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Senior Management Meeting

Wednesday 8 December 2021

Attendees

Niven Rennie

Will Linden

Alistair Muir

S38(1)(b)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Niven welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly S38(1)(b) who was attending for the first time. He drew attention to the current 'COVID' situation and stressed the need for care over the coming weeks. It was agreed that home working should be encouraged and that the Monday morning Zoom check should restart to keep people in touch with each other.

2. Apologies

S38(1)(b) and had submitted apologies.

3. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting of 4 October 2021 were accepted as a true record and the actions updated.

4. Risk Register

No new risks were identified at this time.

5. Financial Update

S38(1)(b) but Niven intimated that the budget setting process was being undertaken at this time which will include a review of spending ensuring that we remain on track heading into quarter four of the current financial year.

6. Progress Against The Priorities of Strategic Plan

6.1 Better Use of Data

Will provided an update on meetings with S38(1)(b), UK National lead on this issue for the VRU network and a variety of academics.

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6.2 Addressing Vulnerabilities

a. Testing the navigator approach in other settings

I *Community Navigator Bowhouse Prison, Kilmarnock*

Will reported that the remaining partners, East and South Ayrshire, are reviewing their position currently and that this project may conclude. Niven observed that the project was adversely affected by COVID and it was a great pity of it concluded as the aims had merit. That said, the SVRU weren't able to commit more funds and relied on the partners identifying value in order to continue.

II *Custody Navigator*

Alastair provided an update on the recent visit of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and the discussion that followed regarding the variety of interventions across police estate. A steering group meeting would take place in the short term which would allow the discussion to progress. Niven asked Alastair to encourage participants to seek a further trial of Custody Navigator in a different location and independent academic assessment to identify best practice in this respect.

S38(1)(b) drew attention to the use of the term 'Navigator' and suggested that confusion may occur when highlighting the project to the press. She identified 'Custody Navigation Services' or 'CNS' as a more appropriate term. Niven agreed that this should be discussed and asked S38(1)(b) and Alastair to speak to project lead S38(1)(b) in this respect.

III *Community Navigator 'You Decide Team'*

Discussion centred on the response provided to recent violent incidents in the East End of Glasgow. Niven intimated that a seminar would take place in the New year and that a list of attendees was being formulated. Will suggested that this seminar might be widened to include the whole of Glasgow due to issues of violence appearing across the City and a need to offer young people an alternative city wide. Indeed, Alastair added that Glasgow was merely one example of a problem appearing across the country. At S38(1)(b) suggestion it was agreed that a smaller event continue as planned in Glasgow but a conference on youth violence in the Spring be considered

b. Post Covid 19 – development of new alcohol strategy

Alastair provided an update on the proposal to re-invigorate the national violence board and that a meeting would take place to that end on 9 December led by CI Nicola Robison of PPCW. That board had previously contained Alcohol Focus Scotland who had written to Niven asking for support in an approach to the government for an increase in the minimum unit price of alcohol. After checking with government colleagues Niven had signed the letter.

Will also updated on a meeting regarding the application of alcohol monitoring bracelets which apparently had received cross party support in Scotland. It is possible that these could be introduced in the Spring but the VRU position of a holistic approach being adopted of support rather than punitive measures had been articulated.

c. Development of the Help the Helper Programme

S38(1)(b) outlined progress of discussions with the Alliance regarding a funding application for the employment of individuals to co-ordinate a wider help the helpers programme throughout Scotland. She said that the £1.6m fund was available for trauma informed work and that this project had a unique opportunity due to the work on coping tools rather than merely highlighting toxic stress.

d. Supporting the growth of the One Community Charity

Alastair highlighted the success of the recent visit he had co-ordinated to Lendrickmuir on behalf of the charity. He praised S38(1)(b) for the work she had undertaken to make the event possible. However, Will thereafter updated on financing of the charity and a problem having been encountered at 'Children in Need' due to length of time the bank account had existed. That said, the charitable funders were very impressed and this may provide a route to funding next year.

e. Bystander Activity

/ Police Scotland

Niven confirmed that he had written to Police Scotland in this regard and a response had eventually been received that very day from Supt Hilary Sloan from PPCW. He is to discuss the matter further with Supt Sloan on 10 December. Notwithstanding discussion in this respect is also ongoing with Claire Hussain of SWDF.

