

Voluntary Action Scotland

Inaugural Meeting of Board of **Voluntary Action Scotland**.
16th April 2009 at PKAVS, Perth.

This first briefing from the Board seeks to summarise the main business under discussion, and the decisions and action arising. A Minute of the meeting will be available on request and will be put onto our Website in due course.

Those present at the meeting were:

Niall Smith, Harry Whiteside, Alasdair Nicolson, Kenny Murphy, Don Hunter Grant, Helen Rorrison, Jessie MacNeil, Sandy Milne and Helen Macneil.

Apologies: Gaynor Jones, Fiona Skilling.

In Attendance: Flora McKee V.A.L. (Minutes)

Handover from National Council

Harry Whiteside presented the end of year financial statement relating to the work of the National Council. This indicated a balance of £5,432 which would be transferred over as to a new account in the name of Voluntary Action Scotland. The cost of audit had been allowed for; a final statement would be issued to the Network. In reviewing the work and success over the year of the National Council appreciation was given for the administrative support provided through V.A.L. and for the commitment and professional manner in which all the members of the Steering Group had carried out their tasks.

Finalisation of Incorporation Documents.

We carefully considered all the helpful feedback received from the Network on the draft Memoranda and Articles which had been sent out, and agreed a number of changes as a result. A full record of the changes is available in the Minute. Niall Smith will make the necessary changes, and complete Forms 10 and 12, with the objective of having the necessary documentation signed of and witnessed at the next meeting on 28/29th May.

Election of Office Bearers

Harry Whiteside left the meeting at this stage, having indicated her willingness to stand for Chair. Gaynor Jones had also submitted a nomination and supporting statement. The high calibre of both candidates was acknowledged. After discussion on the qualities and abilities that were required of a Chair. it was unanimously agreed that Harry Whiteside be appointed Convenor – this title sounding more inclusive and reflective of how we wished to operate as a Board. It was further unanimously agreed that Sandy Milne be appointed Vice Convenor and Kenny Murphy be Company Secretary. Whilst Administration and Bookkeeping services would remain with V.A.L for the first year, Helen Macneil agreed to investigate assistance from G.C.V.S. Finance Manager / Accountant, to fulfil the formal treasury and scrutiny function.

Communication and Identity

The importance of continuing to maintain effective and open communication, to and from members and with other agencies was recognised. With technical assistance from Falkirk and District CVS we hoped to have a website, domain and email address for Voluntary Action Scotland set up soon. A logo / brand identity was a matter which would require some future decision, with input from the Network.

Full minutes would be available to all members on request and additional reports and matters of current concern and activity would be accessible through the website.

The need for all 4 of the Area Reps to maintain dialogue and discussion via the CVS Regional Meetings was emphasised, supported by the other Board Members.

The issue of ensuring that Voluntary Action Scotland was properly represented in other Forums, Working Groups and with other Organisations was also considered. Whilst it was agreed that we should take membership of S.C.V.O and of Volunteer Development Scotland, wider representation was held over to the May meeting where more time could be given to clarifying the key strategic objectives for this year.

We welcomed the good wishes that had come from N.A.C.V.A. and their willingness to offer help and exchange of ideas, the invitation from Local People Leading to engage in early discussions with them, the invitation to be billed on the flyer advertising a Social Enterprise Conference being organised by Renfrewshire CVS on 9th October and the invitation for Harry to Chair a Rural Seminar on 9th June. We were conscious of the need to ensure that our relationships and inputs were well-considered and strategic, but agreed there were benefits at this early stage in promoting our existence and viewpoint.

We welcomed the request from S.C.V.O. to attend our next meeting and hoped to also schedule in a separate meeting with Tracey Slaven from S.G. We will take the opportunity to identify where we might seek to best strategically place ourselves to maximise our contribution and influence. S.C.V.O was seeking nominations to the S.V.A. Management Group, but we decided that the nominees should come directly from the Network and that our role should be to seek nominations and conduct the election procedures. We set an outline timetable of nominations by 7th May with elections being completed by 18th May.

Members were already represented on the Scottish Government Task Force Reference Group; it was noted that further contribution to Sub-Groups and the Task Group itself should be discussed further with Tracey Slaven.

Future Funding of V.A.S.

The Board welcomed the financial commitment given by S.C.V.O of £15,000 towards core costs for this financial year with a further £2,500 to offset specific meeting / travel costs, which was paid in March 2009 to the steering group.

Harry reported that she has written to the Scottish Government for funding to cover the wider work of V.A.S., and we noted these discussions were at an early stage.

VAS had been invited by the SVA Programme Team to submit an application before their August meeting on the basis of undertaking development work within the Network.

Membership Fees

We agreed that membership fees should remain as set out in the National Council final report, but that we should not seek membership until such times as the Company was formally registered and material had been circulated highlighting the benefits of membership.

Annual Conference

Sandy reported back on the planning that had taken place so far in relation to the combined CVS / VC Annual Conference scheduled for October. Consideration was given to the need to have specific slots for CVS issues and report from Voluntary Action Scotland, the continuing need for a "Chairs Slot" and the need for a specific input on what is happening at the big picture level on Social Enterprise, potentially with an input from both Geoff Pope and SENSCOT. Sandy agreed to distribute a note from the last Conference Planning Group to the Board.

PMG Update.

Kenny gave an update on current work within the PMG and the interest that was being shown within PMG on the development of Voluntary Action Scotland. We agreed that we should seek an invitation to the next PMG meeting on 12th June to start a more formal discussion on matters of common concern and how we might bring both organisations into a closer alignment.

Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting is planned for 28/29th May, venue to be confirmed. Agenda items to include discussion with SG and S.C.V.O on strategic direction, identification of key issues impacting on CsVS, work plan and budget.

For further information contact: national.council@valochaber.org

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