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**Project Update Meeting**

**Tuesday 17 August 2021**

**Via Zoom**

**Attendees**

Niven Rennie

Will Linden

Alastair Muir

S38(1)(b)

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Niven opened the meeting and thanked everyone for adjusting to a zoom meeting once again at the last moment due to a COVID incident. He also stressed the requirement for the written monthly activity summary to be submitted in good time to allow it to be read before the meeting and thus reduce the need for a long verbal report.

Finally, Niven congratulated S38(1)(b) for being awarded a diploma with distinction from Cambridge University on the subject of evidence based policing leadership. This was a great achievement for S38(1)(b) personally but also a significant milestone for the VRU.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from S38(1)(b) and Norrie Conway.

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### 3. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting of 20 July 2021 were adopted as a true record and Niven ran through the action log updating as required.

### 4. Partner Charity Updates

#### 4.1 Braveheart Industries

Alastair reported on continued problems with BHI although the return of students to the dental hospital may see an increase in over the counter sales and provide the staff with a greater workload. Alastair had met with the chair of the board to request greater support from the board and to encourage them to progress the recruitment of a Chief Operating Officer. A board meeting will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August when this item will be on the agenda as will the progress of an MOU with the VRU.

#### 4.2 One Community

As S38(1)(b) submitted her report. With the assistance of S38(1)(b), Tesco vouchers had been collected and distributed to assist families who were extremely impoverished.

A youth event is being planned involving 'new scots' and youth from across the city at the G20 premises. This will be a day of fun aimed at breaking down barriers and forging new links. Similarly, a Barbeque is being planned for Queens Park involving members of a small community – S39(1) – who have traditionally been reluctant to engage and are often overlooked.

Finally, S38(1)(b) raised the current situation in Afghanistan and highlighted a request from Police Scotland to assist in getting the 'Scots Law Guide' translated into the two Afghani languages. He has sought the assistance of Sabir Zasai, CEO of the Scottish Refugee Council, himself an Afghani to progress this.

### 5. Current Project Updates

#### 5.1 The Crib – Edinburgh

S38(1)(b) had submitted a written report and was attending a meeting regarding the second CRIB bus at Soughton Prison.

#### 5.2 Dundee

S38(1)(b) has submitted a written report and highlighted a few issues. A great deal of effort was ongoing in relation to the further development of the Dundee Recovery App including the potential for a Dundee company to develop upgrades and attend to maintenance. This may include a print function which would allow the up to date information to be printed for prisoners leaving police custody.

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The local authority health and social care manager has become involved and it is hoped that they will assist with the further development of the App.

S38(1)(b) said that other areas were interested in obtaining the App but she would rather concentrate on ensuring its successful development in Dundee. S38(1)(b) agreed that this was the correct approach stating that similar projects across the country had suffered from being overly ambitious.

S38(1)(b) also highlighted progress at Perth Prison where discussion had taken place following a recognition that remand prisoners on release from the prison represent a significant number of individuals encountered by the 'non fatal overdose group'. S38(1)(b) and S38(1)(b) had offered to form a focus group to map the journey of released remand prisoners and identify the gaps in service and other issues which had led to the high level of 'near misses' encountered. This was being progressed in tandem with the local health and social care partnership and Criminal justice authority. To our knowledge no previous research of a similar nature has been undertaken. S38(1)(b) underlined the connection to violence within the cohort, particularly street robberies, that provided sufficient legitimacy for the VRU to conduct this work. Unfortunately two planned events had been postponed at the last minute due to COVID and the next attempt would be made in early September.

Similarly, the Alexander Community Development project is progressing well and they are extremely interested in developing a 'street and arrow' style enterprise for their new premises. Niven suggested that they should be introduced to board members from BHI as the aims of both organisations might be met by joint working.

**ACTION: Alastair to highlight to BHI board the potential for joint working and development with ACD.**

Finally, S38(1)(b) confirmed that she would be involved in a Help the Helpers training with 'assertive outreach team' of 'Positive Steps' commencing on Friday 3 September with a taster event.

