

Management Committee

Date: 17th June 2015



CPP Third Sector and Communities Group (TS&CG)

1.0 Purpose

To provide information on highlights and issues arising from the CPP Third Sector and Communities Group (TS&CG) meeting held on 26 May 2015.

2.0 Recommendations

The CPP Management Committee is asked to note:

- The new format of the TS&CG agenda has successfully increased third sector engagement in the meetings with an additional 30 representatives attending the 'topic of special interest' item on the agenda at the May meeting, both in person at the Council Chambers in Kilmory and through video conferencing;
- Issues encountered with the Council's video conferencing system is hampering engagement in the meetings; and
- The Group agreed to reinstate the Training and Events Sub Group with a view to setting future topic items and also an event for the third sector in the autumn.

3.0 Background

The TS&CG meets four times each year with a remit to:

- Strengthen and extend community planning processes;
- Increase community involvement in community planning processes;
- Build capacity of organisations and communities; and
- Share experiences, knowledge, skills and resources.

The highlights report contains matters of importance to the TS&CG it wishes to raise with the CPP Management Committee.

4.0 Increasing participation and communication of key issues in meetings

4.1 Meeting Format

The last hour of the meeting is opened up to wider third sector participation. Video conferencing support is provided by the IT service. Approximately 30 additional representatives from third sector organisations joined the meeting on 26 May to

listen to a presentation by Stephen Whiston, Head of Planning, Contracting and Performance, NHS Highland, about the integration of health and social care in a third sector context. Eight sites attempted to join the meeting through video conferencing. Unfortunately the presentation was disrupted throughout as service points repeatedly lost their connections and attempted, often unsuccessfully, to re-join the meeting. Many people were unable to hear parts of the presentation and/or ask questions. With Stephen's agreement, the Group has offered to create an FAQ sheet and offered participants a second opportunity to put their questions to Stephen.

Most people left the meeting disappointed by the performance of the VC and the difficulties experienced were stressful for the organisers and Chair of the meeting. Advice has been sought from IT engineers within the Council on how the meetings using VC can run more effectively in the future.

4.2 Relevant Topics

The topic for the next meeting is an update on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill. The Council Chambers has again been booked as the main venue for the meeting.

A proposal for a future topic for the November meeting was an update on the Council's Service Choices process.

4.3 Training and Events

Partners agreed to restart the Group's Training and Events Sub Group to recommend topics and help organise an annual training and information event for the sector. Representatives from NHS Highland, the Third Sector Interface and the Council agreed to form the sub group and meet within the next month.

The Group was provided with a summary of outcomes from the two events to support voluntary committees running community managed facilities (mainly village halls and community centres) it commissioned last year to be delivered in March 2015. The events were held at Centre 81 in Garelochhead and the Corran Halls in Oban. 60 people representing 36 community managed facilities attended both events. The programmes at the events included presentations and workshops on issues ranging from funding for maintenance costs, health & safety issues, recruiting and retaining volunteers and office-bearers, and examples of good practice. Speakers from organisations including the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), The Robertson Trust, Lottery, Argyll & Bute Council, ABSEN, AVA, Alienergy, Edinburgh University and Climate Challenge Fund participated in both events.

A contact list for more than 100 community managed facilities has been created to foster networking between committee, facilitate the sharing of information and raise awareness of these vital community facilities.

Community Action Planning Training for community councils and community trusts has been organised for July 2 and 3 in Lochgilphead. A limited number of places are still available.

A community renewables seminar has been provisionally scheduled for August 18 in the Council Chambers.

5.0 Conclusions

The efforts of the TS&CG to increase participation of third sector representatives in the meetings are being hampered by issues with the Council's video conferencing system. Advice has been sought from IT engineers within the Council on how the meetings using VC can run more effectively in the future.

6.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	Outcome 6: People Live in Stronger and Safer Communities Outcome 5: People Live Active Healthy and Independent Lives
Consultations, Previous considerations	Evaluation and feedback from participants at TS&CG meetings
Resources	The TS&CG is supported by the Community Development Team
Prevention	n/a
Equalities	n/a

Councillor Currie, Chair of Third Sector and Communities Group

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References

N/A

Appendices

N/A