

## Nithsdale Third Sector Forum

**Minutes: Nithsdale Third Sector Forum Meeting**  
**Venue: North West Resource Centre**  
**Lincluden, Dumfries**  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2008**

<b>Present</b>	
Katrina Branney - Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Services	Jim Carruthers – Relate/ Family Mediation
Caroline Uchima – World Peace Prayer Society	Sheila Campbell - BHC
Hazel Thompson - ADSSWS	Claire Thirwell - ECHO
Irene Mungall – Regional 3SF / Community Planning Joint Board	Ronnie Nicholson - Councillor
Olwyn McCormack – Red Cross	Morven Campbell - UCI
Linda Shearer - DAGCAS	Claire Dickinson - ILS
Elaine Colquhoun- ILS	Denise Kearney – Policy and Community Planning Unit , Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>Apologies</b>	
Laura McMorrان - ECHO	Helen Turner – Holywood Trust
Barbara Radcliffe – Care Training Consortium	Fay Salmon - WRVS
Karen Lewis – Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Services	
Tom Featherstone - TGWU	
Lynn Bryson - ECHO	
Rosemary Murray – Solway Credit Union	

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.

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

- Denise Kearney – Policy and Community Planning Unit, Dumfries and Galloway Council to carry out consultation with the group re: Dumfries and Galloway's Single Outcome Agreement and Community Plan and to discuss any other issues that may arise throughout the meeting.

**Matters Arising from Meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008**

Irene Mungall informed the group that the resourcing of the Local 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Forums had been tabled at the Local Regional Partnership (LRP) meeting and it is expected that the LRP will be resourcing the local forums.

Irene felt it was unlikely that the Regional 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Forum would agree to two representatives from each local forum attending the meetings. It was suggested that two names be put forward to attend as representatives for N3SF and one to attend each meeting. This was agreed by the group that there should be representation from each local forum attending at regional level.

Many of the group expressed that they had not been in receipt of information about the Single Outcome Agreement, Regional 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Forum or the Community Planning Joint Board.

**Action: Irene Mungall to pass information, minutes, dates of meetings etc to Katrina Branney – Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Services, and she will disseminate the information.**

Katrina Branney then introduced Denise Kearney – Policy and Community Planning Unit, Dumfries and Galloway Council:

Each member of the N3SF was issued with a Background Paper which provided information on Community Planning and which set out areas for discussion around which the 2009-2012 Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement will be formed.

Denise explained that the recent Community Plan is now out of date and there will be a new Community Plan developed for the Spring of 2009. The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) has to be amended or re-written as the first SOA was developed within a very tight timescale.

Dumfries and Galloway Council are carrying out consultations relating to these two documents by visiting existing groups, online surveys, customer surveys and the Fire Rescue Service are carrying out a survey by consulting with local people during visits. The aim is to have a draft of both the Single Outcome Agreement and the Community Plan to the Scottish Government by February 2009 and it will be available in draft form on the Dumfries and Galloway Council website before end of December.

Denise explained that the aim is for the Community Plan document to be at the most six pages and will consist of the strategic outcomes for Dumfries and Galloway. The Single Outcome Agreement will evidence ways in which it is hoped that these outcomes will be delivered.

#### Discussion 1: Draft Long Term Vision for Dumfries and Galloway

*We shall work together to bring about a Dumfries and Galloway in which people, making the most of the region's natural and cultural assets, are listened to, treated equally and respected; earn more, from a wider range of activities; live more active and healthy lives; are better equipped for a changing world; tread more lightly on the planet and feel better connected, secure and at home making it the natural place to live, work, learn and visit.*

(Source: SOA 2008-09)

Issues and Ideas expressed:

- The vision is far too long
- Understand that it is trying to be all encompassing
- Perhaps have a strap line with bullet points underneath
- Keep it short and sharp
- Objectives should be expanded
- Need something that reflects Dumfries and Galloway specifically
- Should be in simpler terms for all to understand

- Perhaps have “ make life better for the people in communities in Dumfries and Galloway”
- Welcoming is missing
- Dumfries and Galloway has the lowest paid workforce in Scotland – should let people know that we will support learning, building skills. E.g. “Our vision is to provide.....

### 3.2 Principles

Suggested principles are:

1. Equality
2. Sustainability
3. Value for money
4. Community Engagement
  - Could perhaps be community participation
  - “Look at the amount of money that has been wasted in Dumfries and Galloway in the past, having value for money may open a can of worms”
  - “ Value for money means something different to each individual”
  - More comfortable with the term “Best Value”
  - Document is a living document, these are evolving principles
  - Under each principle have a brief description of their meaning
  - Fifth principle – Transparency

### 3.3 High level Local Outcomes

- 1. Innovative perhaps not the right word
- Vibrant
- Creative and vibrant
- 2. Happy and fulfilling
- 3. What does “ feel better connected” mean
- 3. What does “at home” mean – this would perhaps suggest that everyone has a home
- 3. Perhaps take out “ at home” altogether
- 3. Reflects safer element but not the stronger, secure and in control
- 5. What are the cultural assets that are talked about here – questioning – without definition

Objectives – purely examples – come from Dumfries and Galloway’s corporate plan

#### 3.4.1 Wealthier and Fairer

- Too much focus on regeneration
- Sustainability should also be a focus
- Support what we already have
- A rural area would be harder hit, will take longer to recover
- Maintain and sustain what we already have
- Quality of opportunity
- Not managed to do anything yet to address and reduce the inequalities gap.
- How do the local authority view ‘Disadvantaged’

- To those disadvantaged across the whole region
- Role – to inform, not influence

#### 3.4.2 Healthier

- Maximising quality of life

#### 3.4.3 Safer and Stronger

- Take out the 'safest' and replace with 'safer'
- Should be something in there about recognising and embracing diversity and the different strands of diversity

#### 3.4.4 Smarter

- On point 3 change children and young people to 'everyone'
- The word retain is also missing: would like the educated, skilled, knowledgeable to stay in D&G rather than move out of the area
- Positive learning environments are essential and important

#### 3.4.5 Greener

- 'Civic pride' very jargonistic
- Promote appreciation of the environment
- Possibly weave the green theme through the other 4 themes

There will be a 2 month negotiation period with the Scottish Government which has a deadline of May 2009

The Community Plan will be in place for 3 years

It will be a live document that may change and evolve over the time.

These minutes to be with Denise Kearney by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 08 – **Action KB**

Following on from this was some discussion around the Fairer Scotland Fund and questions around the new Fairer Scotland staffs remits and roles.

It was decided that the group would invite Dawn Redpath (Fairer Scotland Fund Manager) to the next meeting in order to address these questions – **Action KB**

Irene Mungall informed the group that herself and Joyce Harkness (D&G Federation of CVS's) are the community and voluntary sector representatives on the Fairer Scotland Fund Working Group. There were questions around how representation was decided.

Irene Mungall then went on to explain that The Working Group have drawn up short plans which take in-

- Employability
- Health
- Children and Young People
- Financial Inclusion

If one group/ service exists can provide what is required then it will be commissioned to carry out the work. If there are more than one service which can provide what is required then it will go out to tender.

2 x years funding will be ring fenced  
3<sup>rd</sup> year will be unringfenced

Contract will last for 2 years

Scoring of the tenders –

Dumfries and Galloway Council will set the criteria and then this will be agreed by the working group which consists of:

CLD/ Police/ NHS/ DAGCOL/ 3<sup>RD</sup> Sector/ SEDG/ SWTRANS

Date of the next meeting: This will be determined by the availability of Dawn Redpath.