

**Notes of the meeting of A&E 3SF, Nithsdale Voluntary Sector
Forum and Stewartry Voluntary Sector Forum
held on 2nd March 2010**

Present:

Geoff Kitt, Moffat & District Community Initiative	A&E 3SF
Sharon Ledger, Annan Initiative	A&E 3SF
Kate Nutt, AECVS	A&E 3SF
Marian Silvester, AECVS	A&E 3SF
Bill McCormack, Welfare Rights	Nithsdale VSF
Karen Lewis, NCVS	Nithsdale VSF
Marie Jackson, SCVS	Stewartry VSF

- This meeting had been arranged following discussions about representation at A&E 3SF meeting on 18th January 2010 and the concerns those members present had about how local third sector forums are not represented regionally and have no voice at a regional level.
- Unfortunately 2 members of Stewartry VSF due to attend the meeting and 1 from Nithsdale VSF gave their apologies. (Miriam Owen, Accessible Transport Forum and Hazel Thompson, Alcohol and Drug Support South West Scotland from Stewartry VSF and Ollie Gallagher, British Red Cross from Nithsdale VSF) However, the Stewartry VSF members had provided input to the meeting via Marie Jackson.
- The key areas of concern identified were:-
 - Representation (regional 3SF and nominated representatives on various community planning groups have not been nominated by the sector to represent the sector)
 - How local organisations/Forums get their voice heard at a regional level (needs statutory agencies to recognise local 3SFs have a voice at a regional level equal to the voice of the regional 3SF)
 - Distribution of information and correspondence from statutory organisations relating to regional Community Planning matters (local CVS and 3SF are not receiving all info distributed)
 - D&G Council, NHS and other partner agencies/bodies are defaulting contact/information to D&G Federation of CVS and the Regional 3SF despite attempts by local CVSs and local 3SFs to be included in the distribution of information
 - That only organisations signed up to the Compact can complete a Compact Record Form
- It was agreed that the following actions would be taken back to the three Forums for discussion:-
 - A letter to be sent from each Forum (and signed by those members in agreement) to Justin Tracy asking 1) names of those third sector representatives on all Community Planning

groups 2) how does DGC perceive third sector representation 3) that all info distributed by DGC to the Regional 3SF be sent to the four local 3SFs too (via local CVSs) as well as highlighting that local 3SFs are not currently being represented at a regional level.

- In terms of representation at a regional level, and ensuring local organisations voices are heard, the 2 options are: 1) each local Forum nominates a representative to the Regional 3SF or 2) the local 3SFs form a collective group with representation from each local Forum

It was also agreed that:-

- The issue of organisations not signed up to the Compact not being able to submit a Compact Record Form to be followed up by Karen Lewis (Nithsdale 3SF have already raised this issue and were told it would be reviewed)