### 5.3 Ayr Wallacetown

S38(1)(b) commenced his report by stating that it would appear that Wallacetown has been chosen by Public Health Scotland to be one of 4 areas where the whole systems approach would be piloted. This would mean the addition of 1.5 members of staff to the team but also a greater external focus on the area which may help to drive improvement. In this regard, a discussion would take place later that day with representatives of the local authority regarding evident gaps in service and breakdowns in service delivery in the area.

S38(1)(b) also highlighted successful community initiatives locally and the SVRU 'away day' at Lendrickmuir which had been attended by over 30 people. He concluded by stressing that the residents survey results would be ready for sharing with partners soon and that should provide a baseline for progress.

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#### 5.4 Custody Navigator

<sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> wasn't present but Niven reported on a recent meeting between himself and Chief Supts Linda Jones, PPCW, and Gordon McCreadie, CJ. It had been proposed that, in addition to evaluating custody navigator, VRU should also evaluate another custody project – given the number of different projects around. Will suggested two further evaluations, one paper based referral and one which has an element of relationship building within it but not quite as strongly contained as navigator. In this regard Val suggested that Kittiebrewster in Aberdeen should be considered. <sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> replied that access to data would be important but she would explore this issue.

**ACTION:** <sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> to examine feasibility of other custody project evaluations

Niven also informed SG colleagues that we were looking at early October for a visit to Kirkcaldy for the Cab Sec.

#### 5.5 ECHO Project/You Decide

Will coordinated this response and highlighted the test and learn nature of the project which in many respects was going very well. A trip to Lendrickmuir the previous week had provided an opportunity for essential team building and binding and had been a great experience for the navigator trainees.

<sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> provided an update on the development of 'the Spirit of Springburn' which now had been provided with a shop front in the Springburn Shopping centre with many statutory and third sector partners taking part and an indication from Bob Dorris and Paul Sweeney, MSPs, that they would also participate. The aim is to provide a range of services and support with the facility being staffed by volunteers. <sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> thereafter gave examples of recent users of the facility and the availability of food stuffs etc meeting real need. Progress is also being made in relation to the local schools with Springburn Academy in particular being very supportive.

The You Decide report from <sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> followed and he emphasised the constant level of demand and referrals and the need to maintain a network of contacts in the area. One of these contacts 'blankfaces' were providing an opportunity for young people to earn new skills and become involved in a social enterprise generating income.

Contact with the governor of Polmont Young offenders Institution has led to a suggestion that young people being released to North Glasgow from Polmont should engage with the You Decide Navigators and be assisted in their readjustment. This would start with engagement and agreement prior to release and would involve police and social work. A similar arrangement is already in place with the good shepherd YOI after an approach by a social worker with a request for the team to work with a particular young man. That request is being progressed and the young man will be released in September.

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Further positive connections have been progressed with the Celtic Foundation, Skills Development Scotland, TIGERS and other organisations. The navigators are also considering community outreach work in the evenings as most statutory services appear to be working in office hours. Niven also outlined discussions with the CEO of Glasgow Warriors regarding their potential involvement as positive role models and to provide a sporting opportunity.

Will asked about the capacity of the navigators to meet the demand and S38(1)(b) reassured him that, currently, demand is being met. That said, it continues to grow and requests are now being received from across the City of Glasgow.

Niven stressed the need to seek additional funding for the project to expand and that this should be done in conjunction with the board of BHI.

### 5.6 Peer Inclusion Project

S38(1)(b) referred to his written submission and the difficulties encountered with the troubled young people he is having referred to him by the Social Work Department. 3 of these referees are now in prison but the receipt of a 'you decide' uniform and related identification will assist this to progress. He also spoke for the need to structure the trainees week, an issue S38(1)(b) had expanded upon in order to ensure that they follow a regular pattern and receive appropriate experience and support, including the assistance of two therapists who would give their time free of charge to support the trainees.

### 5.7 Help the Helpers

S38(1)(b) drew attention to her written report.

