



CVS Fife

2008/9: A Memorable Year

We Celebrated Our 10th Anniversary

Third Sector Marketplace Event

December 2008 marked CVS Fife's 10th Anniversary, and to celebrate we hosted a Marketplace event involving over sixty voluntary, community, charitable and social enterprise organisations. The event was a brilliant showcase for the diversity of the Third Sector in Fife and generated very positive feedback from exhibitors and attendees alike. We enjoyed it so much we're planning another Marketplace for this year!

We Also Looked to the Future

Third Sector Interface for Fife

Early in 2009, we brought together colleagues from Volunteer Centre Fife, VONEF and the Local Social Economy Partnership to do some blue sky thinking about the future of support services for volunteers and Third Sector organisations in Fife. We agreed that in the future it should be easier for individuals and organisations to access the help and support that they need and have decided to form a constituted partnership.

Introduction

This review provides a snapshot of CVS Fife's activities during 2008/9. It is impossible to record all of the work carried out by our dedicated Staff Team and supported by the Board of Directors, but I would like to record my appreciation of the efforts made by everyone during another eventful year.

CVS Fife exists to support and promote the Voluntary or Third Sector, and there will always be a need for that support and promotion. By assisting voluntary, charitable, social enterprise and community organisations to do their job, we are in turn building resources in communities which improve the quality of life for everyone. Although we are in the midst of changing times for support organisations such as Councils for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Centres, the Board of CVS Fife is clear that the support which is currently provided is vital.

As we work with our colleagues in Volunteer Centre Fife, VONEF and the Local Social Economy Partnership to develop new support arrangements for Voluntary/Third Sector organisations and volunteers, the people who use and benefit from our services will remain foremost in our minds. We believe the support agencies will be stronger together, a message that has resonance for the sector as a whole.

Robert Bell, Chair

A Thriving Third Sector

Helping Third Sector organisations to grow and develop

This year we have continued to deliver a range of support services designed to help Third Sector organisations to work efficiently and effectively. We have also added a new initiative into the mix - our Engagement in Employability project, supported by Fairer Scotland Fund monies, began in March 2009.

- ⊙ Skills for Scotland Training Project
- ⊙ Capacity Building
- ⊙ ICT
- ⊙ Finance Services
- ⊙ Fundraising Support
- ⊙ Engagement in Employability

A Connected Third Sector

Giving Third Sector organisations a voice

CVS Fife has carried on supporting Voluntary Sector Networks and has developed its own role representing the interests of the sector within Fife Partnership this year. Our website, ebulletins and newsletter remain vital tools for us to keep the sector in touch and up to date.

- ⊙ Community Planning
- ⊙ Information Services
- ⊙ Voluntary Sector Networks

Key Issue - The Tender Trap

During the past year Tendering and Commissioning issues have begun to impact on Third Sector organisations in Fife. Here's what we've been doing to support the sector to respond:

- ▶ Facilitating Training - with Fife Council, our Training Project has delivered:
 - ▷ Introductory training on procurement to 37 organisations
 - ▷ Follow-up training on Tender Writing to 20 organisations
- ▶ Campaigning - Community Benefit Clauses and impact of Tendering:
 - ▷ Briefing Paper on Advocacy Services
 - ▷ Website section developed on Tendering & Procurement: www.cvsfife.org/procurement
 - ▷ Paper for Social Work & Health Committee
- ▶ Support for individual organisations

Target outcomes: Voluntary/Third Sector Services are supported or purchased by the Statutory Sector *and* Voluntary/Third Sector organisations have increased capacity to be sustainable.

Key Issue - Community Planning Comes of Age?

Third Sector involvement in Community Planning has never been higher on the agenda than it has been over the past year. The Scottish Government has placed a strong emphasis on the role of the Third Sector in acting as a voice for communities and change. CVS Fife views Community Planning as a key area of work:

- ▶ Facilitating & Supporting Networks
 - ▷ Voluntary Sector Mental Health Forum
 - ▷ Voluntary Sector Employability Forum NEW
 - ▷ Voluntary Sector Children's Forum
 - ▷ Day Care Providers Forum
- ▶ Fife Partnership: Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) *CVS Fife a member of the Fife SOA Working Group*
- ▶ Fairer Scotland Fund - representing the interests of the sector:
 - ▷ Fairer Scotland Fund Management Group
 - ▷ Health & Wellbeing Alliance Funding Sub-Group
- ▶ Opportunities Fife Employability Partnership NEW
- ▶ Vulnerable Adults Protection Committee NEW

Target outcomes: Voluntary/Third Sector has opportunities to engage and influence Community Planning *and* there are positive working relationships between the Voluntary/Third Sector and Community Planning partner agencies.

