

Oban Lorn and Isles Community Planning Group.

Update Report – Third Sector Representation Third Sector Partner representation

SUMMARY

The Third Sector intermediary organisations - Argyll Voluntary Action (ACVS&VC), Bute Community Links, Islay and Jura CVS and ABSEN over the last year have through more collaborative working and discussions now progressed to the completion of a partnership agreement in line with central Government review of funding to infrastructure organisations 2010/11. This agreement will be presented to Community Planning Partnership at their March meeting.

The infrastructure support funding is required to meet the four strands set by Scottish Government.

- Volunteers support
- Volunteering
- Advice and support to organisations
- Social Enterprise support

Recommendation

- That OLI Community Planning Group note the progression of infrastructure agreement and allow further progress of the Third Sector Partnership
- That OLI LACPG approve interim representation from the Third Sector Partnership from AVA and request the allocation of a further member space from the wider Third Sector Partnership which best meets the needs of the area. Current suggestions from OLI Third sector meetings is that additional representation be sought via our partnership development.
- That OLI LACPG provide Local Third Sector Fora with all papers for consideration in advance of all meetings to allow consideration by wider network.

Current position

The core group (AVA, ABSEN, IJCVS, Bute Community Links) provides the links and mechanism to the wider collaborative pan Argyll & Bute Third Sector Partnership.

This Partnership although an informal structure has already progressed over the last year with the strengthening of local Voluntary/ Third Sector Fora and the successful joint delivery of the TSP training programme with over 60 courses delivered in 6 months to a range of community groups – grass roots to our larger social

enterprises and the updating of the web portal for the third sector. It is unfortunate that the withdrawal of funding has currently halted progression of this much needed project assisting in the "upskilling of the 3rd sector".

On a positive note the local Third Sector Fora are now been contacted by national organisations who see merit in linking into Argyll and Bute through this partnership, groups thus have a conduit to strategic partnerships operating in Argyll and Bute and can be kept informed and consulted.

The fora meetings have given the partnership the opportunity to gather views and opinions from grass root to larger social enterprise members.

Comments/suggestions from members :

- that the majority do not wish to attend LACPG/ Thematic group meetings but be kept informed by nominated representatives
- that we progress from Voluntary Sector Fora to Third Sector Fora
- agree that representation will be inclusive and transparent
- agree those attending strategic meetings/ partnerships have a clear remit to report back for wider distribution - noted this needs commitment and support to ensure good communication flow of information.
- suggest that timing of papers needs to be well in advance if proper consideration is to be given by sector.
- that there are resource implications on the array of partnership which would expect representation.
- make better use of web portal , argyllcommunities.org

General consensus is that Voluntary/Third Sector Fora work well with many reporting that they at least now feel better informed and able to make connections, therefore able to provide some support to each other through difficult times.

The formal partnership by core group provides the opportunity to build on the current 5 areas to 8 areas across Argyll and Bute. Attached – Third Sector Discussion Paper .

The Third Sector wish to assist the LACPG in their delivery of a Local Community Plan by providing a conduit for consultation and input from the community and trust this paper is a start in this process.

Eleanor MacKinnon

Training Manager AVA
05/03/2010