

**Note of meeting of A&E Third Sector Forum (A&E3SF)
held on Monday 18 January 2010
within the Somerton House Hotel, Lockerbie at 10.30 am**

Present

Grace Cardozo	LGBT
Peter Davies	Clip ICT
Mioto Dunnington	Mossburn Community Farm
Rosemary Flexney	Sports Driving Unlimited
Janet Foreman	A&E Federation of Village & Community Halls / Middlebie Community Hall
William Johnston	The Richmond Fellowship Scotland
Geoff Kitt	Moffat & District Community Initiative
James Mair	Lockerbie & District Community Initiative
Kate Nutt	Annandale & Eskdale CVS (Chair)
Doris Porteous	Kirkpatrick Fleming CC
Fay Salmon	WRVS – Frozen Meals Service
Janet Saunders	Annandale Transport Initiative

Apologies

Registered Members:-

Chris Ballance	Moffat CAN (new member)
Richard Brodie	Eastriggs & Gretna Heritage – The Devil's Porridge
Paula Cochrane	Age Concern Scotland and Help the Aged
Judith Johnson	The Langholm Initiative
Ian Lindsay	Canonbie Over 60s Club
Rita McCrae	Freewheel Club
Stephen McIlroy	WRVS
Robert Mitchell	Annan Initiative
Brian Patterson	Volunteer Action
John Scoular	Annan & District Day Centre
Susan Thompson	Capability Scotland
Brenda Waugh	D&G Citizens Advice Scotland
Pete White	D&G Small Communities Housing Trust

In attendance:-

Nancy Hannah Administrator, Annandale & Eskdale CVS (AECVS)

Kate Nutt welcomed everyone to the meeting. She began by expressing deep sadness at the death of Beryl Pretty who had passed away just a very short time after the 3SF meeting in October. Beryl had worked extremely hard for the benefit of others and she would be very sorely missed.

Kate also stated that the recently appointed Manager of AECVS had stayed only a very short time and that the post was again vacant. She hoped a new appointment would be made soon and that the new person would be present at the next AE3SF meeting.

Introductions were made round the table for the sake of some new faces attending.

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2009 were approved.

2 Matters arising from meeting held on 29 October 2009

2.1 Procuring of items at reduced costs

Enquiries with DGC had not yet been actioned therefore this matter would be held over to the next meeting.

2.2 *Scottish Voluntary Sector Pensions Trust*

Canvassing of AECVS organisations and approach to other CVS in the region had not yet been actioned. This matter would be held over to the next meeting.

2.3 Funding from DGC/Third Sector Funding Task Group

The e-mail response from John MacMillan dated 4 November 2009 was noted, in essence refusing representation from the local 3SFs onto the Third Sector Funding Task Group, and the circulation of Funding Task Group minutes.

It was also noted that, further to the Funding Task Group being tasked to undertake a mapping exercise on how the third sector is funded by DGC and the NHS, there was no mention of a consultation in the Compact update report of November 2009. This was not acceptable and it was agreed:-

- A Voluntary/Community Sector Record Form be sent to Sheila Armstrong, Business Manager Community Services, stating that AE3SF does not believe that DGC and NHS have ensured the Funding Task Group has the appropriate representation from the third sector; and that AE3SF wish DGC and NHS to commit to ensuring that they have the appropriate representation from the third sector on public bodies, working groups, management and planning boards.
- Correspondence be sent to Richard Grieveson, DGC, to express AE3SF's continued concern with third sector representation on the Funding Task Group, in that

(1) the third sector in D&G did not appoint Joyce Harkness and Irene Mungall as their representatives;

- (2) the third sector does not receive agendas for Funding Task Group meetings nor minutes of meetings;
- (3) the timescale for the consultation with local 3SFs on the Task Group report we were told was to happen late 2009/early 2010 but as yet we have heard nothing as to when the consultation will take place, if at all.

2.4 AECVS Funding & Information Roadshow

It was noted that the above Roadshow would take place on Thursday 25 February 2010 at the Queens Hotel, Lockerbie and that details would be publicised in the near future.

2.5 Invitation of Chief Executive, DGC, to attend AE3SF Meeting

It was noted that the Chief Executive of DGC had not been available to come to this meeting. Attempts would be made to schedule another meeting before the end of March 2010, to suit the Chief Executive's diary for attendance.

2.6 D&G Compact

The Compact update report of November 2009 was tabled.

