



Voluntary Action Highland

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Minute of Highland Voluntary Sector Forum name changed to Highland Third Sector Forum

Date and time	Monday 2 nd February 2009	11 am – 2pm
Location	Inshes Church	
Purpose	Highland Third Sector Forum (HTSF)	
Present	Alasdair Christie (Inverness CAB), Ali Cairns (SCVO), Anne Angus (CVS Inverness), Carole Bridge (Maggie's Highlands), Hamish Wood (Senior Executive Programme), Ian Bratt (Key Housing), Joan Maxwell (Partnerships for Wellbeing), Libby Waugh (Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland), Matt Tyrer (SCVO), Peter Cattanach (Birchwood Highland), Sarah Barker (Volunteering Highland), Sheila Fletcher (Community Transport Association), Teresa Johnson (Lead Scotland), Trina Hastings (Voluntary Action Highland)	
Apologies	Alan Michael (Contact The Elderly), Bev MacLean (SCVO), Felix Spittal (CVS Inverness), Joanne Scott (Direct Payments Caledonia), John Gill (Visual Impairment Services Highland), Kelley Miller (Voluntary Action Highland), Malcolm Lochhead (Youth Highland), Mike Johnson (For The Right Reasons), Sheena Munro (Community Care Forum).	
Chair	Alasdair Christie (Inverness CAB)	
Minutes	Trina Hastings (Voluntary Action Highland)	
Minute status	Final	

		Action	Timeline
1.	Alasdair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies and asked everyone to introduce themselves.		
2.	<p>Minutes of the previous Meeting on 21/11/08 and matters arising: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed</p> <p>Trina informed the group that she had been in contact with Cameron Kemp, Integrated Transport Manager, regarding the Local Transport Strategy Consultation. Cameron informed her that the strategy was near completion although this has now been extended to March 09. Trina will contact Cameron for more information.</p>	TH	20/02/09
3.	<p>Terms of Reference These had been sent out to everyone on the Highland Third Sector Forum (HTSF) database for consideration and comment.</p> <p>A discussion took place about changing the name of the forum. It was</p>		

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	<p>agreed the new name would be Highland Third Sector Forum. Concerns were raised about members of the public not understanding the term 'Third Sector'. It was agreed that there should be a paragraph within the Terms of Reference explaining this.</p> <p>It was agreed that the following information should be added/changed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary at the beginning of the document, this could be the mission statement of the group • A paragraph about collective action of the group • Highland Third Sector Forum with a definition of what the Third Sector is • Information about how the group will interact with the public sector <p>A discussion took place about membership of the forum and whether this should be open to public agencies. It was agreed that representatives from the public sector would be welcome by invitation.</p>		
4.	<p>Compact Roadshow Feedback and Single outcome Agreement</p> <p>Information about the Compact Roadshows including copies of the presentations given by Carron McDiarmid and Cath King (Highland Council) can be found on the Council's website. http://www.highland.gov.uk/livinghere/communitiesandorganisations/voluntaryorganisations/highland-compact.htm</p>		
5.	<p>Voluntary Action Highland (VAH) Update</p> <p>Kelley Miller and Trina Hastings, VAH, have continued to work on making the office fully operational by developing policies and procedures for the day to day running of the office. The VAH website is in the initial planning stage but it may be sometime before it is fully developed.</p> <p>Trina and Bev MacLean, SCVO, had met with Fiona Hampton, Highland Council, to discuss possibilities of Voluntary Sector engagement in Highland Homecoming 2009. Initial thoughts for engagement would be to organise a similar event to 'The Gathering' which SCVO run every year in Glasgow. 'The Gathering' is an event where voluntary organisations can showcase their work and attend talks, seminars and training and enjoy networking opportunities.</p> <p>Fiona Hampton will be invited to the next Highland Third Sector Forum and asked to talk about Highland Homecoming 2009.</p> <p>Plans for this event are in the early stages but anybody interested in assisting with the organisation of this event should contact Trina.</p>		
6.	<p>SCVO Policy Update</p> <p>Ali Cairns gave a policy update on the following subjects, more information on any of the topics can be found on the SCVO website http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx or by contacting Ali at alison.cairns@scvo.org.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Law Commission has published a discussion paper on unincorporated associations The paper identifies several legal issues which may affect the many thousands of voluntary 		

