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Project Update Meeting

Tuesday 16 March 2021

Via Zoom

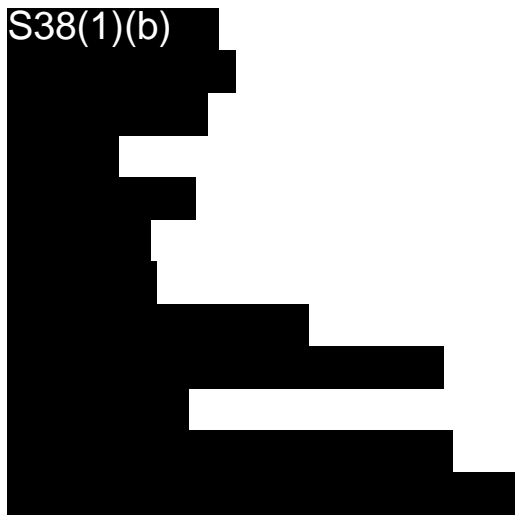
Attendees

Niven Rennie

Will Linden

Alastair Muir

S38(1)(b)



1. Welcome and Introduction

Niven opened the meeting by reflecting on the high profile murder in London of Sarah Everard and the wider implications of the public response. He drew parallels with the murder of Moira Jones in Glasgow some years previously and the impact that Moira's murder continues to have so many years later.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from S38(1)(b)



3. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting of 9 February 2021 were adopted as a true record and Niven ran through the action log updating as required.

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4. Current Projects – Update

4.1 Braveheart Industries

Alastair reported that the BHI board continues to grow with external experience being introduced. Meetings of the board take place on a monthly basis at present to develop a strategy for the post COVID period and the development of governance documentation. These developments will include the employment of a Chief Operating Officer which will relieve the VRU of daily responsibility in this respect.

S38(1)(b), a restaurateur who has leased the large Airstream at present, is extremely interested in helping to develop the Street and Arrow brand and has produced a 6 page option document for board consideration. Alastair has also been given authority to sell the smaller Airstream and will look into that option. A proposal to site an Airstream at Lambhill Stables was not feasible due to footfall etc.

The Street and Arrow team remain furloughed with support to our one remaining trainee, **S38(1)(b)** being provided by Callum. **S38(1)(b)** has been working at the Springburn foodbank.

S38(1)(b) added that **S38(1)(b)** is also working on his life after Street and Arrow and he hoped to become an electrician's apprentice. The recent former trainees have both had good outcomes – **S38(1)(b)** has enrolled at College for the new session to undertake a course in Health and Social Care and **S38(1)(b)** has commenced as an apprentice roofer.

S38(1)(b) also intimated that he is preparing documentation for the Chief Operating Officer on appointment including policies and procedures and stories of success from the previous years of Street and Arrow.

Finally, **S38(1)(b)** reported that there was at present no prospect of a return to the Dental Hospital but he will remain in contact with them.

4.2 One Community

As **S38(1)(b)** provided a report on her behalf. Referrals remain extremely high and the charity is very busy. Funding has been obtained from Cash for Kids and the STV appeal to help people with their financial struggles.

A bank account has been opened and should be available for use within the next few days removing the reliance on Medics Against Violence to process funds. The board meets regularly and there is an interim chair until a full time chair is appointed.

4.3 The Crib – Edinburgh

^{S38(1)(b)} reported that the work on the Crib bus with care experienced youngsters continues. A more formalised arrangement is being put in place with Midlothian Council with funding being provided for this service. This may also involve delivery of a service at weekends as the bus is in constant use 4 days/week at present.

S39(1) have now become involved in this work and could become a feeder school for the young people who are engaged in the bus as some are not on a school roll. This could lead to the development of an SQA qualification for the kids undertaking the alternative curriculum. The head of guidance at the school has been an excellent contact providing an element of essential support.

Heavy Sound have made a successful funding bid to the Social Innovation partnership to establish a bike repair shop and relationship building initiative in East Lothian. There may be links to CJS and community payback orders through this development. Action for Children may be providing a mentor who is skilled in this area to work on this initiative.

The Crib team have also established a link with an individual who is about to be released from Polmont to the Haddington area without support. This style of throughcare is an area that could be developed.

The Princess Street gardens development is still being discussed with the lead agency yet to be identified.

4.4 Dundee

^{S38(1)(b)} had submitted apologies but her written report was noted.

4.5 Ayr Wallacetown

^{S38(1)(b)} summarised developments in Ayr and highlighted that a new Strategic Development Partnership had been created for the area and its first meeting would be in the 17th march. The main aim was to create a team of people on the ground and a number of discussions had taken place to that end with Police, Fire Service, Social Work and Health amongst others. One identified gap in health had been filled with a community nurse attending at the local foodbank to engage with residents using that facility.

