



THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

REPORT OF MEETINGS

Education and Skills Strategic Co-ordination Group (ESSCG)

04 May 2023

THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY

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

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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. With reference to the minutes of the last meeting, I confirmed that the chair and I met to discuss the block to shared modern apprenticeships in the third sector. I asked for the question of shared modern apprenticeships to be kept on the ESSCG action log until the James Withers review of skills in Scotland is complete. The chair Russel Griggs agreed that this would be added to the action log so that it is not lost.
2. The main discussion was the about the terms of reference of the ESSCG. It was wide ranging. RG started by explaining that the Regional Economic Partnership has identified three priorities: housing, transport, and skills. The ESSCG is the only existing group covering skills. How should it interact with the new groups for housing and transport?
3. The Borders DYW representative said that the DYW teams across Scotland have been put on six months funding pending the results of the Withers review.
4. This group is effective because it is relatively small, and we know each other. It should keep to the overarching role and set up sub-groups to deal with links to housing and transport as well as key skills areas like digital and green skills.
5. If we are to be a guiding group by taking views of the REP (re housing and transport) and then come up with ideas for skills development this needs to be reflected in the terms of reference. A sub-group of the ESSCG could be set up to tackle specific tasks.
6. I asked about the work of the digital exclusion short life working group in relation to digital skills. How would the action plan to come out of the SLWG fit into a sub-group on digital skills? Greig Robson confirmed that there should be no duplication with existing work and there may not be a need for a sub-group. RG suggested an audit of what is already going on with the priority skills areas.
7. The ESSCG agreed to adopt the draft terms of reference- see [here](#)
8. There was a short presentation on the delivery of the skills aspects of the RES. This led to a discussion about the role of the third sector in the Local Employability Partnerships. Kevin Greenfield of the SB DYW emphasised that the TS is not being used as it might be in employability and there might be a role for the ESSCG in addressing this with the REP and the LEPs. RG agreed to convene a meeting of me, SB TSI and Kevin Greenfield, facilitated by Grieg Robson.
9. The presentation continued with a look at the skills needed for the construction industry. The main route is via the apprenticeships.
10. There was a helpful presentation on greens skills.
11. Seamus Spencer gave an update on the SDS pathfinder in the South of Scotland.