



Voluntary Action Highland

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Minute of Highland Third Sector Forum

Date and time	Friday 24 th April	11am – 2pm
Location	Highland Council Offices Glenquhart Road Inverness	
Purpose	Highland Third Sector Forum (HTSF)	
Present	Joan Maxwell (Partnerships for Wellbeing), Matt Tyrer (SCVO), Peter Cattanach (Birchwood Highland), Sarah Barker (Volunteering Highland), Sheila Fletcher (Community Transport Association), Felix Spittal (CVS Inverness), Kelley Miller (Voluntary Action Highland), Diane Norris (Albyn Housing), Fiona Hampton (Guest Speaker Highland Council), Ashley Young (Options for Independence), Malcolm H Lochhead (Youth Highland), Ishbel Mackinnon (Howard Doris Centre), Irene Cochrane (Highland Homeless Trust), Helen Tripp (Apex Scotland), John Bassindale (SACRO), Alastair MacDonald (SACRO), Eileen Mackay (Cross Reach)	
Apologies	Alan Michael (Contact The Elderly), Bev MacLean (SCVO), Mike Johnson (For The Right Reasons), Alasdair Christie (Inverness CAB), Ali Cairns (SCVO) Anne Angus (CVS Inverness), Carole Bridge (Maggie's Highlands), Ian Bratt (Key Housing), Graeme Mochrie (Befrienders Highland), Mary Rhind (Library Support Unit), Neil Erskine (Sense Scotland), Katherine Gormley (Action for Children Lochaber), Patrick Krause (Scottish Crofting Foundation), Mairi Gough (Partnerships for Wellbeing), Alison Proudfoot (MVSO), Lorna Murdoch (H.A.P.I.S.) Keith Walker (Inverness Samaritans)	
Chair	Peter Cattanach (Birchwood Highland)	
Minutes	Kelley Miller (Voluntary Action Highland),	
Minute status	Final	

		Action	Timeline
1.	Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He also mentioned that Video Conferencing was made available for the meeting although no one used the facilities. Either phone or video conferencing will be made available at future meetings.		
2.	<p>Minutes of the previous Meeting on 2/02/2009 and matters arising: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed</p> <p>There has been no new information regarding the Local Transport Strategy Consultation.</p> <p>The Terms and References circulated were not the correct updated</p>	KM	June 15

	<p>version. The updated version taking into consideration all previous points will be circulated for agreement for the next meeting.</p> <p>VAH update- Kelley gave a brief update on the progress of VAH. The VAH website is due for completion in late June/early July. A forum area is being built into the website to allow individuals from the Voluntary Sector to post messages at anytime. Kelley will keep the group informed of progress.</p> <p>SCVO Policy Update- Alison Cairns was unable to come to the meeting and Matt Tyrer was not able to give an update at this time.</p>	&PC	2009
3.	<p>COMPACT & Single Outcome Agreement Discussion Matt Tyrer gave a brief update of the COMPACT working group.</p> <p>The COMPACT working group is compiling information gathered at the COMPACT road shows with an aim of identifying common themes and similar issues across the area. The Highland Council has noted concerns and genuinely wants to use the information to provide practical, positive discussions. The next stage is to bring all the information together and make it available to everyone. There is also talk about holding another conference to feedback to the Third Sector.</p> <p>There were several comments regarding the COMPACT during the open discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COMPACT road shows were worthwhile as it flagged the common problem with the allocation of funding. • The COMPACT should be developed as a useful document that will not sit on the shelf. • The COMPACT will need to reflect changes happening across all sectors due to the credit crunch. • The COMPACT should act as a Code of Conduct between the Highland Third Sector and Public Agencies. There needs to be an additional Code of Conduct included for The Third Sector and other Third Sector organisations. • It is not sustainable to run an organisation on a year to year basis. Voluntary organisations need to be viewed as a business. • The COMPACT needs to make it clear that Voluntary Organisations are looking for full cost recovery. • There needs to be a more open relationship and communication between the Third Sector and others to build confidence and trust in the sector. • Can the Highland Third Sector Forum feedback to the COMPACT working group? This would be a good opportunity to allow the Third Sector to be more engaged throughout the COMPACT process. • Kelley will ask the other representatives of the COMPACT working group if the COMPACT working group minutes can be circulated with the papers for the HTSF meeting. • There is concern that the future of the Third Sector is about justifying all costs to LA or SG and not having the capacity to deliver actual outcomes. The COMPACT and future of the Voluntary Sector must recognise the end user is the most 	KM	May 7th 2009