Discussion took place and it was felt that, despite awareness raising in early 2009, people still did not fully appreciate the concept of the Compact. Despite there being approximately 2000 voluntary organisations in Dumfries & Galloway, only 56 were signed up to the Compact. The target number by the end of March 2010 was one hundred.

3 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Youth Scotland

Grace Cardozo provided a presentation on LGBT Youth Scotland, a national charity across Scotland running since 2003. Grace stated that her role was that of Dumfries & Galloway Services Manager. Work was done with groups or on a one-to-one basis, providing information and awareness raising/training.

Grace explained that there still remained a negative public image and there were still incidences of verbal and physical abuse, violence and harassment. It was therefore still difficult for people to "come out" and admit their sexuality.

The Forum was working to address matters such as:-

- lack of awareness/visibility of LGBT people;
- lack of training, resources and places to refer;
- religious factors;
- people's worry, fear and under-confidence in dealing with LGBT issues.

There is an LGBT Charter Mark Scheme to which groups/organisations can sign up to as a visible sign of acceptability to LGBT.

LGBT had now established an Annandale & Eskdale Equality Forum to work towards making it a district where LGBT people could be accepted and safe. Sessions were already taking place at Lockerbie Academy and steering group meetings commenced in the district. Volunteers are currently being sought to raise awareness and motivate people to become involved.

Fuller details of the LGBT are available from Grace Cardozo on Tel No: 01387 739888 or e-mail: Grace.Cardozo@lgbtyouth.org.uk. Their web address is: www.lgbtyouth.org.uk

Grace was thanked for her informative talk.

4 Feedback from Regional 3SF

John Scoular had acted as AE3SF representative to the Regional 3SF on 8 December 2009 and his report had been circulated. There was extreme disappointment displayed at the response and concern raised with the perceived role of the Regional 3SF in terms of representation of the third sector regionally; as well as the effectiveness of the third sector representatives on the Community Planning Joint Board and other groups, to be representative of the voluntary sector across Dumfries & Galloway. Discussion followed on the viability of the local 3SFs being more effective if the joined forces on specific issues. It was therefore agreed:-

- To feed back to John Scoular and the Regional 3SF that representation on the Regional 3SF is suspended meantime.
- To contact the local 3SFs and ask if they would wish to meet to discuss how they could work together to effectively represent the views of the third sector across the region. (Three representatives from each 3SF.)

5 D&G Interface

Kate Nutt provided the background to the reasons why AECVS had withdrawn from D&G Federation of CVS and joined the D&G Voluntary Sector Intermediary Organisations Partnership (Enhanced Partnership) alongside with Nithsdale CVS, Stewartry CVS and Volunteer Action. This left the Federation with only one member CVS (Wigtown CVS) and a press release recently had confirmed that D&G Federation of CVS and Wigtown CVS were merging to form The Bridge D&G

From 1st April 2010, Scottish Government wish to fund the 32 Local Authority areas rather than the individual intermediary organisations (ie. the four local CVS, DGFedCVS, Volunteer Action and Local Social Economy Partnership).

The Scottish Government requires an Interface in each Local Authority Area which will receive the funding and decide how the funding is distributed. There are two options proposed for Dumfries and Galloway:-

1. An Enhanced Partnership option which, in AECVS, NCVS, SCVS and Volunteer Action's view, would ensure that each organisation involved retain their independence and identity, resources would be shared and decisions regarding funding allocation made jointly as a partnership.

2. One regional body (ie. The Bridge) with no member groups, would mean, in AECVS, NCVS, SCVS and Volunteer Action's view, that local independence and identity would be lost. This option goes against the localism agenda and would mean that The Bridge would receive Scottish Government funding to deliver CVS/Volunteer Action/Social Economy services across the region and would have no obligation to contract this work to existing organisations.

Avanté have been appointed as independent consultants, tasked to carry out a consultation on the two options with the third sector and stakeholders and make recommendation to the organisations involved before a decision is taken to the Community Planning Joint Board for endorsement.

Further to discussion among members, Kate Nutt was requested to prepare and circulate a summary of the Enhanced Partnership Option for A&E 3SF. It was also suggested by members that the Enhanced Partnership should endeavour to meet with Gavin Stevenson, Chief Executive, and Justin Tracy, Director of Community & Customer Services to have the opportunity to explain the Enhanced Partnership option.

6 Date of next meeting

It was agreed to try to have an extra meeting in February to fit around the availability of Gavin Stevenson attending. Date to be advised.