

**Note of meeting of A & E Third Sector Forum (3SF)  
held on Tuesday 20 February 2009  
within the Somerton Hotel, Lockerbie at 10.15 am**

**Present:-**

Richard Brodie	Eastriggs & Gretna Heritage - The Devil's Porridge Exhibition
Roger Claymore	Lockerbie Initiative
Audrey Dorrance	Kirkpatrick Fleming CC
Rosemary Flexney	Sports Driving Unlimited
Janet Foreman	Middlebie Hall
Alan Hampson	Federation of Community Councils
Judith Johnson	Langholm Initiative
William Johnston	The Richmond Fellowship Scotland
Geoff Kitt	Moffat & District Community Initiative
Sharon Ledger	Annan Initiative
Ian Lindsay	Canonbie Over 60s
Rhona McCarton	Clip ICT
Cecil Marshall	Eastriggs CC
Michael Paget	Lochmaben CC
Ann Pearson	Dumfriesshire & Stewartry Women's Aid
Doris Porteous	Kirkpatrick Fleming CC
Fay Salmon	WRVS
Janet Saunders	Annandale Transport Initiative
John Scoular	Annan & District Day Centre
Sue Trafford	Age Concern Scotland (A/E)
Brenda Waugh	D&G CAS
Kate Nutt	Annandale & Eskdale Council for Voluntary Service (Chair)

**In attendance:-**

Donna Mounce	Dumfries & Galloway Council (from 11.00 am on)
Nancy Hannah	Administrator, AECVS

Kate Nutt welcomed everyone to the meeting stating how encouraging it was to see such a diverse group in attendance. Prior to commencement of the business agenda, introductions were made of those present and a background given of the initial workshop held in November 2008.

**1 Draft Information Leaflet**

***Who can be involved?***

**Debate commenced on the legality of Community Councils being members of the 3SF as they were neither voluntary nor community groups.**

It was agreed that Mike Paget could investigate this further, however A&E3SF abided by their decision for Community Councils' participation at their forum meetings to discuss matters of common interest.

### **How can organisations/groups become involved in the A&E3SF?**

A sentence would be added to state that organisations could contact AECVS and nominate someone as their point of contact for A&E3SF issues.

### **What is the Third Sector Forum?**

#### **Who are we responding to?**

A&E3SF would respond as a collective voice to the Community Planning Joint Board or appropriate organisation/agency. Joyce Harkness (D&G Federation of CVS) and Irene Mungall (D&G Citizens Advice Service) are the two voluntary sector representatives on the CPJB.

#### **What are the benefits of becoming a member of the A&E3SF?**

It was agreed that a section on the benefits of becoming a member would be added, providing examples.

#### **How does it operate?**

#### **What is the link between the local 3SF and the regional 3SF?**

It was noted that the local 3SF included only those organisations/groups operating in Annandale & Eskdale. With over 2000 voluntary organisation within Dumfries & Galloway, there was a need to identify and outreach those within Annandale & Eskdale.

By becoming registered members of the A&E3SF, organisations/groups would receive copies of notes from other area 3SF meetings as well as the regional 3SF meetings, and information on issues of interest. Members would also benefit from the networking and having the contact details of other A&E3SF members.

#### **Why one logo on the leaflet?**

Community Planning was currently funding the 3SFs, hence the one logo. Within their joint application to D&G Council for 2009-2012 funding, the Councils for Voluntary Service had requested funding for venue costs and refreshments for 4 meetings of the 3SFs per year.

## **2 Partnership Protocol**

#### **How could communication be improved?**

Communication could be improved by way of the A&E3SF in terms of access to links between organisations/groups. "Improve communications between organisations" to be added to the information leaflet. A contact list would be drawn up for circulation. There would be no issues regards Data Protection since everyone was in agreement.

#### **Could the A&E3SF work together to procure items at reduced costs, eg. insurance?**

The scenario was noted whereby an organisation was given funding from D&G Council to purchase an item, but in fact the Council could have purchased the item

at a reduced cost. It was agreed that A&E3SF could explore bulk buying and that opportunities for sharing resources should be added to the information leaflet.

Further to all the above discussion, it was agreed:-

- Amendments be made to the leaflet and protocol and circulated.

### **3 Membership and Communication**

Notification of meeting dates, and notes from the meetings, would continue to be circulated as widely as possible through AECVS membership, Rural Partnership, SHAP etc. Further to a proposal by Kate Nutt, it was agreed that organisations be encouraged to become **registered** members of the A&E3SF. It was noted that there were differences in size of organisations but it was important to be altruistic and show the smaller ones the benefits from becoming involved. There was no intention of charging for registered membership unless the Forum decided otherwise and it was hoped that, as far as possible, information could be issued electronically to one-point contacts for organisations.

In order to differentiate between registered members of A&E3SF and non-registered members, and to encourage participation through registered membership, it was agreed that registered members of the A&E3SF would benefit by receiving:-

- notes of the regional 3SF meetings;
- notes of other local 3SF meetings in the region;
- information on issues of common interest.

### **4 Agenda and date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the A&E3SF meetings be two-hourly, daytime, in the Lockerbie area, timetabled in line with Community Planning meetings. The format be:-

- first hour for business discussion;
- second hour (optional) for training/information.

For the next meeting, suggested topics were:-

- forum website;
- mapping of organisations/groups in Annandale & Eskdale;
- brief reports from each organisation on what they do;
- exploration of what 3SF groups in other regions have done to date.

Kate Nutt proposed that for the second hour of the next meeting a brief insight be given on the forthcoming change to Protection of Vulnerable People legislation and its implications on voluntary and community groups. The Forum agreed to this proposal.

The date of the next meeting to be Monday 27 April 2009, venue to be confirmed.

## **5 Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and Community Plan: Presentation by Donna Mounce, Dumfries & Galloway Council**

Donna Mounce was welcomed to the meeting. Drafts of the SOA for D&G 2009-2012 and D&G Community Plan (both as at 22 December 2008) were tabled.

Donna provided an overview of the change in rules since SNP came to power. Different pots of monies to Councils had been abandoned and the Government had now passed down more responsibility to Local Authorities. Local Authorities now had to agree on the dispensation of monies from a general pot given by Government. Local organisations were no longer guaranteed monies they had been granted in the past.

The SOA had 5 main themes. Its original 107 indicators had been reduced to 50, which the Government was still claiming to be too many.

Any amendments to the drafts had to be incorporated in readiness for the documents being presented to the Joint Board on 12 March 2009.

Following debate, thanks were given to Donna for her attendance.