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18 February 2009

Geoff Pearson
Third Sector Division
Public Service Reform Directorate
The Scottish Government
Victoria Quay
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Dear Geoff

THE NEW THIRD SECTOR INTERFACES

I refer to your letter dated 2 February 2009 in which you requested a short, simple report to be returned to you by 18 February 2009.

Attached is a short report on the state of play in Aberdeenshire.

Yours sincerely

MAUREEN STEPHEN
BRIDGE CVS Chief Officer
for and on behalf of Aberdeenshire Third Sector representatives

Aberdeenshire new third sector interface: progress report

Aberdeenshire's third sector infrastructure representatives and some of the Local Rural Partnerships met on 13 February 2009 to discuss the new interface options and to identify the practical issues which need to be considered. This meeting was facilitated by Kevin McDermott, Strategy Development Officer, Community Learning and Development, Aberdeenshire Council. The meeting was also attended by Mark Meiklejohn from the Third Sector Division support team and by members of the Community Planning Partnership team. The preparation for this meeting included consultation with representatives and completion of a questionnaire to provide an overview of where organisations are in respect of issues such as resources, duplication and scope for improving partnership working.

The preferred option of the third sector in Aberdeenshire is to investigate the option of formalising a new partnership body to draw down funding and to help the sector plan more effectively.

The immediate short term key tasks were identified as:

1. Stakeholder engagement on the potential for a new formalised partnership;
2. Modelling how the new interface could work;
3. Achieving consensus on how the new interface will work.

In the medium term the key issue is to research and scope the extent of the development agenda that needs to be addressed by the third sector in Aberdeenshire.

It was decided to commission a small, representative short life working group to undertake the short term tasks 1 and 2, returning to the wider group to examine the options and agree on how the new interface will work. The same group will research the medium term issue and return to the wider group with a proposed development agenda and options for progressing this.

Although it is expected to have the basic model of the interface set out by the end of March 2009 the planned communication and engagement with stakeholders would suggest an interim report could be presented for discussion with the Community Planning Partnership Board at their June 2009 meeting.