

# **Fife Third Sector Funding Review**

## **Open meeting with Third Sector Representatives**

**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019**

### **Purpose**

The meeting was arranged to give representatives of all the organisations involved in the review to:

- meet the consultants,
- receive information about the review
- have the opportunity to ask questions about the review
- provide views and information through a workshop exercise to inform the review

### **General comments**

The meeting was relatively well-attended and was reasonably representative of the organisations involved in the review. Colleagues from the Review Steering Group also attended.

The tone of the meeting was very positive and there was excellent engagement in the workshop exercise.

The workshop was based on a set of questions which are attached as an appendix.

Attendees worked in groups and each group focussed on a different set of questions with the opportunity to move on to others if time permitted.

All groups provided feedback and that was collated to ensure that they felt that their views were accurately represented

A more specific account of the points made follows the next section which is an attempt to capture the main themes of the group responses.

### **Key Themes**

Attendees generally welcomed an independent review, but retained concerns about the scope for the review to make a significant difference. There was a strong view that the Third Sector contribution, and the associated Council services, had been extensively reviewed. There was also a sense that there was little flexibility within the sector or within the Council budgets to allow for significant change to be made. Nonetheless, attendees were willing to engage with the review, to make time for interviews and to participate in any way that might be required.

The Review Steering Group had suggested that there should be a wider Reference Group to ensure Third Sector involvement in, and influence on the review, however, the view of the meeting was that there was no need for another group. Any involvement should be managed through the Children's Services Forum.

The groups agreed strongly with the view of the Steering Group that the current economic situation was increasing the need for services while, at the same time, undermining the capacity to fund them.

They argued strongly that there was little capacity to make savings within the Third Sector without there being a significant impact on those currently dependent on their services. They felt that a more radical and holistic approach was required that saw statutory and third sector