**Minutes of Voluntary and Community Sector Joint Forum members meeting/2**

**Thursday 16 May 2019**

**NICVA**

**Attendees:**

**Apologies:**

David Smyth, Evangelical Alliance

Anne McVicker, WRDA

Ellen Finlay, CINI

Kate Clifford, RCN

Clare-Ann Magee, Carers NI

Jonny Currie, EDCDA

Denise Hayward, Volunteer NOW

Siobhán McAlister, NICVA

Glenda Davies, Sandy Row Community Forum

Anne-Marie McClure, Start 360

Kevin Murphy, Voluntary Arts Ireland

Craig McGuicken, NI Environment Link

Brendan Heaney, Diabetes UKNI

Chris Quinn, NI Youth Forum

Lorraine Griffin, COSTA

**Welcome:**

Glenda welcomed everyone. She highlighted that it is important to have a good turn out at the Joint Forum meeting on 6 June with Tracy Meharg and could everyone make a big effort to attend.

**Recap of Joint Forum meeting in February and actions.**

**Action Point 1:** In relation to outcome 4 in the PfG- the issue around drugs and alcohol misuse, Anne-Marie McClure highlighted that there will be a NIADA conference on 25 June in Cookstown on the issue of poly drug use. There are a number of speakers coming along from difference agencies including the PHA, the Coroner, organisations working in the area of drug and alcohol misuse and others. The three main themes will be around young people, women and the over 55’s. It was highlighted that there is currently no strategy, the commissioning framework has been delayed and now is the time to exert influence. Details of registration is not yet out and will be circulated when we have those details.

**Action Point 2:** Presentation in Autumn time to be requested on Community Planning. Siobhán to request a list of community planning spokespeople/contacts from all 11 councils.

**Action Point 3:** Update on Shared Prosperity Fund required. Question to Paul Brush EU Director of future relations at Joint Forum meeting on 6 June.

**Action Point 4:** Update on Gender Equality Strategy: “The last Gender Equality Strategy expired in 2016. Since May 2016 the Department for Communities has had overall responsibility for gender equality for the NI Executive. As such, any decision regarding a future gender strategy will be for the incoming Minister for Communities.”

**Action Point 5**: Priority presentations submitted- see attached table.

**Action Point 6:** Glenda finalising DOT for summer 2019.

**Action Point 7:** NIADA conference covering this issue in conference June 25.

**Action Point 8:** Annual reports being undertaken and draft has been produced.

**Action Point 9:** Cliff Edge Coalition taking on the issue of welfare reform- NICVA part of this coalition as well as others. If anyone wants to sign up to this coalition, get in touch with Kerry.logan@housingrights.org

It was highlighted that there is still not sufficient buy-in from the public sector to the Joint Forum. This should be raised with Joanna and Tracy at the upcoming meeting on 6 June.

**Issues table**

See table for updates.

Craig highlighted that it is important that we include the issue of Climate Change and Sustainability into the issues table. Currently no NI bill for climate change. Important to link this into the other areas of the issues table as it is very closely linked to health and wellbeing agenda. This issue could be used as a driver for systematic change.

Could the Joint Forum hold a public event related to this issue- link into new environment strategy for NI?

**Communications Plan**

Plan attached. Need for buy in to the comms plan.

Need for more of a twitter presence.

Undertake a ‘vlog’ after Joint Forum meeting to highlight takeaways from the day. This is to be tried out at the meeting on 6 June with both PS and VC reps.

Agreed that any stakeholder engagement around the DOT should be based on different topics/campaigns to attract a wider audience.

**Update on Addressing Bureaucracy paper and discussions.**

See attached paper.

Anne-Marie McClure asked whether the Addressing Bureaucracy paper was the best way to drive forward the issue of Full Cost Recovery? Proposed that Anne-Marie have a discussion with one of the public sector reps who has knowledge and experience of this issue to work on it together to identify blockages.

Siobhán to find NICVA paper on procurement and circulate to group.

Members to have a look over AB paper and fill in any gaps. It was highlighted that any successes, or anything that has worked should also be included. Can we make suggestions on what one thing would make the most difference- set out a couple of priorities/wins.

The paper should also be department specific. Final paper will be presented to Tracy Meharg.

One overarching issue is the lack of consistency or standardisation across departments.

Chris also highlighted a paper called Collaborate for Social Change, A Whole New World: Funding and Commissioning in Complexity in which there may be lessons to learn.

Highlighted the meeting with Daniel Holder (CAJ) on 31 May in relation to transparency and accountability in funding- one issue to be raised is in relation to FOIs and consultations.

**Questions for Brexit session: (not limited to below questions, these are for guiding purposes)**

Question on environmental governance post Brexit-NI not developing a framework post Brexit, why?

Update on future funding and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

In terms of mitigations, what are the top three priorities for each department?

Question around the mechanisms in the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement that were never implemented and whether that could be a structure to address some problematic issues?

Can there be more data shared in relation to potentially problematic issues, e.g. cross border issues?

**Questions/Discussion areas for Tracy Meharg (not limited to below questions, these are for guiding purposes)**

How is she going to ensure buy in from public sector representatives on the Joint Forum?

How is she going to champion the VCSE sector and promote understanding of the work and value of the sector, especially the understanding and value of voluntary action?

What can we do to help her in this role?

How is she planning to make change and unlock the potential of better relationships between the VCSE and public sectors?

Question around income generation.

**Outcomes and Action Points:**

1. Glenda requested a full turn-out at the upcoming Joint Forum meeting on 6 June if possible.
2. Anne-Marie to send Siobhán information on the NIADA conference on 25 June.
3. Siobhán to request a list of Community Planning contacts for all 11 councils from SOLACE rep Ryan Black
4. DOT to be finalised- meeting required?
5. Sector wide stakeholder engagement event on Climate Change/Sustainability to be considered.
6. Communications plan to be updated and further discussion around stakeholder engagement.
7. All VCS members to input into Addressing Bureaucracy paper to create a finalised version which will be eventually submitted to Tracy Meharg.
8. Questions for Tracy Meharg and Paul Brush to be submitted to Joanna (other questions are free to be asked on the day).