

Cross Party Group Volunteering and the Voluntary Sector

Minute

18th June 2014, 18:00 – 19:30

James Clerk Maxwell Rm (CR 4), Scottish Parliament

Convenor: Margaret McDougall MSP

Topic: Glasgow 2014 Volunteering Journey & Volunteering Legacy

In attendance:

Margaret McDougall MSP (Convenor), Annabelle Ewing MSP (Vice-Convenor); Sangeeta Kaur CRER; Alan Bigham ; Paul Okroj; Liz Watson; Niall Somerville; Susan Swan; Gina Wilson; John D Fyfe; Joyce Munro; Kathleen Doyle; Morven MacLean; Harriet Eddie; Rebecca Marek; Jordan Linden MSYP; Eliane Reid; Kenny Stewart; Grace Martin; Donna Morris; George Thomson; Neil Campion; Kathryn Wane; Martin Docherty

Apologies :

Jackie Baillie MSP ; Claudie Beamish MSP ; Sarah Boyack MSP ; Alex Ferguson MSP ; John Mason MSP ; Fiona McLeod MSP ; Denis Robertson MSP ; Amrita Ahluwalia ; Kim Aitkinson ; Fiona Barlow ; Amie Barlow ; Cat Campbell ; Marion Findlay ; Allan Kirkwood ; Andrew Lindsay ; Gillian Lithgow ; Louise McGinty ; Lesely Ann Muirhead ; Emma Murton ; Melanie Nairn ; Robert Pickles ; Paul Reddish ; Phil Rowsby ; Aiveen Ryan ; Andrew Sim ; Ella Simpson

1. Welcome and introductions: The Convenor warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting of the CPG, which was then followed by a round of introductions. The Convenor took the opportunity to welcome Martin Docherty as the new secretariat support from Volunteer Scotland and thanked Kathleen Doyle for all her hard work.

2. Minutes and matters arising: The minute of the last meeting was agreed. The Convenor updated the Group on her Members' Business debate on the impact of befriending and loneliness, the Official Report of which was now available on the Scottish Parliament website. The Convenor took the opportunity to remind members that a draft work programme had been drawn up for 2014/15 and that members had until the end of June to feedback any comments

3. Volunteering Journey: The Convenor welcomed Neil Campion General Manager, Volunteer Recruitment Glasgow 2014 to the meeting who would be

presenting on the volunteering journey via the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Neil outlined the main Volunteering Journey issues:

- Glasgow 2014 is the largest peace-time recruitment of volunteers.
- Glasgow 2014 undertook research prior to recruitment and decided it could not use the same strategies as previous games.
- It was anticipated that there would be 30,000 initial expressions of interest in volunteering at the games. In fact they received 50,000 over a period of six weeks.
- The volunteer programme received very good press coverage and social media was key in getting the message out to people.
- 541 libraries across Scotland gave assistance to people to complete application forms and the Glasgow 2014 Volunteer Centre was opened prior to applications in order to assist people.
- Of those who signed up 66% were from Scotland, 29% from England, 2.6% from Wales & N. Ireland and 2.4% outside the UK.
- Over 20,000 people were interviewed for positions from April to December 2014.
- 13,000 people have received training in the history and culture of the games. Specific volunteer training has been provided for certain roles and venues.
- An e-learning exchange was established for volunteers.
- As part of the legacy of volunteering with the games volunteers will be invited to open a My Volunteer Account which will be managed by Volunteer Scotland.

4. Volunteering Legacy: With a change of speaker the Convenor welcomed George Thomson CEO of Volunteer Scotland to the meeting who would be presenting on the theme of modelling a Volunteering Legacy from the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. George thanked the Convenor for the welcome and gave an overview of the role of Volunteer Scotland in the Games Legacy critically working with Glasgow 2014. George raised the following points:

- Learning from previous Games has impacted the preparation and delivery of the games critically in managing volunteer preparations and expectations to ensure effective management of volunteer information post games. This has ensured that volunteers are regarded as a core element of ensuring a inclusive games.
- World leading volunteer programs have been inspired by pre-game activities.
- Post-games and data transfer activities progressing steadily and on target to be transferred to Volunteer Scotland the day after the games are completed, this will include active Games volunteers and those who applied but were unsuccessful, in total 50,000 individuals.
- 2000 volunteers already engaged with Volunteer Scotland in accessing Volunteer Support Pot giving access to financial support.

George further expanded on the main goal of a volunteering games legacy

- Increasing volunteering rates across Scotland.
- Increasing well being outcomes for volunteers ensuring they are the direct beneficiary of their activities.

In addition George expanded on the framework for a games legacy

- Requirement for a framework linked to Scotland Performs
- Measuring the evolution of volunteering after the games
- Utilizing Glasgow Centre for Population Health research of games volunteers applicants, in total 8,000 of the 50,000 total
- Held to account via Scotland Performs agreement seeking to place volunteering participation within the national indicators

George posed the question to members do we require a National Volunteering Indicator?

5. Discussion and Q&A

Members asked a range of questions and discussion points

- How can we manage people's expectations?
- Volunteering elsewhere will not be the same as volunteering at the games It is a challenge to ask organisations to respond to the person not the role, but it ought to be more about the relationship and less about the task.
- What volunteering opportunities via attrition at the interview stage were offered to unsuccessful candidates?
- What plans are there to capture games volunteer feedback?
- Can we anticipate what kind of roles post-games volunteers will look for?
- Volunteer Scotland alone is not responsible for the legacy of games volunteers.
- What do we know about those who applied but didn't get a position? Have they tried to volunteer elsewhere?
- Do we know how many of those who applied to be a games volunteer were already active in volunteering? This wasn't asked on the application so haven't as yet examined this issue.
- Will we get a demographic breakdown of the volunteers?

The number of young people volunteering is growing as they are interested in developing their skills. Reference was made to N. Ireland's Students Volunteering Week.

6. Opportunities to Engage with other Cross Party Groups

Members discussed the opportunities to engage with the newly formed Skills CPG and Disability CPG, members also noted the Digital Participation CPG as well as the Health Inequalities CPG's.

7. Action Points and Date of Next Meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting of the CPG would be Nov 5th at 18.00

8. Any Other Competent Business

Members were invited to raise any issues. Alan Bigham of the Scottish Health Council posed the question do we require a refresh of the Volunteering Strategy?

Members noted a range of issues such as the length of time since the initial publication of the strategy in 2004 and the changing policy landscape.

Members were advised that an opportunity to more appropriately align volunteering may be offered via a national indicator which is being discussed at the all party working group of Scotland Performs.

Members were advised that work was being undertaken by Volunteer Scotland in conjunction with CoSLA to map Community Planning Partnerships Single Outcome Agreements relationships to volunteering. Members will be kept informed of the work.

Members were advised that Volunteer Scotland would be undertaking work to consult on a National Indicator for volunteering to see what support there would be for such an indicator.