



Minutes of a meeting of Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector Forum on Tuesday 25 November 2008 at 10.30 a.m. at the Council Offices, Edinburgh Road, Dumfries

Present:

Ann Stephenson, Senior Community Worker	Age Concern Scotland
Innes McMinn, Unit Manager	APEX Scotland (<i>up to item 2</i>)
Ollie Gallagher, Services Manager	British Red Cross
Peter Ross, Vice Chair	Building Healthy Communities
Barbara Radcliffe, General Manager	Care Training Consortium
Gina McKune, Co-ordinator	Children 1 st
Peter Ingram-Monk, Chairman	D&G Access Panel
Irene Mungall, Chief Executive	D&G Citizens Advice Service
John Scoular, Chair	D&G Day Centre Network
Carole Williams, Development Manager	D&G Elderly Forum
Joyce Harkness, Executive Officer	D&G Federation of CVS
Jeanette Holliday, Supporting People Manager	DGHP
Michelle McCrindle, Chief Executive	Food Train
Helen Turner, Assistant Director	Hollywood Trust
Jim Carruthers, Manager	Relationships Scotland
Lil McWilliams, Area Manager	The Richmond Fellowship Scotland
Carolyn Little, Co-ordinator	User & Carer Involvement
Morven Campbell, Project Coordinator	User & Carer Involvement
Gillian Vance, Vice-Chair	VOICE
Steven Schwartz, Deputy Manager	Volunteer Action Dumfries & Galloway (<i>to item 6</i>)

In Attendance:

Liz Thompson	D&G Federation of CVS
Denise Kearney	D&G Council (<i>for item 2</i>)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Joyce Harkness welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Aberlour, Alzheimer's Scotland, D&G Accessible Transport Forum, D&G Coalition of Disabled People, D&G Small Communities Housing Trust, Headway, LGBT Youth Scotland, National Schizophrenia Fellowship Scotland, Parents Inclusion Network, Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Scottish Pre-school Play Association, Turning Point Scotland and Andy Jack, The Richmond Fellowship Scotland.

2. D&G Single Outcome Agreement and new Community Plan

i Workshop on the SOA

The group agreed the following points:

Vision

The statement was too long. The suggested revised statement was “*We shall work together to bring about a Dumfries & Galloway in which people feel better connected, secure and at home, making it the natural place to live, work, learn and visit.*”

Principles

- each should have a one line explanation underneath it;
- “respect” should be added after equality or be a separate principle;
- value for money should be changed to “best value and practice”;
- “transparency” and “accountability” were missing.

High level local outcomes

It was felt that the outcomes were very relevant but some changes were needed:

- “vibrant” should be added to the first outcome;
- quality of life and a more fulfilling life needed to be part of the consideration of “more active and healthy lives” in the second outcome;
- the third outcome “a place where people feel better connected, secure and at home” could be better phrased.

Strategic objectives

Wealthier and Fairer

- the first objective should read “increase economic **activity and** regeneration to recognise what was already happening;
- the last objective should read “ensure key services are **accessible** across the region” rather than “available”.

Healthier

- the objective “maintain or improve health and wellbeing services” should be changed to “improve health and wellbeing services” as “maintain” was not used anywhere else in the objectives and was not considered acceptable;
- there needed to be additional objectives concerned with being proactive in the planning of services which would be fit for purpose and improve quality of life, in the context of Dumfries and Galloway’s demography.

Smarter

- the second objective should be “to secure **and retain** a higher skilled workforce”;
- everyone should have access to positive learning environments, not just children and young people.

Greener

- objectives were very broad-ranging.

It was agreed that the response would be submitted on behalf of all those who had participated in the workshop. **Action: DGFedCVS**

Two SOA workshops were being held, on 4 December and 11 December and the Third Sector had 5 places. Anyone who wished to attend should contact Joyce.

Action: all

Joyce thanked all those who had participated in the SOA Theme Groups and said that the issues raised in the reports would be added to the collective response on the SOA.

ii Report from 3SF Older People SOA Theme Group

The report from the group was noted. The approach taken had been to agree priorities based on the participants' experience and 6 actions had been identified which should be included in the SOA. It was felt that there was a need for a task force which would push for important issues to be addressed.

iii Report from 3SF Mental Health SOA Theme Group

The report from the group was noted. It was agreed that further consideration needed to be given to learning disability services. There was also an issue about how the SOA was put together as there was a need to convert it into an easily understandable format for some of the service users.

It was noted that the Health, Equality, Access and Treatment (HEAT) targets included preventive measures such as reductions in suicides, prescribing of anti-depressants and admissions to acute mental health in-patient services.

iv Report from 3SF Children's Services SOA Theme Group

The report from the group was noted. The group had met just after the guidance on the content of the SOA had been issued and therefore had had the benefit of clarity on what was high level and what would be included in work plans. The group felt that the Integrated Children's Services Plan was narrow and there was a lack of strategic planning for the whole area.

