

## **DRAFT**

**Note of meeting of A&E Third Sector Forum (A&E3SF)  
held on Thursday 30 July 2009  
within the Somerton House Hotel, Lockerbie at 10.30 am**

### **Present**

Richard Brodie	Eastriggs & Gretna Heritage – The Devil's Porridge
Roger Claymore	Lockerbie & District Community Initiative
Janet Foreman	A&E Federation of Village & Community Halls / Middlebie Community Hall
Geoff Kitt	Moffat & District Community Initiative
Sharon Ledger	Annan Initiative
Ian Lindsay	Canonbie Over 60s Club
Robert Mitchell	Annan Initiative
Ruth Mitchell	Annan Initiative
Rita McCrae	Freewheel Club
Kate Nutt	Annandale & Eskdale CVS (Chair)
Brian Patterson	Volunteer Action
Beryl Pretty	Annandale & Eskdale Family Support Group
Fay Salmon	WRVS – Frozen Meals Service
John Scoular	Annan & District Day Centre
Susan Thompson	Capability Scotland
Brenda Waugh	D&G Citizens Advice Scotland

### **Apologies**

#### **Registered Members:-**

Grace Cardozo	LGBT
Paula Cochrane	Age Concern Scotland and Help the Aged
Pete White	Mossburn Community Farm
Rosemary Flexney	Sports Driving Unlimited
William Johnston	The Richmond Fellowship Scotland

#### **Non Registered Member:-**

Jean Purves	Girlguiding Dumfriesshire
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#### **In attendance:-**

Nancy Hannah	Administrator, Annandale & Eskdale CVS (AECVS)
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Kate Nutt welcomed everyone. Name places had been produced for this meeting but as there were some new faces, introductions were made of all those present.

Kate stated that the A&E 3SF membership stood at 24 organisations. Sue Trafford had now left Age Concern Scotland and Help the Aged. Her replacement contact was Paula Cochrane but it was noted that Paula may have limited time to attend the A&E 3SF meetings.

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### **1 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2009 were approved.

### **2 Matters arising**

#### ***Procuring of items at reduced costs***

Roger Claymore asked why, similar to Community Councils, small organisations could not procure items at reduced costs through Dumfries & Galloway Council (DGC). At present, the organisations had no way of having VAT reimbursed. Richard Brodie responded that there were difficulties where assets were not owned by DGC. Further to discussion, it was agreed that:-

- Kate Nutt write to enquire if 3SF organisations could access purchase of goods via DGC purchase procedures.

Brian Patterson drew members attention to a useful website for software and equipment (ctxchange) and would provide Kate with the web address to circulate.

#### ***Free Legal Advice***

Kate Nutt stated that she had investigated this matter further and provided a summary, within the agenda papers, for legal advice from the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and Professionals4Free. Information on joining SCVO had also been issued as this was a necessary requirement for access to their services. Kate recommended the SCVO option as an excellent service. She also advised she had tested the Professionals4Free website but no Scottish lawyers had appeared available for the topics selected.

#### ***Logo***

Kate Nutt stated that she had had little time to spend on creating the A&E 3SF logo. Further to discussion, it was agreed that:-

- The logo should be sent to Ruth Mitchell for re-design.

### **3 Member Profiles – Questions and answer session**

Members noted the 14 A&E 3SF profiles that had been circulated. Profiles in the future would be circulated as and when they were received.

Ian Lindsay requested more information on Annan & District Day Centre. John Scoular replied saying that it operated from the Market Hall and was of great value, providing enjoyable social interaction for older people and providing good, healthy meals for them. The difficulties were in encouraging more people to come along and also to encourage volunteers to help. The catchment area had been widened to Cummertrees and Brydekirk, and people from Eastriggs would be welcome too. A taxi service was available to bring people in.

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Ian Lindsay compared the information with that of Canonbie Over 60s' Club, which had a strong attendance of 40-50 people on a Wednesday. Meals on Wheels were supplied in the area on a Monday and Friday. The biggest barrier, in Ian's view, was encouraging people to mix more and be welcoming to new people coming for the first time. Ways to overcome this were discussed.

Further information on the Frozen Meals Service was requested, in particular if "chilled meals" were given as opposed to "frozen". Fay Salmon replied that although "chilled meals" were being provided in some areas, this was not the case in Dumfries & Galloway due to the region being too rural. She stated that although the food was sometimes described as 'bland' due to lack of salt, the frozen meals were nutritional and covered all dietary requirements.

Roger Claymore queried the need for a day centre in Lockerbie and said he would liaise with Major Prescott of the Salvation Army and Fay Salmond.

