

## Voluntary Action Scotland

### 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Board of Voluntary Action Scotland, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August, Perth

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 Nicholson, Kenny Murphy, Helen Morrison, Sandy Milne, Helen MacNeil, Gaynor Jones, Don Hunter Grant, Jessie MacNeil, Eliot Stark.

Apologies: Niall Smith.

In attendance: Flora McKee (Minutes), Kevin Curly (NAVCA) on 18<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting began at noon with a follow-up on action points and steps to ensure that the September regional meetings would have VAS updates and CVS contacts. Later, the vacancy in the West Region was noted and it was agreed to contact the regional CsVS to nominate a new representative.

#### Finance and budgets

There was a discussion around immediate finance. It was noted that SCVO was funding the cost of the meeting directly and were to be approached for a lump sum contribution, while the office of the Third Sector had been approached for assistance. The importance of bringing in membership fees was also highlighted. Harry presented a draft budget for March 2011, based upon a wider partnership model to enable discussion and inform debate on the financial aspects of moving from Option 2 to Option 3 (Wider Partnership Model).

#### Communications

The importance of communications within the network and to external parties and to the public was discussed. It was agreed that the Board/Convener would need to use their initiative as situations arose, utilising all available expertise and experience. This led into a discussion about the Resilience Fund and Helen MacNeil raised the difference between £12m originally made available by Central Government and the £1.8m which was available in Scotland and its restrictions to social enterprise. It was agreed to respond to Scottish Government about this and Dormant Bank Account funds, especially relating to the needs of smaller organisations.

#### SVA

The Board was briefed on changes to the HR library arrangements on which Glasgow, Skye and Lochalsh and Orkney were collaborating, and which were now being moved onto an SVA platform, raising a number of issues, including intellectual property rights and restricting CsVS opportunities. Concern was expressed about the direction of the SVA programme and on consultation of where the whole issue of branching was going, which needed to involve the whole network and also VAS.

*Note: a SVA consultation paper around process and methodology in developing a brand is seeking responses by 20<sup>th</sup> October and Margaret Lynch, Quality Matters Coordinator, has indicated that broad content will be a separate exercise.*

#### Interfaces

Kenny Murphy gave an initial feedback on the network survey that had 61.8% response. This indicated that 22 organisations are experiencing some difficulties and 11 are unsure if they can achieve an interface by March 2010. There are nine current interfaces.

### **Future Funding Formula**

Further consideration was given to the paper tabled by Geoff Pearson, outlined in Briefing Note 3. In reply, VAS has asked that discussion on a formula be postponed to allow further development on interfaces but indicated a willingness to enter into discussions around support funding issues.

### **Conference in October**

The network is advised that Day 2 of the conference, which has an “open space” format, will allow for VAS feedback and a “chairs/board member” meeting.

### **NAVCA presentation**

Kevin Curly share his experience of NAVCA, which has a turnover of £1.7 million and 38 staff, a membership of 290, including CVS, VC and black, minority and ethnic intermediaries. They have affiliate members, including rural community councils, regional fora and thirty national affiliates.

He indicated that they will, in England, expect major funding cuts beyond 2011. They receive funding of £450k p.a. from government.

The Change-up Programme (interfaces) in England got very competitive and confused at times, with some mergers and some CVS closing down but overall an improvement of infrastructure services. It is a membership condition to supply information annually, which is now done using Survey Monkey. 44 members had achieved the NAVCA quality award, with 55 committed to progress. They felt better able to access money and influence with government funders than previously.

### **Wider Partnership Model**

The VAS Partnership sub-group presented a discussion paper based on the premise that, at the outset, part of the establishment of VAS was to work towards a wider partnership model utilising the previously agreed mandates and fulfilling government requirements. The rationale has been captured in a separate statement and re-iterated VAS's continued commitment to a strong and adequately resourced and well-supported infrastructure within interfaces.

It was re-iterated that VAS would not become the same type of organisation as SCVO/VDS, would not deliver services locally but, given the changing landscape, it was important to move to a wider partnership model.

It was therefore agreed:

- to co-opt the Volunteer Centre representatives of the Volunteer Network Management Group (PMG) on to the board (four additional members) subject to due process;
- that the paper on a VAS partnership model be further prepared for circulation to members ahead of CVS/VC conference;
- that discussion take place on day 2 of the conference to agree the way forward.

### **Membership**

Membership forms are in preparation and will go out to the network soon.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting is planned for 11<sup>th</sup> September in Perth.

Members wishing to contact VAS may do so at [convener@voluntaryactionsotland.org.uk](mailto:convener@voluntaryactionsotland.org.uk) or by contacting regional or nationally elected Board members.