

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GATEWAY WEST LOTHIAN UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the panel on the current activities being undertaken by Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian in providing an effective single point of access for support and advice and representing the interests of voluntary and community groups within West Lothian.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the panel:

1. Notes the positive outcomes in regard to the work undertaken by Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian in supporting and representing the interests of voluntary and community groups within West Lothian.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The report does not raise any health or risk assessment issues. No strategic environmental assessment is required.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live in resilient, cohesive and sae communities.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	£48,770 has been awarded to VSGWL from the Voluntary Organisations budget for 2021/22.

VII Consideration at PDSP

The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated on a quarterly basis.

VIII Other consultations

None.

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

The role of the third sector interface (TSI) is to provide an effective single point of access for support and advice for the third sector within a local area. It is expected that the TSI will provide a strong cohesive conduit between the third sector and the local authority and Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and that it is well managed, governed and effective.

The TSI operating in West Lothian is the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian (VSGWL). The VSGWL is a member of the West Lothian CPP. VSGWL receives a grant from the Scottish Government Third Sector Unit and received £48,770 from West Lothian Council in 2021/22.

D.2 Current update

An update from the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian is attached as Appendix 1.

E CONCLUSION

The panel is asked to note the report but the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian and that the PDSP will receive regular updates going forward.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: none

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Craig McCorriston,
Head of Planning Economic Development and Regeneration

04 November 2021



*Promoting, Supporting and Developing
West Lothian's Voluntary Sector*

Progress report on Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian (VSGWL)

To be presented at Voluntary Organisations Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on the 4th November 2021.

- We continue to deliver on our outcomes on building capacity of the sector, volunteering and capturing the voice of the sector.
- Representatives from the Third Sector are continuing to work closely with Council Officials as part of a funding Working Group.
 - The Group continues to support the Voluntary Orgs Revenue Budget decision-making process and discussing ways of improving the arrangements moving forward.
 - VSGWL has issued survey to the sector to identify their current and future training and support needs. It is hoped this will form part of a longer-term business transformation and training strategy for the sector.
 - Survey also promoted at TSSG meetings. Deadline for responses is 29th October. Results will be discussed at next Working Group meeting and way forward agreed.

2nd Annual VSGWL third sector summit – Wed 3rd Nov (10am-12pm)

At the time of writing plans are progressing well for the second annual VSGWL summit that will showcase the role and value of the third sector – ‘Communities First in a transformed West Lothian’. The summit will be held online and follow a similar approach to last year’s event with keynote speakers and a range of themed breakout rooms. Anna Fowle, CEO SCVO and Cllr Sullivan are confirmed speakers. A verbal update on the event will be provided at the Panel meeting.

VSGWL is chairing weekly meetings with a handful of representatives from the Sector and Dougie Grierson to develop the programme which will be issued on Wednesday 27th Oct. Unfortunately, the IJB has also just recently announced another event at the same date and time as the summit. Both events would be attractive to many health and social care professionals however this timing clash will leave some being disappointed.

Funding opportunity

The Scottish Government announced a new £15m Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund on Friday 15 October. The Fund, which will be administered by TSIs, will be aimed at small, grass roots community organisations that support individuals experiencing inequalities, mental health, trauma etc.

Working closely with colleagues in Health and Social Care Partnership and Community Planning Partnership, VSGWL will be coordinate and manage applications and look to ensure the timely distribution of monies. Application forms and guidance notes are in the

process of being developed. Full details about the funds will be announced in the coming days with the application process going live during November.

VSGWL will also be responsible for producing an evaluation report at the end of March 2022.

Plans for a New National Care Service for Scotland

The Scottish Government is consulting on wide ranging plans for how social care in Scotland is delivered. The proposed changes have implications for many organisations in the third sector especially those supporting children and families, community justice, alcohol and drug services, elements of mental health as well as unpaid carers. The proposed shake up has also significant implications for the future of IJBs, with the consultation seeking to centralise accountability.

VSGWL secured a short information and Q&A session aimed specifically at the third sector by the Head of Service from the National Care Service Consultation team on 21st October. The event was attended by a number of reps from the sector.

The 43 page easy read (!) version of the consultation is attached here - [Easy Read NCS consultation](#)

The TSSG continues to meet regularly to share best practice, knowledge and identify risk and opportunities.

VSGWL staffing update

Following an internal review of VSGWL, two new roles are being created within the organisation. Interviews are taking place 28th October for the Development Officer (Partnerships) role. The Operations Manager role was re-advertised following disappointing response to original recruitment. Closing date for applications is 12th November with interviews scheduled for 3rd December. Once in post, the role will further strengthen the support we can offer.

Trustee Week

Plans are being developed to promote the role and value of trustees during Trustee Week (1-5 Nov). This is a positive endorsement of the role played by individuals who are trustees on Boards

Presented by Alan McCloskey
Chief Executive Officer
VSGWL

25th October 2021