

12th August 2015

1. Purpose

Outline of the representation routes for third sector organisations in Argyll & Bute

2. Recommendations

The group is asked to note the contents of this report.

3. Background

Representation is an integral part of the role of third sector support staff, located at our offices and to whom any queries should be directed in the first instance.

Our remit is very wide, and the number of partnerships and groups supported is not, therefore without limit or capacity to resource. We see the Area Community Planning Groups, inter alia, as key partnership meetings where local issues and interests can be represented, discussed and key actions undertaken.

4. Detail

TSI staff attend as in their capacity as the Third Sector Interface(TSI). There are a few meetings which are exceptions and if this is the case it would be clearly stated at the outset.

The TSI expects its staff to undertake the following:

1. Be clear about purpose of meeting eg if Area Community Planning Group - which outcomes are under discussion; are there any agenda items of particular interest or items which we need to speak to during the meeting. Some meetings may require particular intelligence or information about the sector

which we can support

2. Prior to the ACPG, ask local 3rd sector for any issues, concerns or good news they wish to highlight or mention, or any agenda item upon which they wish to comment. Circulating agenda and asking for any comments etc to give opportunity for this. (Feed-in)
3. Items as appropriate can then be raised at meeting and responses noted
4. Feedback to sector – we can use various communication methods, eg bulletins, website and local network meetings to feed back. Feedback)
5. Undertake actions which are appropriate, relevant and requested subsequent to the above.

5. Conclusions

The representee (local third sector) is both a diverse and diffuse body which may mean needing to report differing views from various sources. This can be done honestly and impartially without opinion on the validity or otherwise of those views. It may mean that not every third sector organisation will agree with every view offered on behalf of the sector. We make every effort to keep the sector informed, and for its part, representation is assisted where the organisations engage with the TSI and feed their views into the process.

6. SOA Outcomes

1, 3, 4, 5, 6

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