

PROGRESS WITH LOCAL INTERFACE - OUTER HEBRIDES COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP AREA

Since the meeting which the voluntary organisations in the Outer Hebrides (Western Isles) had with Mr Pearson, three meetings have been held, encompassing Voluntary Action Lewis, Harris Voluntary Service, Uist Council for Voluntary Organisations, Voluntary Action Barra and Vatersay, Volunteer Centre Western Isles and the Local Social Enterprise business.

Discussion centred around setting up a Voluntary Sector Forum in the Western Isles, encompassing the six groups mentioned above. This Forum would be the interface for the Outer Hebrides. The meetings focused on four key areas:

- * Where we want to be in 3 years as a group
- * Barriers to collaborative working were identified
- * Way forward
- * Information gathering

Subsequent to this information was gathered and is documented on the following headings, which we feel are very relevant to a future structure. It is important that key roles are defined to be able to assess how we can deliver on the Single Outcome Agreement and the 15 National Outcomes:

- * How we fit in with the 15 National Outcomes
- * What we do which is Government funded
- * What we do which is not Government funded
- * What the third sector does with the support of the six umbrella groups

Involvement with the Community Planning Partnership

The Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership was restructured following the first Single Outcome Agreement drawn up by the Local Authority. All four CVSs have a seat on the partnership, as does the Volunteer Centre Western Isles.

Involvement in Single Outcome agreement

Helena Coxhall, UCVO, was appointed on to the CPP Steering Group which worked on the Outer Hebrides Single Outcome Agreement. She played a leading part on that Group, ensuring that the voluntary sector and community perspective was included. As part of this she facilitated a "Thinking Day" for all the CPP parties, which formed the basis for the Single Outcome Agreement. Voluntary Sector has, therefore, taken a lead role in formulating the Single Outcome Agreement of the Outer Hebrides.

The focus since the beginning of the year has been on formulating the Single Outcome Agreement for the Outer Hebrides and in view of the important role of the CPP, we feel this was the correct focus.

NEXT STEPS

A meeting is to be held in the near future to consider the information gathered, to seek an agreement on setting up a Voluntary Sector Forum and local structures capable of dealing with funding distribution. The Community Planning Partnership will be closely involved in these discussions.