

Nithsdale Third Sector Forum

Notes: Nithsdale Third Sector Forum Meeting
Venue: North West Resource Centre
Lincluden, Dumfries
4th February 2009

Present	
Katrina Branney - Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Services	Karen Lewis – Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Services
Caroline Uchima – World Peace Prayer Society	Sheila Campbell - BHC
Helen Turner – Holywood Trust	Andy Todman – Loreburn Housing
Fiona Buckley – Welfare Rights	Marjorie Thom – Georgetown Community Centre
Ollie Galligan – Red Cross	Paul McGregor – Locharbriggs Village Hall
Linda Shearer - DAGCAS	
Elaine Colquhoun- ILS	
Apologies	
Laura McMorran - ECHO	
Barbara Radcliffe – Care Training Consortium	
Claire Dickinson - ILS	
Tom Featherstone - TGWU	
Rosemary Murray – Solway Credit Union	

1. Welcome and Apologies

Thanks to Sheila Campbell – Building Healthy Communities Dumfries area, who agreed to chair this meeting

Introductions were made by all who attended the 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.

Apologies given to Fiona Buckley, whose name was omitted from the attendance list for the previous meeting, and Ollie Galligan who was named as Olwyn McCormack.

2. Approval of Notes of previous meeting

Notes from previous meeting stated as being correct.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising were raised.

4. Name of Forum

Questions were asked: What exactly are the 1st and 2nd sectors?

Discussions took place around the name of the Nithsdale Forum.

Agreed; the name of the group will be – [The Nithsdale Voluntary Sector Forum](#)

Change of name will not affect the links the local forum has with the Regional 3rd Sector Forum.

5. Response to E-mail from the Fairer Scotland Fund Manager

Issues raised by group:

- Some of the Action Plans disseminated to members and contacts were actually out of date and did not give a clear indication of what projects/ activities would be considered for commissioning by the FSF. This was especially significant in the Health and Wellbeing Action plan that was distributed.
- Concerns that wrong information given out to the Voluntary Sector and that some of the information was three months old.
- There is actually a lot of confusion of exactly what is expected of organisations who wish to bid in for the tenders.
- Concerns were raised re: the working groups who may not have the full picture in relation to the voluntary sector in Nithsdale
- Do not feel that the voluntary/ community sector are fully represented on steering groups etc as it is difficult for 2 people to be fully representative of the sector
- Concerns raised re: the tight timescales to submit tenders

Agreed; Respond to Fairer Scotland Manager by e-mail
Agreed; Letter to the FSF Steering group and Liz Manson – Community Planning Joint Board

Action: KB

The NVSF would like to receive a calendar of when all meetings take place in relation to the FSF and the CPJB.

The idea of having a diagram that explains the structures in relation to the CPJB, FSF, Steering Groups, R3SF, Local Forums, LRP etc was discussed as being very useful for all the voluntary sector organisations to have.

Action: KB

6. Letter to Community Planning Joint Board: re: Equality of Forums

Agreed: to write to the CPJB to explain the nature of the local 3rd Sector Forums and the feeling is that engagement should take place not only with the R3SF but also the local forums.

Action: KB

7. Compact Awareness Events

The group was informed that this event will take place at the Station Hotel on the 5th of March. People wishing to attend should contact Katrina Branney at NCVS.

Action: All

8. Single Outcome Agreement Consultations

Discussions took place about the various consultation events attended and the following issues were raised:

- Some members of the group felt that the Draft document and information was out of date and questions were raised in relation to its validity.
- Reference Document: it was felt that there was insufficient documentation of representation.
- It was felt that the document did not provide information on the aspirations of Dumfries and Galloway but is more about what has already been done.
- In relation to the Employment section, it states that they should maintain employment levels. It was felt that this should be – Increase employment opportunities and the level of people employed in the region.
- The group did state that it was good that people’s views were sought and ideas put forward.
- Who is monitoring the plan?
- There is little attention in the document in relation to the demographic challenges of Dumfries and Galloway.
- Little link between one theme and another.
- There are items in the SOA that it was felt cannot be measured.

9.Futures of our Projects and Organisations

Some organisations felt that it was quite difficult to understand the processes in relation to funding.

DAGCAS informed the group that 2 projects would be ending due to lack of funding.

BHC also informed the group that there was uncertainty around the part time posts within BHC due to lack of funding.

NCVS is currently trying to gauge the impact of funding cuts on the Voluntary sector in Nithsdale.

10. Date of next meeting

23rd of April, 10.00am @ Oasis Centre, Newall Terrace Dumfries

(Any future agenda items to be forwarded to K.Branney at katrina.branney@ncvs.org.uk at least 7 days prior to each meeting)