

Future Directions for Fife's Third Sector

At the time of writing, planning for the above event is well underway. On Friday 17 September, representatives from a broad range of voluntary, community, social enterprise and charitable organisations will gather at the Balgeddie House Hotel in Glenrothes.

Attendees will hear about the developments to date around a new Community Plan for Fife, and can have their say on how this shapes up. We will also be discussing some of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the Third Sector in Fife, exploring possibilities for collaboration, including looking at proposals for a Third Sector Strategy Group and a Third Sector Manifesto.

Bookings are going well for the event, but there are still a few places available - check the CVS Fife website or call us for more information. If you can't make the event but would be interested in hearing about the outcome, we will be posting a report on our website - keep an eye on our weekly News bulletins for further details.



Future Directions for Fife's Third Sector
Friday 17 September
Balgeddie House Hotel, Glenrothes

New Training Programme Coming Soon!

The Training Project team are busy working on the next edition of the Training Programme which will be available soon. The programme will be emailed out to organisations and available to download from our website.

There are changes in the new programme including attendance fees against courses being delivered by Adam Smith College. There is also a new booking structure for these courses - full details will be included in the programme. However, where applicable, there will be the opportunity for people to use their ILAs to book a place on these courses. Before you book any of those courses you **must have received your ILA Scotland account number**. To find out if you are eligible to receive an ILA or for more information regarding ILAs please contact:

ILA Scotland, PO Box 26833, Glasgow G2 9AN

Tel: 0808 100 1090

Email: enquiries@ilascotland.org.uk

For queries regarding training or to request a copy of the new programme please contact the Training Project team.

Engagement in Employability Project: Soft Outcomes Event Evaluation & Training

Following the Soft Outcomes event held on 26th March, around 40 attendees completed evaluations designed to gauge interest in a larger scale event and identify any training needs within the Sector. From the responses received it was clear the event had been a useful source of information and most attendees felt they would benefit from further training in measuring and evidencing outcomes.

In response, the CVS Fife Engagement in Employability and Training Projects are developing a unique training opportunity which will be made available to Fife's Voluntary Sector. The training will aim to further knowledge surrounding soft outcomes and indicators and how these are best reported.

CVS Fife is also working in partnership with The Action Group to deliver a training course on 'rights and responsibilities' when moving in and out of work. The course is aimed at frontline voluntary sector workers to increase their confidence when advising clients who are moving into paid work or are leaving employment.

CVS Fife is currently gauging interest in the course, with venues and dates due to be established in the near future.

Future Jobs Fund

The Future Jobs Fund (FJF) was a government initiative started in 2009 aimed at creating jobs, mainly for young people aged 18-24 yrs who had been unemployed for 6 months or more and were claiming Job Seekers Allowance. By the end of March 2011 the initiative had funded over 100,000 jobs. Following a survey and information session facilitated by CVS Fife, a number of voluntary sector organisations in Fife were successful in bidding for funding to employ new staff.

The UK Coalition Government announced in May 2010 that all current Welfare to Work programmes will be replaced by a single Work Programme by 2011, which unfortunately means FJF will no longer accept any new bids. In this newsletter we are highlighting the experiences of two voluntary organisations and their FJF recruits.

Fife Employment Access Trust (FEAT)

FEAT was successful in its bid to recruit two new members of staff under Future Jobs Fund. Andrew McGregor and David Robinson were tasked with gathering and uploading information for Digital FEAT, an interactive social networking site focusing on mental health and recovery: www.digitalfeat.com

Andrew was recruited by FEAT under FJF as a media/internet worker. He met with staff from FEAT at a jobs fair in the Rothes Halls which he was informed of by Job Centre Plus. His duties range from creating flyers and leaflets on FEAT's services which he distributes at public events to uploading information onto FEAT's website and helping with technical problems in the office. The practical experience Andrew is gaining from being employed with FEAT will complement the web design degree he is studying for.

When asked how he felt about the new Government's plans to scrap Future Jobs Fund, Andrew said "I think it could possibly be a bad idea, if people with good qualifications struggle to get jobs due to the credit crunch how are young people without as much experience and qualifications supposed to compete?"

Although the Future Jobs Fund only finances a position for 6 months, both Andrew and David hope to be kept on at FEAT. Duncan Mitchell, FEAT's Manager, believes both Andrew and David have contributed lots of ideas to the project and have really made a positive impact. He also hopes to secure funding to continue their contracts for another 6 months. Duncan said "I'm clearly disappointed that the Fund has been scrapped, we had hoped to take at least one more person through the Fund as our project developed but will now have to seek volunteers or placements instead."