Further to the healthy debate amongst the group and exchanging of views and ideas, Kate Nutt reiterated that this was one of the benefits of having the 3SF.

## **4 General Business Discussion**

### ***Scottish Voluntary Sector Pensions Trust***

Geoff Kitt questioned how many voluntary organisations had members in the above Pensions Trust and who were facing very high penalties due to its potential deficit and closure in March 2010. He asked if DGC could do anything in support of the organisations affected eg. allow access to the pension scheme they use. It was agreed that:-

- Kate Nutt canvas AECVS organisations, and encourage her CVS counterparts in the region to do likewise, in order to establish how many organisations are affected.

### ***Funding from DGC/Third Sector Funding Task Group***

Kate Nutt informed members that she had been asked to raise this matter by Clip ICT, Annan to ensure everyone was aware of the issues. Kate advised that, in order to synchronise allocations for 3-year funding, for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, organisations/groups can only apply to DGC for 1-year funding, ie until all are in step with one another.

Kate went on to discuss the Third Sector Funding Task Group in more detail. Kate had met with John MacMillan yesterday and he had provided further detail on the progress of the group. The task group had been given a remit to review how third sector organisations should be funded in the future, map what DGC and NHS currently fund, and to submit their findings to the Community Planning Joint Board (CPJB) by the end of 2009. The task group, on which there were two representatives for the Third Sector (Joyce Harkness, D&G Federation of CVS and Irene Mungall, D&G Citizens Advice Service) had met twice already.

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Sharon Ledger thought DGC were making funding applications more difficult and complicated and that they should realise they were dealing with volunteers a lot of the time. Beryl Pretty was disappointed that there were no volunteers on the task group. Further to much discussion on this issue, it was agreed that in the first instance:-

- Joyce Harkness or Irene Mungall be invited to a special meeting of the A&E 3SF, preferably within the next four weeks, to provide more information on the task group's work to date and how Joyce and Irene intend to represent the views of A&E 3SF to the task group.
- A request was also to be sent to John McMillan, chair of the task group, requesting that a representative from A&E 3SF join the task group. The proposed representative would be Sharon Ledger from Annan Initiative.

### ***Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Equality Forum***

In order to assist with services for young people, LGBT are setting up an Annandale & Eskdale Equality Forum and the first meeting will be held on 16 September 2009. Grace Cardozo had requested that the views of A&E 3SF be sought on the creation of the Forum and also establish if anyone would be interested in attending the meeting in September. Beryl Pretty indicated she would be interested in attending and It was agreed that:

- Grace Cardozo be invited to provide more information on the service at the special meeting of the AE3SF being arranged to discuss funding from DGC.

## **5 Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF)**

Members' attention was drawn to the following papers circulated, the action plans having been available on the AECVS website since the last meeting in May :-

- Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) - Update from Dawn Redpath, Manager July 2009.
- FSF: Feedback re points raised at 12 May 2009 Regional 3SF meeting.
- FSF: Building Social Capital Action Plan (Final)
- FSF: Employability Action Plan (Final)
- FSF: Financial Inclusion Action Plan (Final)
- FSF: Health and Wellbeing Action Plan (Final)
- FSF: Inclusion – Children, Young People and Families Action Plan (Final)
- FSF: More Choices More Changes Action Plan (Final)

Kate Nutt provided the following summary:-

- Funding on commission basis.
- Tenders are scored. Feedback needed on this and where organisations have gone wrong with/could improve their submissions.
- All contracts have now been put out to tender.
- Currently 3 tenders for Befriending and 2 for Community Agents not allocated.

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- Website being developed for FSF.
- Not enough clarity for tenders, or realistic time to submit.
- Organisations from outside the region able to tender.
- Not enough funding allocated to contracts to ensure the service can be delivered effectively and deliver the required outcome(s).

Discussion followed on the need for training in the tendering process and how to develop collective services. Kate Nutt said that she could be contacted should anyone have any queries on the above papers.

### **6 Future Jobs Fund**

Kate Nutt referred to the paper issued with the papers for the meeting "A Guide to the Future Jobs Fund". DGC had taken the lead in submitting a bid for D&G, which had included 3SF involvement. An announcement on its success/failure was expected during August. If successful, the first tranche of the funding, £559K, would provide 86 jobs in Dumfries & Galloway.

There were still opportunities for 3SF organisations to submit proposal forms for jobs they would like to offer and up to a maximum of £6500 per employee would be available to fully meet/contribute to the salary costs.

The position was noted.

### **7 D&G Compact**

Owing to lack of time, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting be on **Thursday 29 October 2009** at 10.30 am at the Somerton Hotel. Kate Nutt will e-mail members 3-4 weeks before the meeting for agenda items.