II *Scottish Government*

Will highlighted that the government interest in this training had been ongoing for some time and that they really required to make a decision about how it progresses as we do not need a variety of this training rather than one package that can be adopted and delivered in numerous settings. Niven agreed to raise this with government colleagues.

III *Sports Clubs and Youth Organisations*

Delivery of Bystander training to football clubs, army, navy and air force cadets and the potential involvement of Glasgow Warriors was also discussed.

F. Mentoring

Niven intimated that our St Giles contact **S38(1)(b)** was moving on to work in Glenochil, Perth and Edinburgh prisons on recovery cafes and enterprises. This will provide a further link between VRU and prisons whilst Alastair is to be introduced to his replacement at St Giles.

G. Repeat Victims Targeting campaign

S38(1)(b) highlighted that the second round of advertisements had been released this time on 'Tick Tock' and 'Instagram'. Some statistics about initial reach were now available and these will now be analysed with other data collated from partner organisations including Victim Support Scotland.

H. Work with No Knives Better Lives to Develop New Prevention Responses

Alastair summarised work with 'catch the light' and the development of a new programme involving the 'You Decide Trainees'.

I. Prison Based Trauma Work

S38(1)(b) confirmed that she had secured a place for **S38(1)(b)** on the steering group of the 'trauma informed prison' work at Edinburgh Prison and he was also chairing the lived experience sub group. Similarly our previous contact at Edinburgh is now at Glenochil and seeking to build a VRU presence there and added to this a change of governor at Polmont may reopen opportunity there.

6.3 Place Based Approaches

a. Glasgow North

Will provided an update on ECHO.

b. Ayr Wallacetown

Niven highlighted frustration at apparent inactivity from the council in the area and the fact that the Divisional Commander is to speak to the CEO in this regard.

S38(1)(b) reported that she and S38(1)(b) were preparing a document outlining the aims of the project and detailing how a variety of organisations might contribute..

c. Edinburgh

Alastair drew attention to S38(1)(b) project update report. In particular S38(1)(b) was receiving more referrals from school 'campus officers' in the areas. This prompted a discussion regarding the current approach and funding of campus officers and recent external criticism. It was agreed that a more consistent approach would assist here and a conference on this regard might help. Recently the Scottish Community Safety Network had proposed holding such a conference and it was agreed that the SVRU should support this.

d. Dundee.

Alastair summarised progress in discussions with numerous parties aimed at expanding 'You Decide' to Dundee.

e. Caithness

No further update at present.

f. Capture and Cascade

Will said that St Andrews University were about to start their wallacetown work and that he will be having a meeting with Strathclyde University regarding their potential to fund further evaluations.

6.4 Expanding The Approach

a. Further Establishing Local Footprints

Niven stated his understanding that posts will shortly be advertised by PPCW to redeploy officers from the gangs task force to preventative posts in Caithness and Dundee. Reporting mechanisms and links to the SVRU require to be clarified.

6.5 Thought Leadership

a. Development of Ongoing Maintenance Toolkit

Niven reported on a presentation by the youth endowment fund on this project at the recent UK VRU Directors forum in Birmingham.

b. Develop Training Solutions

Ongoing.

c. Work with Service Providers to develop a Public Health Approach

The strategy has been delivered and is being shared with partner agencies.

d. CPDs and Other Training

Demand to speak at events continues to maintain its recent levels.

6.6 Joining The Dots

a. Creation of a multi-agency strategy for tackling violence in Scotland

Further discussion with the government is anticipated.

b. The Hope Collective

Niven summarised the day of hope in London on 7th December and plans for the 2022 hack events.

7 Staff

a. Funding Charitable Posts

Will outlined plans to obtain ADP support for a funding bid for 'You Decide' to be submitted in May..

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8. Planning

Niven informed the meeting that the business planning process had commenced and that he, ^{S38(1)(b)} and Will shall progress this in the coming weeks.

9 AOCB

a. Wales VRU

An approach had been made by the South Wales VRU for Niven to act as an advisor to consultants reporting on the viability of an all wales VRU. This work will start in the New Year.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 9 February 2022.

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