

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council
 47th Meeting of the Board of Directors
 Monday 28th April 2014 at 6.00pm
 Napiershall Street Centre, 39 Napiershall Street, Glasgow, G20 6EZ

Minutes

Present

Board of Directors

1. Hanzala Malik MSP (HM)
- Chair**
2. Dr Malcolm Green (MG)
3. Harriette Campbell (HC)
4. Sharon Schlesinger (SS)
5. Vince Chudy (VC)
6. O S Jandu (OJ)
7. Tunweer Malik (TM)
8. Syed Jafri (SJ)
9. Anne McTaggart MSP (AM)
10. A. Saeed Bhutta (AS)
11. Neil Johnston (NJ)

Observers

- John Service (JS)
 Cllr Bob Chadha (BC)

In attendance

- Mohammed Razaq (MR)
 Mohith Lakhanpal (ML)
 Timothy Mwakasekele (TM)

1. Apologies

Board of Directors

1. Neil Johnston (NJ)
2. Cllr Rashid Hussain (RH)
3. Haji M Munir (HMM)

Observers

- Elaine Gerrard (SFR) (EG)

2. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and mentioned briefly the Launch Event by WSREC's Cook, Grow and Sew project.

3. Presentation

A presentation on one of WSREC's new project called Cook, Grow and Sew was made by Timothy Mwakasekele (Project Co-ordinator) and was a quick summary of what the project is and its outcomes.

The key points of the presentation:

- Projected started 6th January 2014 with Aleksandra Pawluk as it's the Community Activities Officer.
- Raise awareness on Climate Change and Carbon Emission Reduction and increase Community Understanding
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Cut the projects Co2 e by 32.567%.
- Promote Engagement and involvement in the issue of climate change
- Enhance new skills in order to alter individuals' behaviour on climate change and carbon emission reduction
- Funded by Climate Challenge Fund (Keep Scotland Beautiful), from October 2014-March 2015
- Activities are: Cookery classes, Grow Your Own (gardening), home energy visits (partnership with G-Heat) and cycling classes

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the 46th meeting on 3rd of February 2014 were approved as a true and accurate record. One member required meaning of a couple of acronyms within the Minutes which were explained by MR, it was agreed that minutes should be acronym free.

5. Matters Arising

Actions:

- Police Scotland did not turn up and no report (gender/race that report hate crime) was received.
- Board training- Razaq will resend email to all board, this was carried out by MR however it was recommended that training opportunities should be forwarded to WSREC Board members and if there is cost to training then this should be discussed with Personal committee to its relevance in the first instance and then Finance committee to see there are finances available to pay for the training.

Discussion

6. Reports

A. Chair (Verbal report on Skills Development Scotland)

- Having discussions on how Skills Development Scotland are engaging with minority ethnic communities, as they have been struggling to engage with minority ethnic communities
- Not been enough discussion or movement with Skills Development Scotland
- Last meeting was in January and still waiting on a response from Skills Development Scotland
- WSREC would like to get involved in getting minority ethnics in modern apprenticeships and get more clarification from Skills Development Scotland
- Board members will be contacted when WSREC receives further information from Skills Development Scotland
- Had a discussion with Alex Neil via SAREC, Alex Neil (past-minister) suggested that WSREC look at employment issues

B. Mohammed Razaq – Executive Director

At the end of the financially year 31st March 2014, WSREC and its projects have also been reporting back to funders with end of year reports and also completing project events.

➤ Projects -Ongoing

1. Living Equality
2. Branching Out
3. Roots Scotland
4. Embrace project
5. Cook, Grow, Sew (CGS)
6. Roma Youth Project (RYP)
7. Stepping into Diversity (SID)
8. Qurbani (sacrifice) Food Initiative
9. Good Community Relations Project (GCRP)
10. Minority Ethnic Silver Surfers Project (MESS)
11. Challenging Sectarianism Across Generations (CSAG)
12. Campaign to engage Imams and Mosques in the fight against Forced Marriage
13. Money Advice Works (MAW) WSREC staff seconded to Queens Cross Housing Association

➤ Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Council (SAREC)

I continue to support WSREC's chair and vice chair at the Board meetings of SAREC. Provided input into the SOPA event and the upcoming Hate Crime Conference and for the SAREC annual Report

➤ WSREC AGM

This will take place at 5.30pm on Monday 30th June 2014 in the Glasgow City Chambers information and arrangements are being attended to. This year we hope to present certificates to our many volunteers.

