



**THIRD SECTOR**  
Dumfries and Galloway

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**THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY**

**REPORT OF MEETINGS**

**INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD**

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY**

*Working together to put our sector first*  
Dumfries and Galloway's Third Sector Interface

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## KEY POINTS

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PERSONAL RECORD BY THE OPERATIONS MANAGER OF TSDG, CLAIRE BROWN, ATTENDING AS THIRD SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE. IT IS BASED ON MY OWN OBSERVATIONS. IT IS NOT A FORMAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING.**

- There was a discussion about current pressures on the health and social care system, particularly in relation to workforce and recruitment. I raised the following in relation to the challenges faced by the third sector:
  - Current challenges around recruitment in the care sector, which impacts on the ability to meet demand for care, with knock on impacts on unpaid Carers and the cared for.
  - Recruitment challenges further exacerbated the existing difference in salary and conditions between the third and public sectors, as we continue to see staff move from our sector into statutory sector jobs. This reinforces our long-term ambition of levelling up pay and conditions across all sectors.
  - Challenges being faced by the wider third sector as a result of the pandemic could have an impact on early intervention and prevention in health and social care, particularly in relation to social isolation and loneliness and mental health and wellbeing. Current figure estimate that at least 25% and as high as 40% of third sector organisations in our region remain closed as a result of Covid.
- The draft Participation and Engagement Strategy was presented and approval given to take the plan to public consultation, following minor revision. IJBs are required to have a participation and engagement strategy in order to listen to the views of people using it's services and empower and involve communities in decision making. A 12 week period of consultation will take place, which will include the development of an easy read version to maximise engagement. It was noted that there is a cross-sector approach to participation and engagement across the health and social care partnership, driven by the Communication and Engagement Working Group, of which TSDG is an active member.
- Locality Performance Reports from each of the four localities were presented and discussed. These are leaner versions than in other years, reflecting the pressures that front line staff are currently facing. It was agreed that reports would benefit from the inclusion of case studies and testimonials to bring the work of locality teams to life.
- An update on the development of the Annual Performance Report was given. The report is on track to be delivered in the required timecales, with plans being developed on how best to present the report and maximise public engagement at a time when traditional engagement is difficult. It was noted that an easy read is also to be produced.
- The group received an update on the SAM Programme in terms of both modernisation and the sustainability of local services. In relation to community health and social care reference was made to the Single Access Point, Home Teams, and Care & Support at Home. Harnessing the benefits of technology, workforce efficiency and hybrid working were amongst other themes in the report. The importance of learning from other partnership areas was recognised.

- An update was given on the development of the Strategic Commissioning Plan. Consultation has ended and the editing process has commenced. There has been a reasonable response from mixed respondents, including staff, service users, unpaid Carers and volunteers. I emphasised the importance of ensuring that the voice of lived experience is included in both this and in other forms of participation and engagement across the partnership, particularly in light of the development of the Participation and Engagement Strategy. The importance of lived experience was discussed at our recent Third Sector Health and Social Care Forum.