Information sharing was highlighted as an ongoing issue and much discussion followed.

^{S38(1)(b)} offered to discuss this issue with information management and report back to ^{S38(1)(b)}

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ACTION: S38(1)(b) to raise the issue of information management protocols with Police Scotland Information Management and report back.

S38(1)(b) also drew attention to his written report and work he is engaged in across Ayrshire.

Niven also commented on wider engagement with elected members and influential individuals in the area – with an input to the Community Justice Authority on the 28th March having been arranged.

4.6 *Custody Navigator*

COVID remains a restriction for this project although the one employee supported by a SACRO secondee is doing their best to provide a service. The second employee is being recruited and will be in post by the end of March hopefully. The case load at present is about a dozen cases – many of whom have alcohol, drugs or mental health issues.

S38(1)(b) has had a meeting with Chief Inspector Jim Young of Police Scotland Custody Division and he will hopefully facilitate the navigators into the custody area by May 2021. They also discussed the identification of best practice from the numerous custody pilots ongoing across the country but the Kirkcaldy navigator pilot is the only one which offers a 'journey' with the individual, the others being merely a referral to agencies. Police Scotland are extremely interested in the outcomes from this project and the evaluation being conducted by S38(1)(b). The other projects are not being evaluated in this way but merely gathering metrics.

S38(1)(b) is to establish a series of meetings with Chief Inspector Young and has been invited onto a short life working group looking at establishing custody support and intervention champions to address the fact that custody staff feel ill equipped or informed to make interventions.

Along with S38(1)(b) has prepared a training package for delivery to Fife custody staff and there is interest in this elsewhere. Perhaps a train the trainer model will be the ultimate outcome as we have limited capacity to deliver this across the country.

S38(1)(b) reported that Chief Superintendent Barry Blair has regular contact with the SMT at PPCW and perhaps Niven should attend a future meeting. Niven agreed to do so if this was believed to be beneficial.

Will highlighted that the Positive Steps programme that S38(1)(b) was developing in Dundee was more aligned to Custody Navigator than other programmes. Niven asked S38(1)(b) to consider including Positive Steps in her evaluation report, highlighting best practice.

ACTION: S38(1)(b) to explore the potential inclusion of Positive Steps in her custody project evaluation.

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4.7 ECHO Project/Help the Helpers/You Decide

Help the Helpers

S38(1)(b) reported that Stage 1 had now been completed and the 'train the trainers' element had been highly evaluated. The trainers from the Abelour Charity were now using this training to train colleagues from across their disciplines and across the country. This roll out of the programme will also be evaluated by Kirsten.

S38(1)(b) are now training S38(1)(b) on the train the trainers format and they have support from external partner organisations from Ayr and Dundee to help establish a help the helpers programme in each VRU location.

The other organisations who partook in the original train the trainer pilot will commence their own programmes after the COVID restrictions have lifted.

You Decide

S38(1)(b) reported that every young person apart from the youngest individual to engage with You Decide have now been placed in college or employment programmes. He continues to support them in 1 to 1 sessions along with S38(1)(b). Niven praised this as a significant achievement as they were all troubled youngsters who have had a life changing intervention.

Work continues linking Lambhill Stables with G20 and building relationships which has led to a joint youth work programme in Cawder on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening. S38(1)(b) are developing a bespoke programme for the train the trainer model to expand this work to other youth groups in the area. This will include trauma awareness, dealing with toxic stress and relationship based practice.

Heartstone, C2 and St Giles Trust

S38(1)(b) reported that Heartstone will commence in the Schools in the Echo project area on their resumption after Easter. He also outlined the connection with St Giles Trust and the identification of appropriate individuals to be trained as mentors. He highlighted the success of 'Paul' who had come to us as a result of the Panorama programme and has now successfully completed his City and Guilds qualification beginning paid employment with G20 and Lambhill Stables.

S38(1)(b) intimated that further work has taken place with No Knives Better Lives who are seeking to use our team at G20 to revamp their programme to look at the causes and conditions of violence through a peer education programme.

It was also stressed that the work at G20 had led to the referral of seven young men to the 'choiceworks' programme run by Glasgow City Council helping to provide support to young people with convictions to find employment. Normally the young people we have referred would not have been accepted but the involvement of the VRU has overcome these barriers. Indeed, one young person with 12 pending cases cannot qualify for the

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programme at present but there has been engagement with him and support is being provided to address his offending behaviour and the drug and alcohol problems he has.

