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Project Update Meeting

Tuesday 8 June 2021

Via Zoom

Attendees

Niven Rennie

Will Linden

Alastair Muir

S38(1)(b)

S38(1)(b)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Niven opened the meeting and welcomed all present with particular mention of S38(1)(b) S38(1)(b) from Glasgow University who was observing as part of the research into the VRU influence across the UK. S38(1)(b)

Finally, he thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the recent Royal Visit to the CRIB and Heavy Sound, with particular emphasis on the parts played by S38(1)(b).

2. Apologies

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

3. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting of 11 May 2021 were adopted as a true record and Niven ran through the action log updating as required.

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4. Partner Charity Updates

4.1 Braveheart Industries

Alastair provided a BHI update reporting that there remains 1 chef and 1 trainee with little by way of footfall and takings of about £100/day. This cannot be sustained long term but the board are pushing ahead with an application for a Chief Operating officer to be funded by the Robertson Trust having progressed through the first two levels of the process successfully. This appointment would remove some pressure from the VRU.

4.2 One Community

^{S38(1)(b)} advised that the ^{S30(b)(i)&(ii)} This will allow for grant payments to be progressed at long last. ^{S38(1)(b)} continues to work with young people in the main building CVs and helping with applications for young apprenticeships. Of concern is a growing level of evidence of young people abusing parents. This is largely COVID driven it seems and the situation will be monitored.

5. Current Project Updates

5.1 The Crib – Edinburgh

^{S38(1)(b)} highlighted the success of the Royal Visit and the benefit derived by Heavy Sound. The charity have taken on an additional mentor and had added recent success when a young person with significant juvenile offences who had been attending the charity obtained ^{S38(1)(b)}. ^{S38(1)(b)} also mentioned a ^{S38(1)(b)} from a residential establishment who was showing great signs of progress after engaging with Heavy Sound.

A meeting will take place later this week regarding the second CRIB bus entering Saughton Prison. It is planned that about a dozen people will work on the bus drawn from a variety of halls.

^{S38(1)(b)} also provided an update on progress in respect of the Princes Street Gardens development.

5.2 Dundee

^{S38(1)(b)} provided an update on developments in respect of the recovery app with the NHS showing interest in becoming involved and widening use of the App. She underlined the huge potential of this App which started from an idea from an individual in the local 'parish nurses' and was funded by a marathon run.

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Meetings will take place with Sgt S38(1)(b) who is the supervisor for the non-fatal overdose police team in Dundee aimed at developing a 'VOW' style response locally. Any potential for this team to develop will see them based in the Lochee Hub where 4 more 'assertive outreach' workers have been employed. Cath is updating a proposal paper she submitted to the Dundee management team pre-covid.

Other areas highlighted by S38(1)(b) included continuing dialogue at Perth prison and the expansion of the Alexander Community Development employability project into new premises within a former bowling club. This will accommodate expansion as in just over a year they have taken on 4/5 cohorts of a dozen trainees with a 100% attendance rate.

Alastair added to this report by underlining that he had attended a recent meeting with the Divisional Management team and they were pleased with the progress being made.

5.3 Ayr Wallacetown

S38(1)(b) reported on the initial success of the C2 work with numerous partner agencies taking part in community engagement events. Over 100 surveys had already been received providing valuable baseline information. This exercise also allowed partners to take immediate action in respect of issues raised by residents, a number of which related to employability skills. S38(1)(b) is collating the surveys and will distribute the data to partners. She confirmed that she had received 118 forms with the most positive response being proximity to the town centre. The most detrimental comments to date highlighted a feel of being 'unsafe' and 'drug use'.

S38(1)(b) highlighted that the strategic delivery partnership, chaired by the head teacher from the primary school, had held 2 meetings thus far. The third sector are now represented and the emerging theme was numerous agencies supporting the same people in an unseuctured manner.

The 'Team Wallacetown' continues to expand with 2 community police officers appointed. The next step will be to identify their own space somewhere in the community outside of the primary school.

5.4 Custody Navigator

Commencing his report S38(1)(b) advised that a new navigator, S38(1)(b), has been appointed and she has numerous elements of experience in this area of work. It is planned that she will start on 7th July. Access is slowly being enabled to the custody area as COVID restrictions relax.

