

Voluntary Action Scotland

3rd Meeting of Board of **Voluntary Action Scotland.**

23rd June 2009, Edinburgh

This briefing from the Board seeks to summarise the main business under discussion. It is not a formal minute.

Those present at the meeting were:

Harry Whiteside, Alasdair Nicolson, Kenny Murphy, Helen Rorrison, Sandy Milne
Helen MacNeil, Gaynor Jones and Eliot Stark

Apologies: Fiona Skilling, Niall Smith

In Attendance: Flora McKee V.A.L. (Minutes), Geoff Pearson, Third Sector Team
(For discussion on Future Funding Formula)

Future Funding Formula

Geoff Pearson gave a brief presentation on the current thinking within the Third Sector Team in relation to the development of a formula, located within a "rational basis" which would determine future funding. Geoff emphasised that nothing as yet had been agreed by Government, that the formula he was presenting for discussion was one of a number considered within the Team and that the Directorate were keen to engage with VAS in seeking comment and advice on the development of a new formula. It was also acknowledged that the size of the "kitty" would not be determined until the spending review was complete. We did feel that what constitutes the "kitty" should be subject to discussion, and that as Interfaces develop, as direct funding becomes a reality, then there is likely to be a change in the contracts awarded to SCVO / VDS with possible impact on funds available to go directly to CVS / Interfaces.

The formula tabled by Geoff comprised 4 elements, a basic allocation for each area, a population element, rurality element and an element for deprivation in respect of Benefits and access to services. Whilst the basic element for each area was fixed, he welcomed comment on the other elements. It was clear however that any changes in the % allocations given to these elements would produce only minor variation in the final distribution – and that it would be an almost impossible exercise to argue the merits of a 5% or a 8% allocation in relation to population. The application of the formula as presented for discussion produced fairly minor changes in the share of the available budget to most organisations, but with the largest impact being on those areas where there are currently multiple CVS (negative impact) and in those areas where large population centres would attract increased share of funding. Whether a formula was rational could probably be argued till the cows came home, whether it was fair was another argument and also had to recognise what might be considered unfair historical allocations. Whilst we thought there was another starting point, essentially that of gauging the level of financial support required to provide a minimal service across areas, we were reminded by Geoff that Government was not about providing 100% support. Should a new formula be agreed that had negative impact on some localities we suggested that there needed to be adequate time to allow management of that change, that the possibility of transitional funding be

explored and connected to an impact assessment. Geoff offered the opportunity to meet with their statisticians to consider variations on the formula. Agreed that a formal response paper be prepared for Geoff that should also address the need to grow the "kitty" and to develop the formula from a perspective of "investment" rather than funding.

Meeting with NAVCA

Interest had been shown in the development of VAS from NAVCA and the offer to share and learn from their experience. It was agreed to invite Kevin Curley to next meeting on 18th August.

Wider Partnership Model

Agreed that a paper outlining the process to be used in developing a wider partnership model would be prepared for next VAS meeting. Eliot felt that a move towards a wider partnership model would be welcomed by the majority within the VC's

VAS Budgets

No new draft budget had yet been prepared since this would require a clearer assessment of work to be undertaken and resource implications.

Strategy Update

Kenny presented a draft Mission / Vision statement. Whilst the initial focus had been on the Thrive and Connect Agenda, we did need to recognise the wider changes that were taking place, that although we had started with the concept of a National Council we were now in a different place. We should seek to learn from the experience of NAVCA, and above all ensure that whatever was put together truly reflected the aspirations of the majority of the membership and carried their support. Some merit was seen in pulling together a Manifesto, rather than a full blown strategy paper, with the manifesto being more focussed and setting out key objectives and priorities and probably over a shorter timescale. Possible themes were seen as Promote, Protect and Support.

Organisational Matters

Insurance quote from Keegan & Pennykid considered but further information required on Trustee Indemnity and Volunteer Insurance, with no requirement at this stage for Employee Liability Insurance.

Eliot Stark co-opted as Director.

Kenny agreed to undertake further refinement of VAS Logo.

The importance of ensuring that there was representation from the Board at Regional Meetings was re-emphasised.

Draft policies previously circulated should have suggested amendments circulated and tracked by email.

Consultation should take place across the Network for views on advantages of placing the Network Website within the VAS site or remain with SCVO.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is planned for 18th August at Perth.