**Inspiring Communities Group Meeting Notes**

**Date:** 15th April 2021

**Attendees:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Name*** | ***Organisation*** |
| Paul Wilson (co-Chair) | Volunteer Edinburgh  |
| Sandra Millar (co-Chair) | Phoenix  |
| Ben Supple | Royal Zoological Society of Scotland |
| Harriet Mortimer  | Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce  |
| Jonny Kinross  | Grassmarket Community Project  |
| Katherine Jenkins  | RBS  |
| Mike Hartley | Cyrenians |
| Rebecca Neish | Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce |
| Victoria Simpson | Anderson Strathern |

**Apologies:**

Duncan Gardner, Fiona Haro, Gavin McEwan, Joanne Davidson, John Heraghty, Joseph Drugan, Miles Weaver, Richard Knight, Scott Fyfe, Simon Turner, Tommy George, Willy Barr

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Introductions

3. Review of previous minutes

4. Review of the Terms of Reference

5. Review of the Activity Plan and any updates

6. Discussion of group aspirations

7. AOB

8. DONM

**Actions:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **What** | **Who** | **When** |
| Chamber to keep Sandra and Paul updated on Inspiring Stories publicity plans | Chamber | Ongoing |
| Contact Miles if you’re interested in getting involved in Napier’s SDG Action Manager project | All  | Ongoing |
| John to send Ewan/Paul more info on his legacy project  | John | By next meeting |
| Rebecca, Sandra, Willy and Paul to meet to discuss the cross-sectoral project | Paul, Rebecca, Sandra, Willy | By next meeting |
| The Theatres Group to meet to discuss next steps | Katherine, John | By next meeting |
| Contact the Theatres Group or Harriet if interested in getting involved with the Theatres Group | All | ASAP |
| Contact Harriet, Paul or Sandra if you know of someone from the arts/performance sector who would be interested in joining the group  | All | Ongoing |
| Harriet to share the Mental Health survey with the group | Harriet | ASAP |
| Encourage your organisation and your contacts to fill out the Mental Health survey | All | By 30th April |
| Rebecca to attend next meeting of the Mental Health Group to share her expertise on events | Rebecca, Mental Health group | Next Mental Health meeting |
| Share the Mental Health survey on ECC socials | Rebecca | Ongoing to 30th April |
| Contact Paul/Sandra with good or bad examples of Community Benefit Clauses | All | By next meeting |
| Paul and Joseph to discuss Community Benefit clauses | Paul and Joseph | By next meeting |
| Paul to update on his meeting with Capital City Partnerships on Community Benefit Clauses | Paul | At next meeting |
| Get in touch with Paul if you have any ideas/want to talk about the work he’s involved in on the mental health crisis amongst young men | All | Ongoing |
| Jonny to send information on the ‘walk and talk’ service offered by Grassmarket Community Project to anyone who wants to advertise for volunteers in their own organisations | Jonny | Ongoing |
| Advertise internally for volunteers for the ‘walk and talk’ service | Sandra, Katherine | ASAP |
| Jonny and Ben to discuss opportunities to collaborate on the ‘walk and talk’ service | Jonny, Ben | By next meeting |

**Meeting notes:**

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| **Item 1** | **Welcome and apologies** |
|  | Sandra opens up and chairs the meeting, which is taking place virtually |
| **Item 2** | **Introductions** |
|  | Sandra welcomes Ben Supple, Director of Engagement at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, who has just joined the group. Everyone introduces themselves |
| **Item 3** | **Review of previous minutes** |
|  | Minutes from the previous meeting were approved |
| **Item 4** | **Review of Terms of Reference** |
|  | There have been a few small updates, to properly reflect the range of sectors represented on the group, and to reflect that the group now has two co-chairs, rather than a single chair. These updates were agreed. |
| **Item 5** | **Review of the Activity Plan and updates** |
|  | Cross sector webinar discussion project Rebecca – they haven’t met yet, but she will arrange a meeting and has some ideas for them to pick up separately – ACTION Theatres projectKatherine – they haven’t met since the last Communities meeting, but now there has been an update from the Festival that they’re committed to going ahead in some form this summer, there is actually now more for this group to work on and discussJonny – the Fringe is also now confirmed as going ahead, and is allowing venues and artists to register* There are some issues emerging with social distancing rules meaning that small venues will struggle to be able to hold Fringe events
* They will meet again before the next Communities meeting – ACTION
* Jonny can’t commit to this group as well as the mental health group, so if anyone is interested in getting involved, get in touch with one of the group or Harriet – ACTION