Alastair advised that the visit to DIVERT will take place on 22/23 June and will include CI Jim Young from the national custody team. This will give Alastair a chance to discuss with

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him the plethora of custody projects across Scotland and the lack of commonality of approach due to Divisional autonomy.

5.5 ECHO Project

Will commenced by explaining slight tweaks that had been made in the ECHO structure. This has seen S38(1)(b) lead on the 'You Decide' (community navigator) work and S38(1)(b) concentrate on C2 asset based work supported by S38(1)(b). He also highlighted the recruitment of 3.5 trainees mentors for ECHO and 1 one trainee for the BHI kitchen with S38(1)(b), the existing trainee being the .5 splitting his time between the two bases. Will added that he was undertaking financial projection so cost with S38(1)(b) this week with a view to preparing bids for future funding.

S38(1)(b) reported on speedy development of the 'You Decide' team. Week commencing 10th May was induction followed by a week of introduction to other services before deployment. Yet, thus far have been 15 referrals from a variety of agencies including housing associations, and other charitable organisations. Already many engagements have been made to improve the lives of the referees. S39(1) have offered a safe space to meet victims of domestic abuse and it is hoped that the same offer will be made at S39(1). Housing associations are also offering phantom appointments to cover for a victim of domestic abuse to meet the team. A variety of other activities and opportunities have also been created. Niven advised that TIGERS were also interested in offering opportunity through their new employment arm and suggested that S38(1)(b) contact S38(1)(b) who has been appointed to lead this work.

ACTION: S38(1)(b) to engage with S38(1)(b) at TIGERS regarding work development in the ECHO area.

S38(1)(b) added that it has been agreed at a meeting between SCVO and the St Giles Trust that our new mentors will be approved for funding by SCVO and then sign up for training with St Giles. There is the potential for this partnership to grow.

In terms of C2 asset development S38(1)(b) added that he had spent time in the community in Springburn identifying key influential residents, 10 of whom have agreed to assist. The community in motion element will be built about the joint campus of St Stephens and St Kevins, the latter being a special needs school.

5.6 Help the Helpers

S38(1)(b) commenced by highlighting that she had visited the G20 boxing class where S38(1)(b) has engaged with 8 young boys and 2 young girls and is looked on as a 'father figure'. It is her intention to support him on a Friday night whenever she can.

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In terms of HtH, the original North Glasgow cohort have started to deliver training. Three of them have come together and are starting sessions in July. Abelour staff are meeting on 18th June to discuss how they will roll out training across their organisation.

The staff team and partners have now concluded their training and Jason and S38(1)(b) from Seascap, Ayr will deliver training to the Seascap team in the short term. Future developments at Edinburgh Prison are still under discussion.

Alastair added that the Dumfries Prison training had now concluded and discussions continued regarding next steps.

The train the trainers for Dumfries Prison concludes this week with similar interest now being expressed by Edinburgh Prison.

5.7 Community Navigator

S38(1)(b) reported that activity in the prison has now increased significantly so much so that the three ADPs are looking for funding to keep the programme afloat. Will added that all three ADPS would require to commit about £10K to maintain the programme until the next financial year with us making up about £10k shortfall. 2/3 have committed thus far. The ADPS will shortly meet to set budgets and it is hoped that this programme will be included.

5.8 Prison Projects

There was no further development to be added.

5.9 Online Engagement

S38(1)(b) drew attention to the huge level of demand that she has faced of late as her job share post remained unfilled. As a result, she will need to dedicate herself to the development of this project over coming weeks in order to make the timescales required. Links are being advanced with the Samaritans, Victim Support Scotland and Strathclyde University.

6 Future Projects.

6.1 Caithness/Sutherland

Niven drew attention to that fact that there were two separate but related developments involving the VRU. S38(1)(b) was involved with education regarding trauma and care experienced children and S38(1)(b) and he had been discussing a 'Wallacetown' style approach in the area. He suggested that a meeting should be conducted with a view to obtaining synergy. S38(1)(b) agreed to organise this.

ACTION: S38(1)(b) to organise a meeting aimed at bringing together the various elements in the area looking to the VRU for assistance.

