



THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

REPORT OF MEETINGS

POVERTY & INEQUALITIES PARTNERSHIP (P&IP)

16 November 2022

THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY

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

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PERSONAL RECORD BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TSDG, NORMA AUSTIN HART. IT IS BASED ON MY OWN OBSERVATIONS. IT IS NOT A FORMAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING.

1. Recruitment of the new chair of the P&IP continues using social media and websites. Deadline for applications is 9 December with shortlisting on 13 December and interviews on 11 January.
2. Sue Irving from Loreburn Housing Association will continue as chair of sub-group three until Christmas or until a new chair takes over. Sub-group three looks at ways of reducing the financial pressures for people living in poverty. This includes working with the two credit unions in the region plus DGC and signposting to a broad range of support including energy vouchers and fuel banks.
3. The P&IP chair Mark Molloy appealed for any recommendations for a new sub-group chair to be submitted to him before the next P&IP meeting in December
4. Mark Molloy and the Director of Public Health Valerie White explained that they had met with Public Health Scotland to discuss ways in which PHS can support the P&IP.
5. The core of the meeting was verbal updates from each of the four subgroups.
6. Sub-group one: Persistent and Extreme Poverty. Claire Brown from TSDG led the update from this group. There are 64 actions on this group's action plan. This is the largest group with the most actions. Seven actions have been identified as the key priorities.
 - a. new Cash First advice leaflet has been distributed across the region, 13,000 copies have been distributed and more can be made available.
 - b. A mapping of food banks has been completed. The subgroup meeting today will discuss how this information will be used.
 - c. Development of a training programme for statutory and third sector staff working in this area. The training material has been completed and the training will start soon
 - d. Appropriate use of personal data for individuals to maintain services to those at risk of destitution
 - e. Keeping the poverty-related support on DGLocator up to date is ongoing. TSDG has been mapping warm hubs and these will be posted on DGLocator
 - f. Current digital inclusion- an additional page on Cost of Living website will be included
 - g. The Hub in Dumfries is doing work on flexible fuel payments.
 - h. Claire thanked Wendy Jesson for her help with monitoring and tracking progress
7. Wendy Jesson pointed out that many of the TSOs involved in this subgroup are working together for the first time and this has not always been easy.
8. The Cash First leaflet can be made available in an online version.
9. Frontline social work staff in DGRI are to be informed about the work of this group to maximise awareness of those who may be leaving hospital and could benefit from these services.
10. Liz Manson attended the P&IP to give an update on warm banks or warm hubs. She referred to existing guidance by Martin Lewis which DGC will refer to the meeting being set up next week.

KEY POINTS

Also making sure that all organisations were aware of available funding and finally the role of the locality hubs in this issue.

11. The DGC management team have discussed this matter. Many places will be open anyway and if an additional activity is involved it addresses social isolation and reduces any potential de-stigmatisation.
12. I queried the role of the warm banks group being set up to meet on 25 November and was reassured that this will be a one-off meeting to take an overview of the work that is being done in the area of warm banks and to explore any innovative ideas. Ongoing sharing of expertise or experience will be added to the agenda.
13. Subgroup two covers benefit maximisation and debt advice. Christine Sinclair at DAGCAS leads this group. Christine referred to the group's work in relation to information and online support. This will also be fed into the new Cost of Living website.
14. Subgroup three on fuel poverty is led by Sue Irving from LHA. Sue raised again the question of how the windfarm community benefit funds could be used to alleviate the cost-of-living crisis. The DGC officer with responsibility for windfarms will be asked to attend the next PiP meeting to give an overview of the use of windfarm funds.
15. The fourth subgroup (child poverty) is led by Laura Gibson; the next meeting is on 22 November when they will consider the priority actions terms of reference and membership. These will be reported to the next P&IP meeting.
16. David Sawyer and Susan Knox attended the P&IP to give an update on the new cost of living website- a single portal giving access to information and support for all.
17. The site will go live over this weekend and will be launched at 1pm on Tuesday 22 November. Susan shared the site with the group. I reminded the P&IP of the results of the Digital Exclusion research which showed that the issue is no longer about access to devices but about motivation to use the internet and quality of experience – poorer if you are living in poverty.