

REPORT TO GEOFF PEARSON (Third Sector Division, Scottish Government)

From: Gaynor Jones, Voluntary Action Orkney

Date: 16th February, 2009

**RE: 'INTERFACES'/ DIRECT FUNDING FROM THE SCOTTISH
GOVERNMENT TO VAO FROM APRIL 2009**

BACKGROUND

Since January 2008, VAO have gone through the following process:

- Board strategic planning sessions
- March 2008 restructured organisation
- Consolidated links with community planning
- Facilitate Compact Working Group
- Facilitate and Chair Third Sector Forum
- Member of LSEP and manage LSEP budget
- Disbanded VC committee

Since January 2009, VAO have gone through the following process:

- Meeting with Scottish Government re direct funding
- Board meetings and strategic planning sessions
- Full discussion and endorsement at CPP Steering Group (highest level) re direct funding
- 'Exchange of Letters' between VAO and CPP
- Discussion re Interfaces at LSEP followed up by written correspondence and LSEP support for the planned interfaces
- Communication with VDS and SCVO

DETAIL

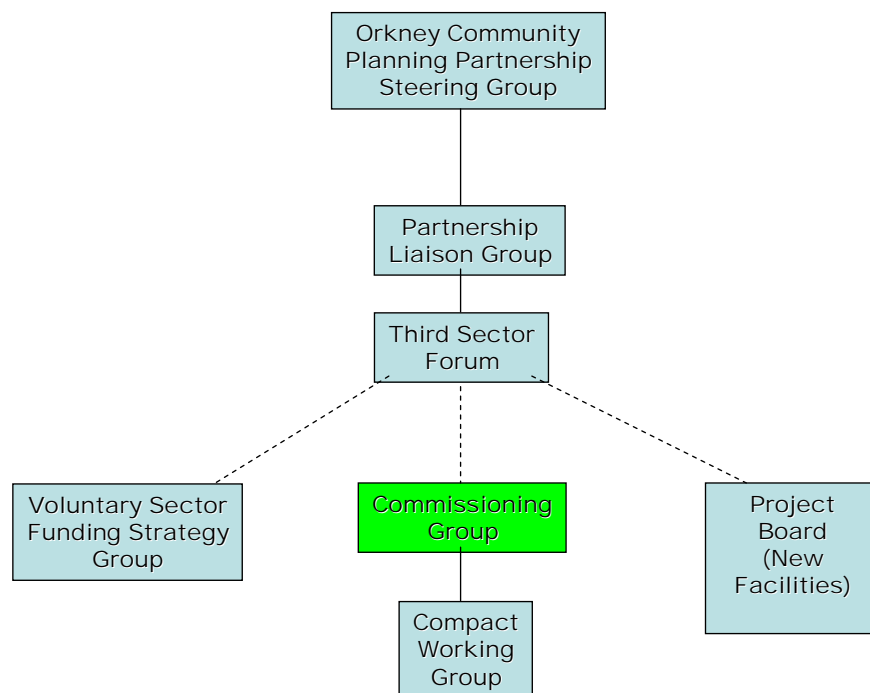
- CPP recognise the interface they have with VAO ie in our representation and contribution on behalf of the third sector in Orkney through the CPP. This was discussed at length at the last CPP steering group and VAO have got their full backing (unanimous) to pursue direct funding as from 1st April. The notion of 'an exchange of letters' was agreed and VAO has since written to Stephen Hagan (Chair of CPP) and received a positive reply. Therefore the 'exchange of letters' is complete. (Copies of letters sent with hard copy of this report).
- VAO will deliver on Thrive and Connect/ Volunteering: Achieving Scotland's Potential/ SOA/ Equal Partner at CPP/ LSEP aspirations.
- VAO are committed to PQASSO Quality framework and will have achieved the required self assessment to attain Level 1 by March 31st 2009.
- The above arrangements have the full backing of the VAO Board, and more specifically to pursue direct funding from 1st April, 2009.

- VAO has written to our national intermediaries (VDS and SCVO) to advise of our local intentions, explaining we will need to relinquish current contractual commitments regarding funding and monitoring arrangements.
- VAO has presented at national network events about our 'model' and the progress made.
- Voluntary Action Orkney is a fully functioning, fully integrated CVS, VC LESP partner and CPP partner. Re governance, It has one board and a series of relevant sub groups.
- It is understood that funding will be based on the same funding we have received for 2008-09 and run until 2011. ie what we get now and LSEP money.

FIT WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING

The following diagram shows the third sector links with Community Planning in Orkney. VAO represents the third sector at all levels. It Chairs the Third Sector Forum and jointly chairs the commissioning group with the local authority. VAO's Chief Executive is a partner of the CPP steering group. VAO's Deputy Chief Executive is a partner of the Partnership Liaison Group. This is a small section of the whole CPP framework in Orkney. VAO represent the sector on the numerous other thematic partnership groups within community planning.

STRATEGIC FIT



NEXT STEPS

- Confirm contract arrangements (including actual funding amount re 2009-10 and 2010-11) with Scottish Government and withdraw from contractual commitments to Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations and Volunteer Development Scotland respectively.
- Confirm that LSEP funding will be added to 'the pot' to support the 'interfaces'.
- 1 cheque, new grant letter to cover CVS/VC/LSEP funding.
- Agree new monitoring arrangements with Scottish Government. (It is understood that activity will be reported through the CPP SOA).
- Direct funding as from April 1st, 2009.
- Remain firmly part of national and local partnerships and networks (only change is banking and reporting arrangements). VAO recognise this may change again beyond 2011.
- Move all VAO staff re core third sector business, volunteering issues and projects into new open plan space within our current 'hub' to ensure true integrated services.
- Lose the term 'Volunteer Centre' and the Volunteer Centre logo. We are 'VAO' with one logo.

TIMELINE

Summary re the above:

- **2008:** Restructure & improved links with Community Planning
- **March 2009:** PQASSO Level 1
- **April 2009:** Direct Funding
- **Sept 2009:** End of funding formula consultation
- **2009-10:** Phased Transition
- **2010-11:** Year of stability
- **2011:** Outcome of national and local Spending Review
- **April 2011:** New funding arrangements

nb. It is recognised that a potential change to the funding formula is a risk factor for Orkney. VAO and the CPP are committed to guard against any potentially detrimental changes to Orkney's resources.

ACTIONS

- Scottish Government to issue a new contract for VAO as from 1st April.
- Scottish Government to clarify reporting requirements.
- VAO, VDS and SCVO to withdraw from elements of their respective contracts.