

OFFICIAL

Senior Management Meeting

Tuesday 25 January 2021

By Zoom

Attendees

Niven Rennie

Will Linden

Alastair Muir

S38(1)(b)

S38(1)(b)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Niven welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

3. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting of 24 November 2020 were accepted as a true record and the action log was updated.

4. Risk Register

The risk register was reviewed and updated. No further risks were identified.

5. Financial Update

S38(1)(b) provided a projection until end of year. This was a difficult exercise as monies may or may not be refunded from Police Scotland under a couple of budget headings. S38(1)(b) was confident that this money will be refunded, however, and projected a budget surplus of around £15,000. Other issues causing an element of concern surrounded procurement and S38(1)(b) highlighted that the £30K marketing campaign targeting weapon carrying has been held up. If it cannot progress through procurement before the end of the financial year we may have to ask for the money to be carried forward to 21/22 or drop the campaign and return the funds. Niven undertook to update government.

OFFICIAL

6. Overview of Current Projects

6.1 BHI

Alastair reported that BHI is largely on hold due to COVID. The majority of the staff are furloughed and two trainees finish on 28th February. The remaining trainee has had a six month extension to his programme and is currently engaged with the Springburn foodbank.

The new board is now comprised of 6 people and they are applying for funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for a Chief Operating Officer.

6.2 One Community

Niven provided an update to the extent that S38(1)(b) is progressing the opening of a bank account at the Bank of Scotland which will allow funding to be paid directly to the charity and applications to be progressed. Similarly, the board has now formed but the key positions of Chair and Treasurer require to be filled with temporary arrangements in place at present.

6.3 Custody Navigator

Alastair reported that the project is progressing within the restrictions of COVID with referrals being made by police Scotland to the Navigators.

6.4 ECHO Project

Will reported that progress had been difficult since Christmas due to COVID concerns, one of our staff had contracted the illness whilst working at G20. Annual leave had also been significant in the post Christmas period. That said there has been some one to one sessions utilising online platforms. Similarly the planned asset based training programme has been paused.

The advertisement for the 'community navigators' will be placed over the coming weeks which will allow the project to expand further.

7. Hub Development

It was acknowledged that COVID restrictions were making all Hub activity a challenge.

7.1 Edinburgh

In the main S38(1)(b) has been supporting the Heavy Sound work on both the bus and at their Cockenzie base. Attendance has remained high but the restrictions reduce the ability to interact between 'bubbles' requiring more staff to be in attendance.

7.2 Dundee

S38(1)(b) has been very involved in developing the 'Recovery App' and related issues and remains fully involved with both public and third sector in tayside.

7.3 Ayr

S38(1)(b) has been extremely busy since joining the VRU on January 11th. He has met with numerous partner agencies and established important relationships to advance the project.

7.4 Caithness

Niven reported on dialogue pre-Christmas with Police Scotland regarding the significant issues in Caithness and Sutherland and the desire to create a VRU hub in the area. This matter is being progressed and updates will be provided.

8. Staffing

8.1 Funding for Charitable Posts

As previously discussed long term funding for One Community can now be progressed as the bank account is being opened and the board is in place. Similarly BHI are progressing the project lead position with Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Will undertook to advance the ECHO positions during the course of the year and it was agreed they need to be submitted within the next 6 months.

8.2 Charitable Contracts

S38(1)(b) can now be progressed with OCS and discussions will start regarding S38(1)(b) move to BHI. This will commence with Alastair raising the issue with the board to get their agreement before discussions with S38(1)(b).

8.3 Communications Manager (job Share)

Will stated that this will be advertised in the short term and that he has progressed the issue with PSOS recruitment.

9. Planning

9.1 Strategic Plan

The plan is in its final stages before being submitted for consultation. A draft copy is currently with S38(1)(b) as Scottish Government.

9.2 Business Plan

Will said that he hoped that the business plan will be largely completed in the coming week to progress to Scottish Government.

9.3 PSOS Strategic Planning

Will outlined some difficulties that had been encountered in retrieving the data from PSOS which had caused delays. The timescale for submission pre-purdah may be difficult but an internal analysis of weapon carrying and use as requested by the government may be possible.

10. AOCB

10.1 Marketing Campaign

S38(1)(b) intimated that this should progress to procurement in advance of the financial year cut off but that things were tight. She would be following up with PSOS procurement later in the day.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 1030rs on Monday 22nd February 2021.