### 5.8 Community Navigator Ayrshire

Will confirmed that the project will progress until March 2022 given that East and South Ayrshire have committed the requisite funding. North Ayrshire will drop out once the current funding arrangement expires in October.

### 5.9 Prison Projects

In addition to the earlier update by S38(1)(b) highlighted a change of emphasis at Edinburgh prison due to a change over of senior staff.

### 5.10 Online Engagement

S38(1)(b) highlighted that matters are progressing well, the website is ready and that interviews and voiceovers have been recorded.

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### 5.10 Hope Collective

Niven provided an update on the London Hackathon, the re-arrangement of the Belfast event and progress in relation to the Glasgow Hack on 13<sup>th</sup> November, the subject of which will now be the environment to coincide with COP26.

### 5.11 Football Initiatives

**S38(1)(b)** updated on the successful trauma informed input to Hamilton FC and the potential expansion to Dundee United FC. The latter club has an interest in Domestic Abuse as a theme and there are potential to include this in the domestic abuse project and to develop Cath as the main point of contact.

Niven highlighted a recent conversation he had with Lt Col Gilly Moncur who leads for Army Cadets in Scotland and a request to consider trauma informed training for individuals who volunteer with the 15-18K cadets attached to the army, navy and air force in Scotland. Niven suggested that a meeting with Gilly would be worthwhile and offered to arrange same.

**ACTION: Niven to arrange meeting between **S38(1)(b)** and Lt Col Moncur**

## 6. Future Projects.

### 6.1 Caithness/Sutherland

**S38(1)(b)** confirmed that a series of meetings and event would take place in Caithness the following week which would also involve other officers from PSOS. **S38(1)(b)** said that she hopes that this area will also be selected for support by PH Scotland in a similar fashion to Wallacetown.

### 6.2 Youth Volunteers

**S38(1)(b)** has made arrangements to meet inspector **S38(1)(b)** and her team the following week.

### 6.3 Domestic Abuse

**S38(1)(b)** reported a focus group of 4/5 young girls would take place on 30 August at G20 involving Dr **S38(1)(b)** and it was hoped to add a school to this in addition. The terms of reference have been updated and Scottish Government and additional Woman's Aid involvement had been secured although 'safe Lives' now appear to be withdrawing. There is potential to develop a 'one stop shop' facility for women to seek assistance possibly in Livingstone as a pilot.

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#### *6.4 Kilmarnock Town Centre*

**S38(1)(b)** had not been involved in recent weeks but would follow up.

#### 6.5 Scottish Government Bystander

**S38(1)(b)** advised that his written report contained all pertinent information.

#### 6.6 Human Library

No report given.

#### 6.7 Injury Surveillance

Will advised that slow progress is being made.

#### 6.8 Vicarious Trauma

Will reported that a couple of meetings had taken place but similarly slow progress.

#### 6.9 Prevention Strategy

Niven explained that this is in early discussion with Scottish Government and further updates would follow.

### **7. Media/Website**

Niven highlighted that the launch of the 5 year strategy would be at G20 on 9<sup>th</sup> September and arrangements were being progressed by **S38(1)(b)**. This event would be attended by the Cab Sec.

### **8. Training**

**S38(1)(b)** had submitted a written report. He drew attention to several items in the report.

### **9. Evaluation/Research**

**S38(1)(b)** highlighted that the development of the prevention toolkit was progressing once again with the involvement of two students from Abertay university. She thereafter summarised progress on numerous evaluations.

### **10. AOCB**

#### *10.1 Heartstone*

Niven informed **S38(1)(b)** of recent contact from **S38(1)(b)** as she is drawing together a Scottish Government paper on Heartstone.

#### 10.2 Moira's Run

Niven drew attention to a recent email from **S38(1)(b)** encouraging participation in the annual Moira's Run which would once again be virtual this year.

### 10.3 Unlock Employment

S38(1)(b) intimated that the CEO of unlock employment had contacted him seeking assistance in employing 5 young people from offending backgrounds at COP26. This would be progressed.

### **11 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 1000hrs on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021.