points, increased pedestrian zones Edin (which may affect route), low emission zones (currently blue badge exempt). Many journeys from West Lothian cross border e.g. hospital. Elizabeth sits on accessibility commission who have a voice with Transport commission.
* Social Security: No volunteers currently but would like to have a conversation about it. Carers support payment rolling out.

[Social Security Scotland - Thousands more carers now able to apply for benefit](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/news-events/news/thousands-more-carers-now-able-to-apply-for-benefit)

[Social Security Scotland - Events](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/news-events/events)

[Building better benefits (socialsecurity.gov.scot)](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/asset-storage/production/downloads/A-guide-to-our-benefits_March-2024_translated.pdf)

* Volunteering team: Linden said that Rosie, who has been with team a long time, has decided to take severance following restructuring of advice shop. Everyone wishes her well on next steps.
* Community connections: Retraining volunteers who will go into new roles soon. Few vacancies in oncology chatting to people waiting on treatment, a/m and p/m Monday to Friday. Some days top heavy i.e. need people on a Friday. Donna continues to man the hubs, 6 will still run.
* Home Start: Busy, with families and struggling with volunteers. Perhaps due to intensive training course. Potentially supporting families 1-2hrs per week for 6-12mths, commitment is expected however understand life / time challenges. Disheartening when train people who then leave. Some go on to get a job. Volunteers support families in the home and also volunteering in groups. Summer events include wellbeing nutrition events with Marie Claire Donnelly, regular play groups running, trip to zoo and train to Edin for picnic. Re-advertised pot, admin / finance.
1. AOCB

None. Decision to skip July meeting due to holidays.

Next meeting: August 27th 2pm TEAMS

Actions

1. Email any volunteer or placements opportunities to Ray.fallan@vsgwl.org
2. Work towards Volunteer fayre in January. Feedback welcome on day, date, location.
3. First meeting off sub-group: Email Linden if interested (TEAMS link Aug 27th 3pm)
4. Ask volunteers what event they would like - everyone
5. Please complete MS Form link about the number of volunteers your organisation has