



18 February 2009

Geoff Pearson
Public Service Reform
Third Sector Division
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH
EH6 6QQ

Dear Geoff.

In response to your letter of 2 February 2009 proposing the submission of a short report on the state of play regarding local discussion around the localism agenda Council for Voluntary Organisations Kyle & Carrick (CVOKC) and Volunteer Centre South Ayrshire (VCSA) are jointly writing to let you know of current work being carried out by our organisations.

To date we have had an initial joint meeting of Board members and staff on Saturday 14th February 2009 which was very productive and resulted in the setting up of a joint sub group to look into a variety of issues surrounding a proposed partnership and interface. This group will examine in some detail the four functions specified in your letter. It will collect relevant information and consult with appropriate stakeholders before reporting back to the joint boards of CVOKC and VCSA with proposals and recommendations for discussion/action. A sub group meeting was held on 17th February to discuss the way forward and has set an agenda for following meetings to discuss various models of partnership and interfaces. The group aim to have a draft model interface by March 2009 and produce an action plan for 2009-2010.

We are also currently engaging with third sector groups under the banner of Voluntary Action South Ayrshire via joint road shows in 10 venues across South Ayrshire starting February and finishing April to gather views and opinions on current developments/proposals which will be collated in a report which will be available to yourself and Community Planning Partnership. We also plan to host a joint conference on 15 May 2009 to bring together third sector organisations to present an inclusive representation model and website and hope that you will be able to participate in the event.

Voluntary Action South Ayrshire came about in response to the emerging agenda of localism in both the CVO and VCSA networks and in recognition of the need to deliver service improvement in the sector.

Our organisations are keen to work together more efficiently and effectively and contribute to the processes with shared and common approaches which will ensure best value service by the Third Sector to meet local needs working in partnership with the Community Planning Partnership.

As an outcome of the South Ayrshire Voluntary Sector and Regeneration conference in March 2008 there have been regular meetings of the South Ayrshire Third Sector Working Group. This group includes representatives from the CVOKC, VCSA, SCVO, the South Ayrshire Social Economy Network, and the Children's Services Voluntary Forum. The group have agreed to a special meeting on 16 April to discuss the options for the future of the sector in light of the new localism agenda.

The Third Sector Working Group has been working on the joint implementation of the new South Ayrshire Compact to benefit all parts of the Third Sector and their links to the new Community Planning Partnership structures and delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement. The first stage has been funded through the LSEP's award from the SG's Third Sector Division. In this phase we are undertaking the development of a comprehensive Third Sector Directory; A Third Sector Web site (offering mutual support/advice, procurement opportunities, inter-trading and increased understanding and communication both within the sector and with our Community Planning partners); A protocol for Third Sector support with clear routes for advice/support and any gaps identified for future action. A Compact launch event is proposed to be held in May 2009.

I hope this information is useful and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Jess Dunabie
Development Manager
Council for Voluntary
Organisations Kyle & Carrick

Marie Clark
Centre Manager
Volunteer Centre
South Ayrshire

David Sherlock
Chair of Local
Social Enterprise Partnership

Valerie Stewart
Community Planning
Co-ordinator
South Ayrshire Council