➤ Funding

The following are 'live' bids

- We will be making a 2nd stage application for new generic employment project to Big Lottery Fund as we have successfully past stage 1

- Application for new employment project for EM disabled (applied second time as we were not successful in our 1st attempt with Big Lotteries)
- Funding for a number of projects comes to an end during the year and some by 31st March 2015 so work is ongoing to identify work still required for each project and how this can be resourced. (Needs up-dated and struggling on how to layout this part) (mentioned: successful bids, Remploy/research and £10 000, lead to a bigger project/funding and successful on getting an officer on giving out advice on finances issues)
- PHF- Fitter for purpose support
 WSREC was successful in apply for support to assist with 'Communication Evidence of effectiveness'. The work has been completed by the Consultant Penny Cole. An action plan was been formulated and work initiated on Marketing which was approved WSREC Board on the 3rd of February 2014. From that work we obtained 4 days consultancy from Just Enterprise who have provided further information after market research which will inform an application for resources from Just Enterprise Grant fund. This is being prepared for submission for the deadline of 16th of June 2014, but done by end of May. The funding application will be done by Mohammed Razaq and Mohith Lakhanpal (Enterprise and Marketing Officer).
- Staff
Secondment of Michael Wilson to Interfaith Scotland
 Michael's secondment to Interfaith Scotland as the Project manager interfaith Glasgow (maternity cover) is in its 8th month (started on the 26th August 2013 for 13 months) is going well. The keepings in touch days for Michael are proving very beneficial to both him and staff at WSREC.

I would like to report that WSREC has the following complement of staff as 31st March 2014:
 Total of **34 (33 paid + 1 Placement)** and **25** Volunteers

Breakdown

- 5** full time staff
- 14** part-time staff
- 14** Sessional workers
- 1** Work placement (Paid)
- 25** volunteers (4 within WSREC office)

Work placement

We have Jordan Mains from GCIL (18 months) to assist with administration work

- Events/Meetings attended
 - Wednesday 5th February 14 attended meeting with Angela Hogg big Lotteries, Glw
 - Thursday 13th March 14 attended VAF Equality Fund Connectivity event in Stirling
 - Thursday 25th March 14 attended CEMVO/MAS event for EM orgs on Money Advice

Partners Reports

A. Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service-John Service

JS reported the following

- 2 public events
- Hate Crime Conference (end of March), joint event with Police Scotland and Procurator Fiscal
- Held every 2 years, event is to highlight the seriousness of hate crime and evaluate
- Schools Public Speaking event (questions are based on equality), started last year in Glasgow schools and now has expended into other schools in Renfrewshire and Dumfries and Galloway
- Finals are in Glasgow
- Would like board members to be judges at the heat or observers
- Chair would like more diversity from schools which have a higher population of minority ethnic communities

- Working with schools in Dunbartonshire- giving better access to justice/law for senior pupils, this involves tours, placements and shadowing
- Fire Service- Elaine Gerrard as sent out a copy of a short report.
- Hosting a Development day event, Charity dinner event and AFSA (Asian Fire Service Association) AGM and would like if some of the board members to attend, let Razaq know
- 12th of June – AGM and Charity dinner
- 13th of June – Development Day (Chair and Anne McTaggart MSP will attend)

- B. Police Scotland
 No attendance

ACTION

MR to contact Police Scotland to find out about the requested split of hate crime figures and also non attendance and no with apology received.

7. For Decision

- A. Finance (Projected budget and cash flow statement for 2014-15).
 Projected Income was reported as **£489,380** and expenditure of **£436,406**. The cash flow statement showed that there was positive cash amount available all through the year. The Board agreed both the project Budget and cash flow as satisfactory.
- B. Correspondence (to be tabled at the meeting)
- Letter from Principal Alan Sherry of Glasgow Kelvin College happy to work with WSREC and provided details of equality officer Helen Dunlop to discuss partnership work.
 - Communication received from Climate Change Fund wishing WSREC to sign up to 'Scotland's Climate Change Pledge for Communities' this was agreed.
- C. Twinning Board members with WSREC projects (projects information e-mailed to Board)

ACTION

MR to resend the project list to all Board members and for Board members to contact MR in relation to which project they wish to be twinned with or request further information.

8. For information

- A. SAREC (verbal report)
 MG reported that that SAREC had been going for several years to provide a Scottish wide platform for the 4 Regional Equality Councils along with collaboration in obtaining resources for its members. WSREC was able to support SAREC with an application for support and SAREC were awarded £10,000 from Awards for All. The money received had one of the outcomes as providing a conference on equality. This is happening with 'Hate Crime Conference' arranged for 7th May 2014 in Edinburgh with Doreen Lawrence as the keynote speaker. HM congratulated Malcolm Green for being elected chair for SAREC second time round.
- B. A.O.C.B
- MR sent round a copy of the ID magazine with article with photos of the Glasgow Lahore twin city cycle challenge organised by the Hanzala Malik Chair of WSREC which raised over £3,000 for Yorkhill Children Charity and £7000 for Lahore Sick Children's Hospital. The Board congratulated Hanzala and the participants for their efforts.
 - SB wished it to be recorded his dissatisfaction at the WSREC AGM being held during Ramadan as being insensitive.

9. Date & Time of Next Meeting

WSREC AGM 30th June 2014 5.30pm Glasgow City Chambers