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6.2 Social Work Project

This project had commenced following a request from North West Glasgow Social Work that we consider one to one working with six young men with chaotic lifestyles. S38(1)(b) had agreed to undertake this work and reported that these were the most challenging individuals he had worked with since CIRV. Of the 6, 1 was wearing a tag, 2 were in prison, 1 had significant drug addiction issues (previously being supported by the navigators), 1 required rehousing due to domestic abuse issues and one was trying to stabilise through a detox programme. He had identified significant childhood trauma in this cohort and multiple ACES. He hoped to be assisted by one of the trainee mentors, potentially S38(1)(b) whom he believed had the correct skill set and was of an age to engage with the young people. S38(1)(b) hopes to take on another 2 individuals in the community given that 2 of this initial cohort are currently in prison.

Will supported this by underlining that the Social Work Department are delighted with progress to date and he hopes to meet with them on 23rd June to discuss the caseload further. There is real potential to expand this project.

6.3 Youth Volunteers

Niven summarised a delay in progression whilst Police Scotland decide how they will advance their own programme. He asked S38(1)(b) to contact the new PSOS lead to discuss.

ACTION: S38(1)(b) to contact PSOS Youth Volunteer Inspector to discuss potential for a wider programme.

6.4 Hope Collective

Niven advised that the Glasgow 'Hack' will take place on Saturday 13th November at TIGERS, Springburn. Further detail will be circulated in due course.

6.5 Domestic Abuse

S38(1)(b) reported that a 2nd steering group meeting had taken place and focus groups will now be developed. Glasgow Women's Aid are heavily involved and they will arrange for 2 domestic abuse survivors to take part in the focus groups. Similarly, it is hoped that young men's voices will be provided by two of the G20 attendees.

The plans to use Safe Lives and Youth link have thus far been unsuccessful but alternatives are being considered including Safe and Together and Scottish Sports Futures.

6.6 Kilmarnock Town Centre

S38(1)(b) had added this to the portfolio of developing projects and had commenced the work prior to joining the VRU. The project aims to engage with prolific offenders gathering in Kilmarnock Town Centre and provide peer mentoring support. A local community officer has been freed up to support this and along with the 'open doors' initiative and it will develop in a similar way to the VOW.

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7 Media/Website

S38(1)(b) reported that a new logo for the 'You Decide Team' is being developed and that another blog will shortly appear from guest blogger S38(1)(b).

8 Training

S38(1)(b) summarised his written report highlighting that work had recommenced with Hamilton Academicals FC in relation to trauma informed practice. Similarly, Dundee FC are also interested in developing a programme.

9 Evaluation/Research

S38(1)(b) had also submitted a written report ran through several issues including a meeting at Perth Prison on Thursday 10 June.

10 Strategy Development

S38(1)(b) reported that several amendments had been made and a final draft would be available before we progress to printing. Niven intimated that he had asked Scottish Government officials if the new Cabinet Secretary for Justice might launch the strategy. They in turn had asked if the launch of the strategy could be linked to something else and the proposal was a joint launch with the 'You Decide Team'. Accordingly a brief of the potential look of this launch was required for a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary on the 16th.

ACTION: S38(1)(b) to prepare a brief for Scottish Government Officials in advance of 16th June.

11 AOCB

11.1 Hospital Injury Surveillance

Will reported the need to look at violence once again in a wider view than PSOS statistical recording. He had asked S38(1)(b) to lead on re-visiting the 'Cardiff Model' and a meeting would take place later this week.

11.2 Concept of a Human Library

Will also highlighted the above as a potential project. Initially raised by S38(1)(b) this is the concept of taking positive human stories and utilising them to build positive relationships. It has been successfully utilised in Denmark and was undertaken by Strathclyde University/Mitchell Library in 2013 with some success until they ran out of funds. S38(1)(b) will also examine this.

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11.3 Vicarious Trauma

Will also reported that he had received an approach to ask if we would be interested in supporting a project being commenced by S38(1)(b) from Epione Training and Consultancy aimed at exploring the community trauma following a traumatic event. He is having an initial meeting regarding this.

11.4 St Giles Trust

Alastair reported that there were now numerous connections between the St Giles Trust and the SVRU. Indeed, next week senior members of the organisation from London were meeting with Niven. S38(1)(b), the Scottish lead, is keen to further develop this relationship and has made a bid to the Robertson Trust to employ 90 young people over a 3 year period to work in the areas where the SVRU are based – Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Ayr. This will include peer workers, mentors and assessors.

11.5 Homebargains

Alastair also highlighted connections he has made with the homebargains retail chain who wish to become involved in funding tangible community assets such as playparks and that this may interest project leads.

12 Date of Next Meeting

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

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