Key Issue - Quality: Doing Things Right When No-One is Looking

CVS Fife has been involved in three different quality assessments this year. We believe that quality frameworks will be important for the sector as we enter into a time when competition for resources is likely to become more intense:

- ▶ Fife Rights Forum Quality Standards Scheme
Peer assessment: Awarded Level 3 in July 2009
- ▶ PQASSO (Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations)
Self-assessment: Level 1 completed October 2009
- ▶ EFQM Tailored Framework
Pilot project within the Supporting Voluntary Action Programme completed June 2009

Target outcomes: CVS Fife is fit-for-purpose *and* is seen as a credible support agency for the Voluntary/Third Sector.

Key Issue - Building Boards, Developing Organisations and Fundraising for the Future

Issues of forward planning and sustainability have arisen through a number of avenues this year. We've already highlighted some of the issues around Tendering & Procurement, and more organisations have approached us for one-to-one development sessions for Boards. Fundraising is always high profile and, as the new Charity Law framework has become more embedded, organisations are increasingly looking for advice in this area. Our work this year included:

- ▶ Delivery of individually tailored Board development workshops
- ▶ Delivery of new courses and Voluntary Sector staff signed up for SVQ Management qualifications
- ▶ Partnership work with Fife Council and VONEF delivered a programme of Funding Roadshows
- ▶ Delivery of a workshop at Climate Challenge Fund event
- ▶ New Thrift Shop facility opened in Leven
- ▶ Top fundraisers generated over £1600 in one week; often biggest fundraising effort of the year for small locally-based groups
- ▶ Constitutional support and advice on Charity Law delivered to over twenty organisations

Target outcomes: The capacity of Staff and Board members in Voluntary/Third Sector organisations is increased *and* Voluntary/Third Sector organisations are fit for purpose.

Our Manager's View

This time last year it was becoming apparent that we were in the midst of a financial crisis that few of us had ever experienced before. Some US banks had collapsed and several banks in the UK would also have collapsed had the Government not stepped in to keep them afloat. Over the last year there has been an unprecedented public sector rescue of the banking and financial sector - not just in the UK but throughout the world.

Whilst the complete collapse of the banking and financial sector has been averted, certainly for now, the fall-out is becoming clearer. Unemployment has been rising, with youth unemployment in particular rising quickly. Personal debt and housing re-possession have risen, with people having to juggle their finances much more carefully. Homelessness is on the rise and if this recession is anything like previous recessions then we know that health inequalities are likely to worsen.

The crisis has also begun to take its toll on the Third Sector. Nationally we have seen the Lloyds TSB Foundation announce that its grant-making is under threat. In Fife we know from CARF that the number of people looking for money-related advice has increased; we also know that Volunteer Centre Fife is receiving significantly more enquiries from potential volunteers. A number of other organisations working with Vulnerable Adults have advised us that the pressure on their services is increasing. These impacts are being felt now, before the threatened cuts to the public sector.

As always though, our sector is rising to the challenge - with support from Fife Council and the other Community Planning Partners. Some additional resources have been made available to those Third Sector organisations working with people directly affected by the recession. Other organisations are stepping up to the mark by creating employment opportunities for young people via the Future Jobs Fund. The thousands of people who volunteer daily to help others will probably find 'just a little more' to give. Within very challenging circumstances the Third Sector is responding and supporting individuals who are in most need and most vulnerable.

However, it may be that the biggest challenge is yet to come. It is almost becoming the 'settled understanding' that the public sector should shoulder the burden of the collapse of the banking and financial sector. I have already indicated there has been an unprecedented public sector rescue of the banking and financial sector. Having saved the banking and financial sector from total collapse it just doesn't seem fair to me that the public sector and those who depend on it - primarily people in need - should be financially and socially penalised.

An underfunded Public Sector will have a knock-on effect on the Third Sector, and in turn a knock-on effect on vulnerable and at-risk people who live in our communities. The Third Sector is also a campaigning sector - is it time for a 'Save our Services - Protect the Vulnerable Campaign'?

Bryan Poole, Manager

Our People

Board: Robert Bell (Chair), Robin McAlpine (Vice-Chair), Frances McAulay (Vice-Chair), Alan Hynd (Treasurer), Dr Allen Armstrong, George Cuthill, John Dow, Gary Guichan (resigned August '09), David Rae, Isabel Wilson and Andrew Penman (Company Secretary)

Staff: Sarah Ballantine (left July '09), Sandra Bruce, Carlyne Cerchiari, Ian Cowie (retired March '09), Elizabeth Kirk, Sarah Lawson, Lyndsay Macadam, Carole Patrick, Bryan Poole, Sandra Rimmer, Isabel Ritchie, Ron Smith, Marri Welsh

Our Funders

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