

# THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

## NOTES OF THE COGITS MEETING

**10 DECEMBER 2020**

### **In Attendance**

Kalpana Ratnam Roarty – User and Carer Involvement  
Roland Chaplain – Glenkens Sustainable Development Steering Group  
Pamela Deans – D&G Advocacy Service  
David Barr – Aberlour  
Nick Mitchell – D&G Health Board Endowment Fund  
Grace Cardozo – Sleeping Giants  
Phil Stewart – DGCAS  
Frank Morgan – DG Voice  
Sian Woolner – DG Hard of Hearing Group  
David Mc Donald – DG Unlimited  
Sharron McMillan Turning Point Scotland  
Mhairi Ross – APEX  
Mark Smith – River of Life

### **Apologies**

Rose Murdoch Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Development Trust  
Angela Roberts      Alcohol and Drugs Support South West Scotland  
Julia Muir Watt      Whithorn Trust  
Carolyn Kennedy      Better Lives Partnership  
Karen Lewis      The Hub  
Ian Seymour      Care train  
Alex Dickson - Befriending

### **In attendance**

Norma Austin Hart -TSDG CEO (NAH)  
Heather Forsyth – Guest Speaker (Retired Chief Executive of Berwickshire Housing Association)  
David Link (TSDG Stewartry Engagement Officer)

Norma welcomed all to the third meeting of COGITS and apologies were noted. Attendees gave a brief introduction of themselves and their organisations.

Helen Forsyth gave an account of a situation that had arisen that seriously affected the Housing Partnership she was running in Edinburgh. This formed the basis of a session led by Helen to take attendees thoughts on 3 questions:

- What has become more difficult in leading your team through this crisis?
- What strategies have you considered to support your team in the response to the crisis?
- What ideas have you had to look after your own well-being?

Attendees contributed a range of responses. Notes of the contributions are attached in a separate document.

## **Matters Arising**

Purposes of COGITS -The three aims of the group were read out as a reminder to the group.

1. To lead the third sector's influence on the public and private sectors to achieve collective goals
2. To provide a safe, democratic and supportive network for third sector decision makers in Dumfries and Galloway
3. To create an environment for strategic collaborations which strengthen the third sector's ability to participate in partnerships

Alan Hall (TSDG Communications Manager) has update SLACK

**ACTION:** Alan Hall to send out SLACK link again with minutes

No progress on TSDG representation

**ACTION:** Keep on agenda

The "Big Report" has now been shared elected representatives and all other Partnerships including the REP (Regional Economic Partnership) Contains long-standing recommendations for change.

## **Regional Economic Partnership**

Norma sits on the REP as Third Sector representative. Administration of the REP is by South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE), chaired by an elected representative. Norma noted the Third Sector is under-represented on the REP. Norma's notes of meetings are published on [TSDG website](#). REP is pushing ahead with Regional Economic Strategy. Consultants not yet (as far as is known) appointed. Norma noted there's not much time for a full consultation of the ten year plan given the deadline for the first draft by March publication. Norma suggested keeping an eye on this.

**ACTION:** Spring session on REP for COGITS.

Q from floor: How could members support TSDG on the REP?

A Norma – Bring concerns to me, councillors, Economic leadership Group. Norma proposed COGITS should think how to influence the REP

## **Scottish Shared Prosperity Fund**

NAH introduced two documents: Letter from Ivan McKee, MSP, Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation, and Scotland's proposals for a Scottish Shared Prosperity Fund  
There was a discussion about the timescales and the administration of the new fund.

Q: Does it matter who administers the fund if we get our fair share?

Q: Would the funding go to SOSE?

Q: Would there be any shortfalls if funds allocated through UK Departments?

Q: Who decides who gets the money and using what criteria?

Q: Is the position letter linked to the SG Independence agenda?

C: Too much emphasis on job creation regardless of social worth

C: Green agenda has been overlooked

Norma advised this subject is on the REP meeting tomorrow (11/12/2020) and that she would feedback this discussion at that meeting.

## **AOCB**

River of Life

Q: Volunteers' meetings with small numbers. When can these be held as SG guidance unclear?

A: Norma TSDG will answer this question to COGITS members and on the website.

**ACTION:** Norma to speak with TSDG Volunteer Officer to expedite

User and Carer Involvement

Q: SLACK. Would members welcome a "general" channel to offer informal peer support?

Attendees nodded approval. Norma noted the more SLACK is used, the more effective it will be.

**ACTION:** Norma to ask TSDG Communications team to create a "Peer Support" channel

TSDG Crisis Toolkit

Norma advised this is available on the TSDG website

**ACTION:** Norma to send the toolkit to COGITS members.

## **Date of next meeting**

Previous **ACTION** to schedule three meetings in advance, attendees agreed:

15 April 2021

19 August 2021

09 December 2021

The meeting closed with thanks to all from Norma.