

Role of the Third Sector Strategy Group

The TSSG is a group of representatives drawn from the third sector in Fife, covering a range of thematic interests and also having links to other voluntary sector and multi-agency forums and networks. The members are also diverse in terms of the type of organisations they come from – some are from smaller, locally-based groups and others from large Fife-wide charities.

The aims of the TSSG are to:

- strengthen the connections between the Third Sector and Community Planning - enhancing partnership working;
- provide a mandate and a two-way communication channel for those playing a representative role on behalf of the sector;
- advocate and campaign on behalf of the sector and to grow the sector's influence and profile.

Since the formation of Fife Voluntary Action (FVA) in 2012, the TSSG and FVA have enjoyed positive discussions and agreement on the complementary role that they can each play in achieving positive outcomes for the third sector in Fife. The following, key agreements have been reached:

- FVA is a full member of the Group and will also provide secretariat support;
- FVA will use the TSSG as a sounding board and take policy direction from the Group;
- FVA will commit resources to implementing the decisions of the Group;
- the TSSG can appoint a Director to the Board of FVA;
- FVA and the TSSG will combine forces on campaigning and seeking to influence policy;
- FVA should be held to account by the TSSG.

Key benefits of having a TSSG here in Fife include:

- A strategic, cross-cutting forum to discuss issues affecting the third sector;
- An opportunity to develop a single, clear voice on issues;
- Strengthens third sector representation across a range of forums and partnerships;
- Opportunity for third sector leaders to share information and learning and access peer support.

Leven:

The Greig Institute,
Forth Street, Leven
KY8 4PF 0800 389 6046

Kirkcaldy:

New Volunteer House
16 East Fergus Place
Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XT
01592 645300

 Glenrothes

Craig Mitchell House,
Flemington Road,
Glenrothes
01592 751749

Cupar:

Volunteer House, 69 Crossgate,
Cupar KY15 5AS
01334 654 080

The TSSG is still relatively new and continues to develop. The information above presents a summary of the thinking and developments to date. The Group commits time to reviewing structure, membership and plans at least annually and will always seek to remain current, and effective and ambitious on behalf of the wider third sector in Fife.

Current membership

The following 11 people are currently members of the TSSG:

Andrew McDaniel, Kingdom Housing
Karen Taylor, Fife Cultural Trust
Kenny Murphy, Fife Voluntary Action
Laura Crombie, Clued-Up
Judith Allison, Youth 1st
Ninian Stuart, Falkland Centre for Stewardship (Chairperson)
Norma Philpott, Citizens Advice & Rights Fife (Vice Chair)
Rhona Cunningham, Fife Gingerbread
Allen Armstrong, CLEAR Buckhaven
Caryn Nicolson, Frontline Fife
Mhairi Lochhead, Fife Carers

Experience and demand on peoples' time would suggest that a membership of 20 should mean an average meeting attendance of around 10-12 people which will ensure a good mix of experience, thematic interests and opinions to inform debate and decisions.

Member role specification

The Third Sector Strategy Group aims to bring together representatives from across the third sector in Fife, ideally covering a range of thematic interests, organisation type and size, and geographic coverage.

At the time of writing, the Group is keen to secure membership from the following areas:

- Health and wellbeing
- Equalities
- Social care and welfare
- Social enterprise
- Community development
- Sports and leisure
- Education and training
- Community safety.

However, this is not an exhaustive list, and equally the group will not be constrained by the need to cover all of these themes.

Role Profile

Members of the group will be asked to work to the following principles:

1. To step out of organisational roles and consider the wider interests of the third sector;
2. To observe the Chatham House Rules, i.e. to ensure a free-flowing discussion, members will agree not to discuss specific contributions made by individuals outside the meetings;
3. To demonstrate links to wider networks (these can be thematic networks, voluntary sector networks, partnership groups or community networks).

In addition to working to these principles, members are expected to:

- Commit to attending* and preparing for meetings (around 5 or 6 per year);
- Use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they may have to help the Group to reach sound decisions that will benefit the third sector in Fife;
- Prepare brief reports on key issues that they come across within their thematic area and/or other networks and partnerships that they sit on to represent the third sector;
- Volunteer for occasional short-life working groups if required;
- Demonstrate strong partnership working skills;
- Show the ability and commitment to feedback to the wider third sector through appropriate mechanisms;
- Cover one or more of the thematic areas outlined above or identify another appropriate theme;
- Show a general commitment to fundamental principles of third sector, e.g. democracy, non-profit making, social aims etc.

* Please note that it is the individual who will join the Group and not their organisation. Therefore, it would not be appropriate for members to send substitutes to meetings.

Expression of Interest Form – Fife Third Strategy Group

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Your Position/Role: _____

Telephone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please state why you would like to join Fife's Third Sector Strategy Group:

Please provide a very brief description of what **your organisation** does and the geographic area it covers:

Please indicate **your areas of experience and expertise** (e.g. children's services, housing, community work, employability, health & wellbeing etc.):

Please list any forums/partnership groups that you are a member of:

I have read the Third Sector Strategy Group role profile, understand the commitment to prioritise attendance at around 5 or 6 meetings per year and would like to express an interest in joining the Group.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please now submit this form by e-mail to corinna@fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk
or by post to Fife Voluntary Action, Craig Mitchell House, Flemington Road, Glenrothes, KY7 5QF