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**Project Update Meeting
Wednesday 26 January 2022
Via Zoom**

Attendees

Niven Rennie

Alastair Muir

Will Linden

S38(1)(b)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Niven welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a COVID update in line with Scottish Government announcements. A gradual and phased return to the office would commence on Monday 31st January and details were outlined as to how this would be achieved. Face masks of the Police Scotland approved type would be required and lateral flow tests should be undertaken before visiting the office.

2. Apologies

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

3. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting of 24 November 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 summarised a much more successful period for BHI and a positive board meeting the previous week. The advertisement for a Chief Operating Officer had been published and had already received one application and another note of interest. Sadly, there was no indication of future funding from SCVO but the board had agreed to maintain one trainee on a month to month basis and fund another place. Two new, more dynamic, board members are being appointed. Cook S38(1)(b) is currently overseeing the chef role and the part time mentor, S38(1)(b), is effectively ensuring the project runs smoothly.

Niven advised that the Police Federation, although interested, had declined to sponsor a trainee for a variety of internal reasons and suggested that one of the first tasks of a COO would be to identify long term sustainability for the existing programme.

4.2 One Community

S38(1)(b) had submitted a written report in advance which was noted. Alastair provided an update on the successful Lendrickmuir event which was attended by 60 yung asylum seekers. Feedback would help inform further activity at lendrickmuir.

Will also reported on OCS funding and applications for same currently being processed.

5. Current Project Updates

5.1 The Crib – Edinburgh

S38(1)(b) advised that COVID had again impacted on the CRIB which had been recalled to Tranent to be used as an 'in crisis' centre. As from Monday 31st, however, it will return to locations in Mid and East Lothian supporting educational outcomes. He also reported in developments at heavy Sound, The Place in Niddrie and, finally, Facenorth, an organisation with history and pedigree working with 'hard to reach' youth and may provide a vehicle through which 'You Decide' could be established in Edinburgh.

5.2 Dundee

S38(1)(b) provided an extensive report building on a written submission. This covered further developments of the 'recovery app' and its possible expansion throughout the Tayside area and even beyond. This is allied to the development of a hard copy 'map' which is being amalgamated with a harm reduction toolkit into one booklet. Again, custody division of PSOS are interested in having this throughout the country but there will be significant work required to research and enter local points of contact into a template.

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S38(1)(b) also provided information relating to the possible expansion of 'You Decide' to Dundee. Discussions thus far have been very positive with local councillor support and organisations such as the Parish Nurses, Positive Steps, Street Soccer and Alexander Community Development all keen to support and be involved.

Finally, S38(1)(b) updated on stalled progress at Perth Prison on demand research but was positive that the connections remain and this will be concluded post COVID.

5.3 Ayr Wallacetown

S38(1)(b) drew attention to his written report and highlighted some progress in bring partners to the table. A Strategic Delivery Plan is being progressed by Community Justice Ayrshire as some partners feel more comfortable working to such a document. A very successful Burns event had been held in Wallacetown the previous evening attended by many in the community but also the local Police Divisional Commander and Senior Fire Officer. The prospect of a Wallacetown 'You Decide' programme is also being progressed.

5.4 Custody Navigator

The Kirkcaldy project is moving forward significantly with engagement significantly increased. S38(1)(b) advised that there was still a vacancy for the second navigator post. He added that Falkirk custody had closed with prisoners there going to Dunfermiline and Dunfermiline's to Kirkcaldy. This would allow a Fife wide custody intervention programme from Kirkcaldy.

A wide ranging discussion took place thereafter regarding wider custody intervention and the need to attempt to gain a level of consistency.

5.5 ECHO Project/You Decide

S38(1)(b) reported that You Decide was continuing in the North of Glasgow with one navigator at present, supported by some of the trainees. S38(1)(b) has been helping to manage the project whilst he has been working in the East End of Glasgow. S38(1)(b) have also helped to create a client database which is GDPR compliant and restructuring policies and procedures. A lot of the work over the festive period has been focussed on developing positive pathways for clients.

S38(1)(b) added that S38(1)(b) has been working with NKBL and 'Catch the Light' and along with the trainees is redesigning a schools programme which will be trialled in S39(1). This will be aimed a younger age group in transition to first year and will need to dovetail to existing programmes.