Finally, Will reported that BHI have secured premises in the area near to the Partick Thistle Football Stadium as a base to meet clients and provide support locally to the ECHO project area.

There have been numerous responses to the Community Navigator advertisement – many of high quality and interviews will take place shortly with appointments as soon as they can be made.

Social Work in the Glasgow North area are commencing a desistance mentoring programme with the VRU and S38(1)(b) will lead on this. This development has been welcomed by the Social Work department and will be a partnership with themselves, VRU and BHI.

C2 work is being developed but cannot be implemented until lockdown restrictions ease.

4.8 Community Navigator

S38(1)(b) reported that he had held meetings with the team from 'We are with you' in respect of this programme and S38(1)(b) who is evaluating it. COVID again hinders progress due to access to the prison estate. There is finance available to run the project for the next fiscal year and signs for continued funding from the ADPs are encouraging.

S38(1)(b) advised that she receives reports on a monthly basis from the Navigators and has regular meetings with them regarding the ongoing project evaluation.

4.9 Prison Projects

Alastair reported that the Dumfries Prison help the helpers programme is in week 7 of 10 and progressing well. That said due to a COVID outbreak some SPS staff had to miss a few weeks and they will be repeated.

S38(1)(b) updated on positive meetings at Perth and Edinburgh prisons and we remain hopeful of engaging further with them after the pandemic restrictions. In particular, at HMP Edinburgh the head of offender outcomes is wishing to have staff working with the most violent offenders provided with trauma informed training.

5 Future Projects.

5.1 Caithness/Sutherland

Valerie informed the meeting that there had been no further contact in respect of the development of a Caithness and Sutherland hub but there is still a desire to progress this in the Highlands division. It is possible that they are awaiting the removal of pandemic restrictions.

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5.2 Legal Aid Project

Niven highlighted a desire to progress this project once again and had discussions with Iain Smith and Clare Collin in this regard. It is his intention to email SLAB and ask for a progress discussion.

ACTION: Niven to email SLAB to start to progress this project again

5.3 Social Media Campaign

Claire advised that this project is now continuing at pace. The contract has been awarded to 'the Union' advertising agency and an initial meeting has taken place with them. A meeting is to take place with **S38(1)(b)** to ensure that there is no clash with government campaigns. The website will be developed to become able to handle the anticipated interest in this campaign and field the requests for information.

6 Media/Website

Grant informed the meeting that his work over the next period will be largely focussed on preparing the website for the social media campaign.

7 Training

Scott had submitted a written report which was noted. Kirsty provided an update on the development of a training programme aimed at tackling gaps around offending behaviour and coercive control and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours. Early discussions have involved Safe Lives, a gender based analyst, Youthlink and the criminologist Dr Maureen Taylor. The project will be aimed at youth club attendees and will be based on obtaining the relevant consent. Niven observed that, given the publicity surrounding the recent death of Sarah Everard, this would appear to be the time to progress such a development.

8 Evaluation/Research

Kirsten had also submitted a written report which was noted. She highlighted her work with No Knives Better Lives and the development of a violence reduction toolkit, which has slowed slightly due to the level of demand she is currently experiencing. That said the Youth Endowment Fund is currently funding the development of a youth violence toolkit and she is keen to ensure that there is collaboration between England and Scotland on this development.

9 Strategy Development

Claire updated the meeting on this matter and said that the document will now be circulated internally for comment before going externally to a small number of key organisations. This issue has also been held up by substantial issues relating to procurement but it is hoped this will be concluded in the short term.

10 AOCB

10.1 Edinburgh Business School

Niven advised that he and Claire had met with the Edinburgh Business School and the work involving the Copenhagen Business School will take place in November. This will be a week long venture and many members of staff will become involved. More details will be shared when available.

10.2 The Hope Collective

Niven also outlined the involvement of the SVRU in the UK national Hope Collective run by the Damiolla Taylor Trust. The Prime Minister has endorsed the nation 'day of Hope' on 7 December annually which is damiolla's birthday and there will be a focus on the provision of hope and opportunity for young people. Events will take place across the UK in advance. Niven has been asked to Chair the organising body and he has asked Youthlink to represent Scottish Youth organisations. Further updates will be provided when available.

10.3 Youth Volunteers

Dario outlined the potential to become involved in a development of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteer idea amongst more disadvantaged young people and involving other blue light services. There is potential for SVRU involvement and further information will be provided as this develops.

11. Partner Updates

Lucy advised that purdah will commence on 26th March and conclude on 6th May. During this period government comment will be extremely restricted.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 1000hrs on Tuesday 13 April 2021.