

SUBJECT: Voluntary Action East Lothian the Third Sector Interface (TSI) for East Lothian – Update Report.

1. Purpose

Voluntary Action East Lothian (VAEL) sets out in this report our proposal for strengthening the relationship at Local Level between the Enterprising Third sector and East Lothian Community Planning Partners.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To support the VAEL bid to East Lothian Council Community Services and Leader + for £350,000 over a three year period that will give lasting sustainability to the Interface and establish it as a self financing Trust.
- 2.2 To support the establishment of the Communities Thematic Group, with VAEL taking the lead in this process and jointly chairing the group alongside Community Councils
- 2.3 To agree the membership list for VAEL within the Community Planning Groups and to update the group memberships with relevant thematic chairs and on the CPP website.
- 2.4 That all Community Planning Partners and departments are informed, and use VAEL as the initial point of contact for all VAEL business, to act as a clearing house as is the case in VAEL's relationship with central Government.

3. Background

3.1 The development of VAEL as the Third Sector Interface for East Lothian and the agreed relationship with the ELCPP over the past year is tracked through the reports to this Board on 12.02.10 and 13.12.10 – see background papers section 7.

3.2 VAEL Bid

VAEL will be making an application to ELC Community Services and Leader + to increase its capacity to deliver on the agreed Operational Plan for 2011/2012 and beyond.

This would be a three year fund towards financial sustainability through income generation with no further localised ELC grants/funding to go towards the TSI functions.

This would increase the TSI capacity in delivering Social Enterprise, Organisational services, as well as capacity and linkage around Thematic Groups and forums of Community Planning

VAEL will over the 3 year period launch its own sustainable income generating enterprise that will sustain its activities. This will process will be researched, planned and then delivered by the partnership.

Inclusive of these monies would be the new VAEL grant system for Enterprising Third Sector Groups/Projects and Individuals.

This would see up to 8 grants of £3000 for individuals and 5 grants of £5000 for groups/projects per year.

3.3 Communities Thematic Group

It is proposed to set up a new SOA Thematic Group to take forward the new SOA Outcome for communities (see SOA 2011/12 report on this agenda). The Board is asked to support VAEL in taking the lead with this new thematic group, jointly chairing the group with the Association of East Lothian Community Councils and agreeing that the starting membership of the group could be;

VAEL

Association of East Lothian Community Councils

East Lothian Community Care Forum

ELC Department of Environment

ELC Community Services (Culture Leisure and Local Community Planning)

East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel

Local FE/HE Representation

VAEL would welcome other membership suggestions inclusive of Board Partners where appropriate

3.4 VAEL representation within Community Planning

VAEL has agreed representation across community planning groups as below:

- Community Planning Board – VAEL Chief Officers
- Community Planning Working Group – Sheila Durie (SEEL) Eliot Stark (VDEL)
- Community Engagement Sub Group – Linda McNeill (VDEL) Bill Bradford (ELVON)
- Environment Housing and Places – TBC
- Girfec YP – Eliot Stark (VDEL)
- Tackling Poverty – Alan Brown (ELCCF)
- Community Safety – James Bruce (ELVON)
- Health and Social Care – Beverley Jones (Care and Repair)
- Enterprise and Skills – Sheila Durie (SEEL)
- Communities – TBC

VAEL representation for Community Planning is drawn not only from the VAEL Partners but from the wider Third Sector in East Lothian.

VAEL is currently holding an election for a second member for Health and Social Care TG.

No other individual currently on any thematic group is representative of VAEL, and the wider sector.

VAEL would also request that where specific knowledge and skills are appropriate we can co-opt a second temporary TG member.

VAEL will be moving towards a democratic election process for the Thematic Groups once our new database is established and we are working with one single system.

4. Policy Implications

Enterprising Third Sector Action Plan 2008-2011
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/19085003>

5. Equalities Impact Assessment

This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6. Resource Implications

- 6.1 Financial – VAEL has secured Government funding for 2011-2012 of £203,200 VAEL would expect that a similar grant would cover 20012/2013 and 2013/2014VAEL bid as detailed in 3.1
- 6.2 Personnel – VAEL will be increasing capacity and staffing in developing new work in relation to Organisation, Social Enterprise and Community Planning roles.
Enterprising Third Sector member organisations are asked to contribute staff time as appropriate to assist with initiatives and Thematic Group representation.
- 6.3 Other - ELCP member organisations are asked to contribute in kind to VAEL with a conferencing venue for annual Third Sector Conference, catering and other such services.

7. Background Papers

VAEL Partnership Operational Plan
<http://cmis.eastlothian.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=12125>

Establishing a successful relationship between the third sector, local government and all community planning partners in East Lothian
<http://cmis.eastlothian.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=10892>

THE THIRD SECTOR AND THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS – 2011
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/15300/Localism>

8. Appendices

None

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