

## Nithsdale Third Sector Forum

**Notes from: Nithsdale Third Sector Forum Meeting**  
**Venue: DGMA Building, Irish Street, Dumfries**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2008**

<b>Present</b>	
Karen Lewis – Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Services	Katrina Branney - Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Services
Rosemary Murray – Solway Credit Union	Tom Featherstone - TGWU
Caroline Uchima – World Peace Prayer Society	Lynn Bryson - ECHO
Laura McMorran - ECHO	Jim Carruthers – Relate/ Family Mediation
John Dowson – Coalition of the Disabled	Hazel Thompson - ADSSWS
Fay Salmon - WRVS	
<b>Apologies</b>	
Sheila Campbell - BHC	Helen Turner – Holywood Trust
Barbara Radcliffe – Care Training Consortium	

Introductions were made by all who attended that first meeting of the Nithsdale Third Sector Forum. All also shared information on the services within which they work and their knowledge of Third Sector Forums.

### **The aim of the meeting was also agreed:**

- Agree expectations, make up and remit of the NTSF
- Discuss ways of working in partnership and how the forum will operate.

### **Group Work Discussion 1:**

What type of Forum do we want?

Through discussion it was agreed that the type of forum we would like were one –

- that can share resources
- Addresses issues around funding
- Reduces isolation as individual organisations
- Works effectively together
- Works in better partnership with external agencies
- Gets right into the heart of community planning
- Gives us a collective voice
- Doesn't duplicate or undermines existing partnerships or organisations
- Feeds into the regional 3SF and in what way?
- Has 2 representatives nominated to attend the Regional 3SF meetings
- Keeps each other informed on what is happening in the voluntary sector – give us information to share with volunteers
- A lobbying Forum

- One that interacts with Dumfries and Galloway Council / Community Planning at local level.
- One that shares ideas of places to source funding
- Works effectively together, builds networks and relationships
- Work towards becoming approved providers – to evidence the professionalism of our organisations
- Avoid just becoming a talking shop –  
To have aims and objectives  
To take action and be able to make decisions.

### **Group Work Discussion 2:**

What Form and Function Should the Forum Take?

- If we were a forum we would register as that and we would receive important documents that we may not as individuals
- The forum would prevent people being uninformed: so often we have had to enter into discussions about things we have no idea about – Concordat, Compact , Single Outcome Agreements
- Would like to become more pro-active in setting and addressing the agenda
- Sharing information would prevent the instances of duplication of work and services.
- Pass on more information about structures etc, Local Regional Partnerships and Community Planning
- The forum would highlight organisations
- Promote quality and standards/ credibility
- Education / training – facilitator rather than provider
- Come together to identify local initiatives and solutions – pro active
- The forum should be open to anyone who is involved an voluntary/ community sector in Nithsdale
- Have an impact on the Community Planning consultation
- NCVS to facilitate
- How will it be resourced – to be tabled at the next LRP meeting? Also perhaps each organisation pays a minimal membership fee. This will also encourage commitment to the NTSF.

### **Other Items Discussed:**

That a directory of each Community and Voluntary sector organisation in Nithsdale be developed.

### **Date and time of next meeting:**

**10am – 12midday – 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2008 @ North West Resource Centre, College Drive Lincluden.**