

5th Meeting of Board of **Voluntary Action Scotland** - 11th September 2009, PKAVS, Perth.

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

Present: Harry Whiteside, Alasdair Nicolson, Jessie MacNeil, Kenny Murphy, Helen Rorrison, Sandy Milne, Niall Smith, Gaynor Jones, Helen Rorrison and Eliot Stark

Apologies: Helen Macneil

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

Interface Support

KM reported on the meeting held with Geoff Pearson and the currently recognised Interfaces regarding future support requirements. GP indicated that there was approximately £250k available to support Interfaces with some funding available to support the VAS sub group working with Interfaces on identifying future support needs. The Interfaces were comfortable with the VAS Sub Group leading on this matter and that an initial bid be made to SG to resource the work of the Sub Group. HW will work up budget options for further consideration.

Discussion with SCVO on “The See-Change” Report, SVA & Interfaces

Paul White, Janice Ralston and Sally Dyson joined the meeting, with Paul saying that he was keen to explore joint action on the recommendations arising from the Report. The Report recognised that the development of VAS positions it as a significant partner with whom SCVO can collaborate on developing strategies to address issues arising from the Report. It will be circulated as hard copy to all CVS. Agreed there was scope for promoting access to each others information, wider circulation of eCVS to Board members and linkages through our Web sites. Janice spoke about the changes that had taken place at Regional Meetings, the way information was provided and the better use of video conferencing. In terms of addressing the specific recommendations contained within 6.1 of the report it was agreed that this should be discussed at Conference.

VAS was of the view that it was now appropriate for it to seek representation at the SVA Management Group, particularly given the change in emphasis within SVA. Paul agreed to make a formal invitation.

Sally Dyson reported on recent activity and changes within the SVA programme and those aspects which were about to come on stream, in particular the opening of round 3 of the Change Champions with an extended closing date of 10th November, Managing Intelligence and IT Platform going out to tender on 26th September, the Leading the Change recruitment advert was ready to go, the first tranche of EFQM training would commence in October and the Think Tanks reports will be completed by October. Sally’s report did however highlight some developments where members of relevant working groups had not been kept informed. The VAS sub group on Infrastructure Support will engage with SCVO as a stakeholder and VAS Board will be happy to discuss further with SCVO in November and we recognise that we need to enter into discussion with VDS on this matter as another stakeholder.

Sally indicated that she would over the coming period hope to meet on an individual basis with a wide range of CsVS and Interfaces.

Membership of VAS

Changes to the Application forms were agreed and would be made available for Conference.





Local Government and Communities Committee

Helen Macneil and Kenny Murphy gave evidence to the Committee and focussed on the impact of the current economic situation on the Third Sector; the Sector's contribution to economic prosperity and healthy communities; funding to the Sector and maximising the partnership contribution of the Sector. SCVO and the Social Enterprise Coalition also gave evidence. It was considered to be a useful piece of work between the organisations with the evidence presented being well heard – and further promoted the role and place of VAS. Thanks to Helen and Kenny for pulling it together at short notice. The written evidence will be posted on the VAS website shortly.

Meeting with Harriet Eadie, PMG Representative

Harriet joined the meeting as a representative of the Volunteer Centre PMG and to contribute to discussion on how VC's might be best and fully involved in shaping a wider partnership model for VAS – and a model, which fully embraced the “volunteering perspective”. The discussion fully recognised that within CsVS and VC's there were different levels of support for such a model with real anxieties to be addressed – including future relationships and roles with SCVO and VDS. It was the view of the VAS Board that there was both a real opportunity and genuine offer being given to VC's to join with us in determining the nature of the wider partnership model, and we should learn from the experience of NAVCA. Agreed that we should use Conference as an opportunity for Chairs / Board Members to meet and discuss this as well as with chief officers/senior staff members. The VAS report and recommendations for Conference will be available for 29th September and will be circulated to both Networks prior to Conference. The discussion with Harriet was positive, forward thinking and gave due recognition to those issues which would need to be addressed in the pursuance of a successful wider partnership model.

Meeting of Rural CsVS and Parliament -1st Sep 09

Kenny reported on the meeting held at Parliament with representatives of some 13 rural CsVS, the issues that had been raised in relation to the development of Interfaces and implications of possible new funding formula. As an observer, Kenny had no specific input to make. In his written report he notes the positive nature of the discussion, the key issues raised at the meeting, the quality of the presentation and recommendations arising for VAS to consider. Agreed that once we have received a copy of the Briefing Paper being prepared for submission to MSP's by those CsVS involved in the meeting with MSP's that we would issue a supporting statement and seek a meeting with Christine Carlin, new head of Third Sector Division at SG.

Wider Partnership Model

Discussion focussed on the work and recommendations produced by the Working Group and how this be best presented to Conference. Whilst there were tight timescales, we would seek to have the arguments and proposals presented in the Conference Report and with sufficient time to discuss the proposals with both the VC and CsVS audiences. Agreed to build a “Question / Answer” section into report. Board agreed to meet evening prior to Conference to finalise arrangements for presentations. It was agreed that the report should be printed due to the large quantity required.

Recognition was given to the valuable contribution that Harriet Eadie could bring to the Board and that we should seek her co-option. Harriet's organisation is part of an approved interface arrangement as well as being a VC. The Board agreed to co-opt Harriet.

Budgets

Harry spoke through the 2 VAS budgets that she had prepared, one with staff costs and the other without. Agreed that both budgets be included in the Conference Report.

Next Meeting of VAS Board: the evening of the 5th October 2009 at the Westerwood Hotel.