Disabled Persons Housing Service Fife

Disabled Persons Housing Service Fife's (DPHS) first FJF candidate, Tracy Finnie, successfully completed her 6 month post, which included housing training. This put Tracy in a position to apply for a post of Trainee Housing Advisor within the organisation. Their second FJF candidate, Louise Smith, has successfully completed her HomePoint Level 1 training and is doing well in her post, which is increasing the capacity of DPHS(F) to deliver its service to the community. A third Resource Admin Officer will be recruited shortly.



DPHS(F) have written to Jim Murphy MP, who requested information on the loss of FJF. Jackie Morrison, DPHS Manager says 'as an organisation, we feel strongly that we have not only been assisted to deliver an enhanced service, but have undoubtedly so far increased opportunities for those FJF candidates who have spent time in employment for 6 months. Pulling the plug on the scheme early is not supportive of community groups who spent time and energy in development and planning to support unemployed young people and to improve their own services as a result'.

www.dphsfife.org.uk

Review of Future Jobs Fund

The Work and Pensions Committee has recently announced that it is to carry out a review of FJF looking at the following points:

- ★ How successful FJF has been in creating opportunities for young people
- ★ The strengths and weaknesses of the programme from the providers' prospective, including sustainability of opportunities
- ★ The impact of ending the programme early
- ★ How the move from FJF to the single work programme will be managed, including funding for new apprenticeships

The committee is asking for any interested organisations to submit their views and written evidence that they would like to be considered by the enquiry before 10 September 2010. See the website for more information:

www.parliament.uk/workpencom

Budget Update

The UK Coalition Government, through its Emergency Budget of 22 June and information on its Policy Programme, has made a number of announcements which will have a direct impact on the Third Sector in Scotland.

Reduction in Block Grant Funding

The Budget signalled the possibility of significant funding reductions to the Third Sector, due to the block grant from Westminster to Scottish Government being cut by £332m. The Scottish Government has delayed implementation of the reduction until 2011-12 and given that the Sector now relies on government (national and local) for approximately 42% of its funding, there is obvious concern for the future.

There are worries that central and local government will aim to protect in-house expenditure in line with proposed cuts at Westminster, causing the Third Sector to be badly hit. CVS Fife is aware that many Fife organisations are already looking ahead and considering how they can use their resources as efficiently and effectively as possible, as well as building up evidence on the impact of their work and creating strong alliances with other Third sector organisations and partners. All of these steps will be important in terms of trying to head off any disproportionate reductions in funding to the sector.

Single Work Programme

The Coalition Government has announced that it aims to replace all existing Welfare to Work Programmes, including New Deal (currently delivered in Fife by Triage) with a new single Work Programme by the Summer of 2011. This will impact on organisations that currently generate income through providing employment placements, as well as those who focus on employability work. The Future Jobs Fund scheme has also been closed to any new applications (see separate article).

Tendering

There are some concerns that local governments will also look to cut spending by putting contracts out to competitive tender which may also have an adverse affect on the Third Sector. However, the Scottish Government is currently developing new guidelines for Social Care Procurement which set out a much clearer framework for public agencies to work with. It is expected that this guidance will be finalised later this year. Community Care Providers Scotland (CCPS) has been at the forefront of campaigning on issues around Social Care Procurement, see the website for more details:

www.ccpscotland.org

New Arrangements for Third Sector Support

In our last newsletter, we brought you news that representatives from CVS Fife, Fife Social Enterprise Network, Volunteer Centre Fife and VONEF were creating a new partnership organisation to take forward support for the Third Sector (including Social Enterprise) and Volunteering. The new organisation, Fife Third Sector Support, has now made the decision to work towards the creation of one organisation to deliver these services in Fife. It is planned to have the new organisation in place by April 2012 at the latest.

The Scottish Government, Fife Partnership and Fife Council are all supportive of the direction being taken by the existing organisations and while there will be considerable work involved, the end target is an enhanced service for the Third Sector and Volunteers. We will bring you updates as the work progresses.



Teen Parents Project Pilot

Fife Gingerbread is piloting a new project aimed at teen parents in the Levenmouth area. The pilot is based on the model developed by Rosemount Lifelong Learning Centre, and classes include:

- ★ Parenting Skills
- ★ Confidence Building
- ★ Core Skills
- ★ Keeping Healthy

The Rosemount programme has been praised for achieving excellent levels of attendance and having varied and interesting course content. The programme also features a Guidance Worker who will be available from day one to talk to the students about any issues they may have that could affect their attendance or mental well-being.