Mental Health projectJonny – with Rozie Weaver from Napier they’ve pulled together a survey looking at the scale of the mental health challenge in the workplace, and the support needed* Asking everyone to get their organisations and contacts to fill out the survey – ACTION
* The group will use data to identify priorities for action for the Communities group – e.g. providing cross-sector training, info on best practice, etc.

Rebecca – last summer ECC held a series of events and workshops on mental health* If the Mental Health Group wanted to hold an event we’d be open to that
* She can the attend next meeting of the Mental Health Group to share her expertise on what works well – ACTION
* She will share the survey on ECC socials – ACTION

Inclusive employersHarriet – Carla has carried some really good online research into this issue as part of her apprenticeship at the Chamber. We now have a couple of meetings set up with Sandra and her colleagues who co-Chair Phoenix’s BAME network, and with Paul and his colleague from Edinburgh’s Equality and Rights Network* Harriet to share findings with the group at the next meeting – ACTION

Jonny – suggests looking into SUSE – the Scottish Union of Supported Employment, who have loads of expertise in this area and would be worth speaking toCommunity Benefit ClausesPaul – he has a meeting set up with Capital City Partnerships to discuss this – they’re looking at setting up a portal for Community Benefit Clauses* Paul to update at next meeting – ACTION
* Joseph and Paul to set up a meeting to discuss this – ACTION

Inspiring StoriesPress releases have been written up and sent to a few of the local newspapers, ECC will update the group on any coverage we get |
| **Item 6** | **Discussion of group aspirations** |
|  | In the last meeting we asked everyone what their aspirations are for the group. Sandra has collated these and pulled out some themes:* The biggest theme was building partnerships and relationships
* Throughout the pandemic the 3rd sector has really shone, and there is a role for this group in helping promote this work and this sector
* We perhaps need to do more to promote the work we do as a group
* Need to better promote examples of partnerships and use these to encourage more collaboration
* The issue of mental health in the workforce was also a theme
* Desire for bite-size, achievable projects

Ben – the RZSS are keen to expand their outreach, e.g. they’re currently talking to Age Scotland about the mental and physical health benefits of interacting with nature, and how the RZSS can work with others in the community to help people access these benefits* Also working with organisations from NHS Lothian on prescribing nature, to working with brain tumour charities to give respite to carers via day trips to the zoo etc.
* All this is only possible through partnerships

Sandra – Mental Health week is coming up, and the theme this year is nature – perhaps an opportunity there |
| **Item 7** | **AOB** |
|  | Katherine – letting us know that at the Bank they run accelerator programmes, and have just launched a B-Corp accelerator Paul – Volunteer Edinburgh and EVOC have been working with public health organisations recently, on the increasing problem of large numbers of young men who are experiencing mental health issues, and public sector has very limited resource available to help them* There needs to be a real cross-sectoral response to this
* This can be a particularly difficult cohort to engage, and particularly with existing support such as ‘befriending’, many organisations are looking to ‘rebrand’ this to make it more accessible to certain demographics
* Opportunities here for large organisations to encourage their staff to volunteer in befriending schemes etc.
* If anyone wants to speak to Paul about this issue, or has any ideas for ways to help, get in touch – ACTION
* In the next meeting Paul will update us on this work, and we can see if there’s anything else we can do as a group

Jonny – they have a ‘walk and talk’ service that they set up at the start of lockdown, that takes away a lot of the barriers to volunteering, and has been really successful in helping reduce isolation* Still looking for more volunteers

Katherine and Sandra – both offered to flag this internally – ACTIONJonny – will send them both more information – ACTIONBen – the zoo could help out here too, perhaps by providing space for a ‘walk and talk’ – Ben and Jonny to discuss this separately - ACTION |
| **Item 8** | **DONM – 16th June** |