It was noted, that as a result of the work on the SOA, Gillian Vance had received a request to give a talk to one group's staff development session. She had referred the request to Joyce, but it was evidence that the connections were working.

On a general level, there was a view that there was a lack of strategic planning and a lack of engagement with the Third Sector. However, the group recognised that the Third Sector had moved forward a long way in the last year.

It was agreed that:

- the collective feedback on the SOA would be submitted to the SOA Theme Leads, Donna Mounce, Dumfries & Galloway Council SOA contact, and the Joint Management Team;
- a copy, for information only, would be sent to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Joint Planning Board;
- all present were happy to be named as organisations involved in producing the collective response;
- in view of the deadline (27 November), Joyce would produce the collective response and submit it.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 23 September 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2008 were approved.

4. Matters arising

Registered Social Landlords

Joyce reported that she had not as yet been able to take the action agreed and would report back to the next meeting. **Action: DGFedCVS**

“Covalent” update

There was no capacity at present for Third Sector organisations to be trained on the use of the “Covalent” information system but the request had been logged.

Protection of vulnerable adults

Joyce had raised this with Marie Jackson from Stewartry CVS, who was trying to contact Phyllis Wright at the Council about representation on the local working group.

Community Planning Training Group

Grace Cardozo, LGBT Youth, had volunteered to be the second 3SF representative on the Community Planning Training Group. This was approved. Joyce would e-mail Liz Manson to let her know. **Action: DGFedCVS**

Proforma for reporting back to 3SF

This would be dealt with at the next meeting. **Action: DGFedCVS**

5. Dumfries & Galloway Compact

It was noted that the launch event had been successful and positive feedback had been received, particularly on how far engagement with the Third Sector had improved.

The “top 10 commitments” poster was being circulated and the aim was to have it displayed in as many organisations’ front offices as possible. The target was to have 30 organisations signing up to the Compact this year; it was likely that this had already been achieved. It was noted that Steven Schwartz had volunteered to deliver informal training to one organisation on what involvement in the Compact would require before deciding whether to sign up.

Four local awareness events were being held across the region at the end of January or early February. These would be delivered by the area CVS and the Rural Partnerships on behalf of the Compact Implementation Group.

A working group had been established to plan the conference in March 2009 and anyone interested in joining was asked to let Joyce know. **Action: all**

6. Fairer Scotland Fund

Irene and Joyce reported on the Fairer Scotland Fund. The key points were:

- work plans for different areas of work were being agreed;
- services would be put out to tender but the timetable for responses was likely to be short;

- consortium bids were more likely to succeed than individual bids;
- the fund was about additionality, not existing services;
- Irene and Joyce would be happy to help any organisations considering a consortium bid;
- information would be posted on the FSF website but Joyce would alert members to opportunities as they occurred **Action: DGFedCVS**
- work plans would be circulated to members, subject to checking with Dawn Redpath, Fund Manager that this would be in order **Action: DGFedCVS**

7. D&G Community Health and Social Care Partnership

i. Note of meeting with John Burns, CEO of NHS Dumfries & Galloway

The notes of the meeting were received.

ii. Dates for workshop with senior NHS staff and third sector organisations

Joyce had circulated members about the date for the workshop. The date agreed was 10 February 2009. **Action: DGFedCVS**

8. Development of the Third Sector Forum

i. Update on 3SF membership/questionnaires returned

It was noted that, of a contact list of 50, 26 questionnaires had been returned. Not all organisations had been able or willing to share information on turnover (though individual responses were kept in confidence by DGFed CVS) but of the response received so far:

- 20 organisations who responded had a total of 83.3 FTE staff
- 20 organisations who responded had a total of 1,033 volunteers
- 10 organisations who responded had a collective turnover of £1.049million

The benefit of collecting this type of information was recognised.

ii. Update on development of area 3SFs

It was noted that:

- initial meetings had been held by Annandale & Eskdale and Nithsdale with around 8 organisations attending each;
- some of those attending had been from regional organisations operating at a local level, which may raise issues of capacity;
- Wigtown area 3SF was meeting today, 25 November, and Nithsdale's second meeting was from 10 – 12 on Wednesday 3 December at NW Resource Centre, Dumfries.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a representative from each area 3SF attending the regional meeting to help with communication, but this depended on feedback from each area group on their thoughts. The conference in March could provide an opportunity to clarify structures and reporting arrangements.

There was a suggestion that a bid could be made to the Big Lottery for funding to map Third Sector organisations across the region.

It was also agreed that the Action Plan and Partnership Protocol for the 3SF should be reviewed at the next meeting. **Action: DGFedCVS**

9. Other business

Joyce circulated two papers, one from ARC Scotland on working with people with learning disability in Dumfries & Galloway and the other about the Dumfries & Galloway Learning Disability Interest Group. These would also be sent out by e-mail. **Action: DGFedCVS**

10. Next meeting

Wednesday 4 February 2009 at 10.30 a.m. – venue to be advised.