	<p>important factor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was general concern that the restructuring required to stay in line with funding will mean tendering a lot of the Third Sector work and the expectation that the Third Sector organisations will be undercut in the tendering process. The price should not be seen as the main issue, it is the quality of care that matters and needs to be embedded into the COMPACT. • All Voluntary Organisations should have built in Quality Systems which can be used for ensuring national standards are met and will help with tendering processes. Service users should be brought into quality control systems to ensure most efficient and effective delivery. • The Council and the Public Sector need to tell the Third Sector what they want. The Third Sector needs to have a Third Sector Federation that is able to speak through policy and lobby. <p>There was some discussion regarding HIE and social enterprise funding. Funding directly from HIE to the Third Sector is no longer available; it is now going through Social Enterprise.</p> <p>Peter recommended that everyone check the You Tube site and watch: my life is not a three-year contract</p>		
4.	<p>Highland Homecoming Fiona Hampton gave an overview of the Highland Homecoming events and opened the floor for discussion.</p> <p>The Highland Homecoming is a flagship event showing the culture of the Highlands from October 19 to 31 2009. The event will incorporate different themes highlighting the heritage and history of the Highlands. It will include an international conference with speakers from across the world and has been developed to attract the local and visitor market.</p> <p>There is an opportunity for the HTSF to work together for a programme of arts and culture. The programme will be finalised by the end of May so the event programmes can be printed in June. The marketing work so far has been focussed at the overseas market.</p> <p>SCVO, VAH and VH have been looking into the possibility of developing a programme of events focussed on the Highland Voluntary Sector as part of the Highland Homecoming. Sarah Barker has been looking into using the Eastgate Centre as a possible venue to run workshops and host displays. Empty units could be used however it could be complicated and costly. Although using the centre for stalls on October 22nd could be possible and not as complicated as empty units.</p> <p>It has also been suggested that a Voluntary awards dinner is held in the evening to celebrate the Third Sector.</p> <p>The table was open for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not a commercial project. The event is designed to showcase the highlands as a great place to be. • It is an excellent idea and will raise the profile of the Highlands. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFR could possibly be part of the event to reach beyond the Eastgate Centre events. • It would be good to get the Inverness Courier involved to run a treasure trail with prizes. • Young people could be Highland Ambassadors greeting and guiding people at gateway points. A sub-group of the HTSF could be developed to engage with highland youth with an aim of developing the ambassador idea further. • Kelley to e-mail Youth Highland Youth Work Manager (Malcolm H Lochhead) and Bill Anderson Volunteering Highlands Youth Development Worker contact details asking those interested in starting a sub-group to get directly in contact. • There was a lot of discussion surrounding how accessible for all the event is. Fiona Hampton explained that the event has many different elements which will be made available for all including marked down prices on paid events. There is the possibility of organisations sponsoring people to attend specific events. • It would be useful if future events being arranged carried out impact assessments and fully reviewed equalities and diversity. • VAH/VC and SCVO will hold meeting to make initial arrangements for developing a programme for the Third Sector as part of the Highland Homecoming. All future delegated tasks will be an outcome of the meeting 	KM	May 01 2009
		KM/SB/ BM	May 11 2009
5.	Items for the Next Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Highland Homecoming Event • COMPACT • Representation of Third Sector in Community Planning 		
6.	Venue for the Next Meeting Highland Council offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX Committee Room 3 with telephone conferencing facilities		
10.	Date of Next Meeting: 11am – 2pm, Friday 26 th June 09		