Grant reported frustration that BHI had not progressed the email and domain names requested since July. Will proposed that he create 'You Decide' email addresses as a matter of urgency.

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ACTION: Grant to create 'You Decide' email addresses

5.6 Peer Inclusion Project

S38(1)(b) had submitted a written report and had submitted apologies due to visiting a client.

5.7 Help the Helpers

S38(1)(b) reported that the Ayr and Dundee programmes had concluded and were being evaluated. A joint funding bid for expansion was being progressed by 'the Alliance' and, if successful would require SVRU staff to assist with initial training.

5.8 *Community Navigator Ayrshire*

S38(1)(b) highlighted his written report and advised that a governance meeting would take place shortly.

5.9 *Prison Projects*

S38(1)(b) summarised her written report.

5.10 *Online Engagement*

S38(1)(b) advised that some extra money from an unanticipated under spend had meant that the project could continue in its current form for 2 more weeks. Statistics are currently being analysed and will be evaluated.

5.10 Hope Collective

Niven updated on the progress of the Hope Collective. The report from this year's events will be ready shortly and work has commenced to progress events for 2022. At least 20 are proposed under the title 'reimagined'. Niven has asked for 2 and perhaps 3 of these events to happen in Scotland with Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee proposed as venues.

5.11 Football Initiatives

S38(1)(b) reported on this project and highlighted overlapping work with Street and Arrow, Suicide Prevention Steering Group and our connections with football clubs. It is apparent that young people are committing suicide due to a lack of hope and a disregard for their own life. Football clubs have engaged in this area and there is much more that can be done to tackle these mental health issues. There is now a proposal to involve rugby too.

6. Future Projects.

6.1 Caithness/Sutherland

S38(1)(b) reported that 2 constables will shortly be recruited to work within PPCW and establish public health approaches in Caithness and also Letham in Perth and Kinross. In total 8 officers will eventually be seconded to this work under the management of S38(1)(b) who will link their work to the SVRU.

6.2 East End of Glasgow

S38(1)(b) summarised work responding to an S35(1)(a)&(b). This involved younger people than had historically been the case and along with S38(1)(b) S38(1)(b) has been working with FAIR to try and build bridges with the participants through the 'streetwise' programme. He also highlighted links to two further charities working in the area 'the Max Scobie Foundation' and 'Blankfaces' summarising their programme of activity.

Niven asked about gang activity involving S39(1) as S38(1)(b) had reported concerning issues at S39(1) and throughout Glasgow with young people being excluded from school or excluding themselves due to fear. S38(1)(b) was aware of this as he had brought the matter to S38(1)(b) attention. The new gang was called S35(1)(a)&(b) and they were modelling gang culture from London. S30(b)(i)&(ii). It was agreed that S38(1)(b) should be supported throughout.

S38(1)(b) updated on proposals for a local seminar in the east of Glasgow on 17th March.

6.3 Violence against women and girls

S38(1)(b) advised that she had reported to a Scottish Government Group this week who are keen to monitor the work of this project and gain important insight into the issue.

6.4 Kilmarnock Town Centre

S38(1)(b) highlighted his written report.

6.5 Scottish Government/SWDF Bystander

S38(1)(b) advised that work with the SWDF would commence in March and that the Scottish Government programme would be continued in liaison with SGHR.

6.6 Human Library

S38(1)(b) highlighted the item on her written report.

6.7 Injury Surveillance

S38(1)(b) proposed that this item be amalgamated with the prevention strategy.

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6.8 Prevention Strategy

The government are progressing this at present.

7. Media/Website

S38(1)(b) reported on a significant upturn in social media followers in recent weeks and S38(1)(b) advised on potential changes to the SVRU logo and general design of media content.

8. Training

S38(1)(b) had submitted a written report and had nothing further to add.

9. Evaluation/Research

S38(1)(b) updated on new academic projects she will be undertaking with Strathclyde University into suicide which may overlap into self harm and with St Andrews University into what matters to the people of Wallacetown.

10. AOCB

10.1 ETHOS

Niven highlighted the opportunity for 2 young people on Universal Credit to work with the VRU through Ethos, requesting nominations of suitable candidates.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 1000hrs on Wednesday 8 March 2022.

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