

# HIGHLAND THIRD SECTOR FORUM

## ABOUT US

### **The purpose of the forum is:**

To provide an opportunity for people to come together and talk about areas of common interest and to share ideas and experiences about anything to do with the Third Sector in Highland. The Forum also provides organisations the opportunity to work in partnership on projects and have a collective voice on important issues affecting the Highland Third Sector.

Past meetings of the Forum have included presentations from Social Enterprise Academy, Highland Council Head of Planning and the NHS Healthy Weight Project. One of the most recent successes of the Forum was to put on a Volunteering Display event and Volunteer of the Year Awards Ceremony in Inverness in October of 2009. The project was developed at a Forum meeting and work carried out by a sub-group of the Forum. The forum has also worked together to develop a Highland Third Sector Manifesto and a Highland COMPACT in partnership with the Highland Council.

### **Who is the Forum for?**

The Forum is open to Highland Third Sector Organisations. Third Sector is now the recognised name for the former Voluntary Sector and includes voluntary/community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals. Volunteers, paid employees and Board Members are welcomed to attend the meetings. People are not required to formally sign up to the Forum and can participate on a regular or adhoc basis.

The Forum is not a constituted body which leaves it open and flexible as it continues to grow. It is a valuable resource for the Third Sector in the Highlands and welcomes new people to get involved.

### **How to get involved:**

The forum holds meetings every 3 months, usually in Inverness on a week day between 11:00am and 1:00pm in an accessible building that has video conferencing available. You can also get involved by using the Voluntary Action Highland hosted Blog that allows members of the Highland Third Sector Forum to reflect, share opinions and discuss various topics online at [www.voluntaryactionhighland.org](http://www.voluntaryactionhighland.org) Forum members can also contact Voluntary Action Highland at [info@voluntaryactionhighland.org](mailto:info@voluntaryactionhighland.org) to pass on information to other members of the Highland Third Sector Forum through e-mail.

### **Facilitation of the Forum;**

Voluntary Action Highland facilitates the Forum by making all venue arrangements, taking minutes, sending out papers, managing the Blog and keeping in contact with Forum members and Chair Person. The Chair position in the Forum is done on rotational bases giving all Forum members an equal opportunity to take part in the Chair role.