	<p>organisations and charities that do not have separate legal identity (e.g. are not incorporated under the Companies Act, etc.). Comments on the paper are requested by 6 March 2009. SCVO has organised a series of focus groups in conjunction with the Law Commission and CVSs to discuss the proposals in Edinburgh (19 January), Glasgow Inverness (3 February) and Glasgow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Rural Development Plan (SRDP) – SCVO is lobbying to make sure there is no shifting away of money from Rural Communities • Village Halls research is now published on Community Facilities in Rural Scotland and SCVO are currently digesting this, go to http://www.scvo.org.uk/VillageHalls/Home/Home.aspx for more information • The Rural Gateway website will now be the Scottish National Rural Network(SNRN) and will be launched in April with the National Gathering. More than a website..... log on to find out at http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/ • SHRC http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/ • Impact of recession on the voluntary sector • Welfare reform debate/ bill – SCVO and a coalition of Scottish partners have sent a concept paper on the inclusion of Community options in the new welfare reform discussions for unemployed people. • Freedom of information consultation is over but the SCVO response is on their website. • EHRC – strategic plan consultation see http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx • Single Outcome Agreement – interim report http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Information/ViewInformation.aspx?page=&all=False&from=ASR&Info=1729 • OSCR – cross border consultation http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Information/ViewInformation.aspx?page=&all=False&from=ASR&Info=1817 		
7.	<p>Lottery Consultation Update The Big Lottery Consultation survey ends on 27th Feb 09. Please go to http://www.big-thinking.org.uk/consultationsurvey.aspx to have your say.</p>		
8.	<p>Items for the Next Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Fiona Hampton to the next meeting to discuss the Highland Homecoming • More information about the Single Outcome Agreement and the Compact • An update session for everyone to exchange information and discuss key concerns within their organisation 		
9.	<p>A.O.B. Sheila Fletcher informed the group that there will be an Inclusion Scotland meeting on 24th February to discuss MSP, Charlie Gordon's Regulation of Bus Services Bill, public consultation document which can be found at</p>		

	<p>http://www.charlesgordonmsp.com/Newsletter/PDF%20Layout%20Bus%20Bill%20Layout%201.pdf</p> <p>The main issue for voluntary groups is access by their members to concessionary fares. Many people who have an entitlement do not have a service they can use it on. There are also concerns about changes to the categories of entitlement when applying for the card as these became more restrictive when the scheme became national and was taken on by Transport Scotland. Sheila will be happy to take forward any comments from voluntary organisations. Please email her on sheila@ctauk.org</p> <p>Matt Tyrer, SCVO, informed the group that Highlands and Islands Equality Forum have been contracted by the Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to further their work to date on rural equalities issues by developing a Scottish Rural Equalities Network (SREN). They are currently developing a membership questionnaire which will be launched March/April '09; the date will be confirmed in due course. Through this network they hope to enable and empower local equalities organisations/communities, both voluntary and public sector, to form networks that will enable partnership approaches to tackling the inequality barriers that rural areas face across Scotland. The group agreed to raise awareness of this and pass on information through any networks they are involved in.</p>		
10.	<p>Venue for the Next Meeting</p> <p>A discussion took place about the best location for the forum. It was suggested that the next venue would have video conferencing facilities. This would allow people from further away to take part and contribute to the forum. Trina will contact several venues to find out availability and cost.</p>		
11.	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>11am – 2pm, Friday 24th April 09 in Committee Room 1 at the Highland Council offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX</p>		