Fife Gingerbread is managing the project with a number of key partners including: Adam Smith College, Levenmouth Childcare Centre (who donated the venue), NHS Fife and Job Centre Plus (who are accessing the Deprived Area Fund to cover the costs of the project). Claverhouse has been brought in as the training agency, with programme delivery from all partners. The project is designed as an early intervention strategy, supporting young parents before they are in crisis, with the view to reducing costs to services at a later date.

Work with the young parents will be intensive over the course of the programme so class sizes will be kept small and with 42 teen parents already recruited demand is expected to be high. The project has the added incentive of providing childcare onsite. The pilot is expected to run from the end of summer 2010 to February 2011 and at the end of the programme it is expected that parents will be ready to progress onto training or education.

www.fifegingerbread.org.uk

With our last newsletter we sent a request for updated information for our database of organisations. We also said there would be an incentive for those who took part.

One organisation was picked at random from your responses to receive a **£30 Marks & Spencer** voucher. The lucky winner... **Exit Community Centre, Glenrothes.**

A big thanks to everyone who took the time to update their details. Remember that you can request to have your details updated at any time.

Lottery Funding Programme Open for Business

The Investing in Communities Funding Programme has been relaunched by The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland (BIG). Grants between £10,000 and £1million have been made available to voluntary sector and community groups who can apply for up to 5 years of funding. Representatives from BIG will be coming to Fife early in October to give more information on the programme and to provide one-to-one advice – keep an eye on CVS Fife bulletins for further information.

BIG is anticipating a high level of applications to the relaunched programme, and has tightened up the outcomes it expects applicants to achieve within its three investment areas:

Growing Community Assets

- ★ Focuses on tackling need in your community
- ★ Encourages community empowerment by ownership of physical assets such as land or property
- ★ Must evidence significant community involvement

Life Transitions

- ★ Supporting people at key times of change e.g. leaving care
- ★ Preventing unexpected transitions e.g. being in debt
- ★ Outcomes include reducing homelessness and unemployment within the most vulnerable groups

Supporting 21st Century Life

- ★ Aims to make families and communities stronger by reducing poverty and creating better futures
- ★ Will fund services including family and peer support, parenting classes and activities such as outdoor experiences or play
- ★ Outcomes include better support networks within families, at risk children having better futures in terms of learning and maintaining relationships

The Big Lottery is open to funding applications from now until 30 June 2015. More advice and support is now available directly through BIG for organisations considering an application, so it is advisable to telephone in the first instance. More information on the programme priorities can be found on The Big Lottery website or by calling **0300 123 7110**.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk



Staff Changes

Sarah Lawson, Project Worker with our Engagement in Employability Project, will be leaving CVS Fife at the end of August to take up a new post in Glasgow. Sarah joined CVS Fife in February of 2009 and as well as being involved in the Pilot she has also contributed to a number of other aspects of the project, particularly the organisation of the Measuring Soft Outcomes event. CVS Fife thanks Sarah for her input and extends best wishes for the future.



INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES



Your NHS
Your Vote
health board election

NHS Ballot – The Results

Over May and June this year the first NHS Fife Health Board election took place. Everyone on the electoral register in Fife was invited to take part in the postal ballot. From the candidate statements there were a high proportion of people with direct connections to the Voluntary Sector (as volunteers or members of staff). The successful candidates are;

- ★ Elizabeth Moira Adams
- ★ Peter Adams
- ★ Susan Archibald
- ★ Jayne Baxter
- ★ Harry Blyth
- ★ Margaret Mary Harper
- ★ Ian Edward Lowles
- ★ Anne McGovern
- ★ Arthur MacGregor Morris
- ★ Dave Stewart
- ★ Norma Wilson
- ★ John Storrar Winton

There was strong participation from the voluntary sector with CVS Fife participating in promotion for the election. Turn out for Fife was around 13%; the Dumfries and Galloway pilot had higher voter turnout at around 20% (this seems to have come more from the rural communities/villages than the bigger town centres). Both pilots will be evaluated by St Andrews University and an interim report is due in late autumn which will be publicised on the CVS Fife website.

As this was a pilot there are a number of learning points, for example, timing was difficult following on from the General Election, especially since it was a new voting opportunity. Voluntary Health Scotland is also carrying out some follow-up research in both Dumfries and Galloway and Fife to establish any Voluntary Sector connections in relation to the successful candidates.

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