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Project Update Meeting

Tuesday 17 March 2021

Via Zoom

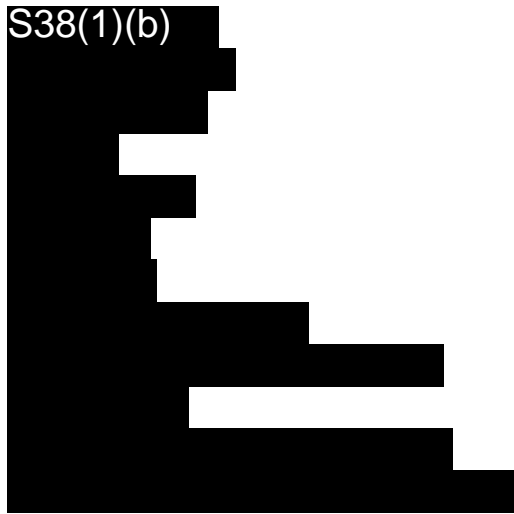
Attendees

Niven Rennie

Will Linden

Alastair Muir

S38(1)(b)



1. Welcome and Introduction

Niven opened the meeting by reflecting on the high profile murder in London of Sarah Everard and the wider implications of the public response. He drew parallels with the murder of Moira Jones in Glasgow some years previously and the impact that Moira's murder continues to have so many years later.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from S38(1)(b)



3. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting of 8 December 2020 were adopted as a true record and Niven ran through the action log updating as required.

4. Current Projects – Update

4.1 Braveheart Industries

Niven invited, Alastair, S38(1)(b) to provide a summary of BHI situation.

Alastair started by explaining that the current lockdown had necessitated that the whole team be furloughed. Given that 2 trainees S38(1)(b) are due to leave at the end of February we are unlikely to see them return but their 'graduation' will be marked in some way. That will leave S38(1)(b) as the only trainee although the board have plans to hire more trainees when things re-open. The board are also advertising for a Chief Operating Officer, which will take enormous pressure from the VRU, and have applied to the Joseph Roundtree Foundation for financial support.

Alastair also reported on an increased offer to buy the small Airstream which is being considered by the board but there are business issues involved in that to be taken on board. The larger van is based near Gartnavel Hospital and is in mothballs due to COVID – it is not incurring storage costs however.

S38(1)(b) outlined the potential to site an Airstream at Lambhill stables as an extension of the ECHO project and this will offer numerous opportunities if it comes to fruition.

S38(1)(b) provided a brief report on the progress of the trainees which was all very positive in nature.

4.2 One Community

S38(1)(b) provided an update on behalf of S38(1)(b) and intimated that the Bank of Scotland account is almost open and should be completed in a week or so. This will allow for payments to be made directly to One Community. In this regard, external funding is being sought with the support of a partner charity 'Catch the Light'.

There has been a rise in reports of Domestic Abuse being made to OCS and there are now links being established to a support programme in Dumbarton 'the Grace Project' offering residential places for people with no resources or recourse to public funds.

S38(1)(b) advised that a similar support programme exists in Aberdeen. Alastair undertook to make the Police Scotland management team in L Division aware of this facility.

ACTION: Alastair to advise senior management team in Dumbarton of Grace Project.

S38(1)(b) concluded by advising that a OCS board meeting would take place that afternoon and that the issue of Chair would be progressed. Niven reminded S38(1)(b) that OCS require to prepare a contract of employment for S38(1)(b) and that a policy handbook

covering all areas of employment would be required to be adopted by the charity. He suggested that S38(1)(b) could assist with the contract and Fraser from MAV with the charitable bodies handbook.

ACTION: Dario to progress the contract of employment and charitable handbook with the board of OCS.

4.3 The Crib – Edinburgh

S38(1)(b) reported that the Crib continues to service the needs of young people outside mainstream education by catering for them on the bus and at the Heavy Sound premises at Cockenzie. This is achieved by utilising small groups of individuals in 'bubbles'. On different days between 12 and 20 young people attend and over 30 young people in total are fully engaged with the project.

S38(1)(b) also outlined progress in respect of many other developing areas of work including the youth club at Riddrie, the NHS employability programme, an Aroma café and the Waverley Gardens Project.

4.4 Dundee

S38(1)(b) updated attendees on her work in Lochee, Dundee with 'what matters to you' and the potential to take young people from the area away for a day in Fife in early Spring or Summer. She advised that the Perth prison project has been paused due to COVID and that Heartstone continues to expand its base in the Tayside area. In this respect a point of contact has been established within Tayside Police Division.

The Online training package is still being developed for 'start now' and the recovery app has been launched and is working well with options for expansion being explored.

4.5 Ayr Wallacetown

S38(1)(b) provided his first report which summarised his first 3 weeks in the role. Meeting people, establishing a base and building essential connections. He also outlined some ongoing work throughout Ayrshire where VRU input may be helpful.

4.6 Custody Navigator

S38(1)(b) provided an update that one employee with the assistance of SACRO staff is delivering the service although recruitment for a second staff member has commenced. Referrals from the police come by email during COVID and are slow but steady. Part of the issue here being fewer people being arrested during the pandemic and many being taken to COVID approved holding centres. It is S38(1)(b) plan to arrange a series of briefings with police officers and police staff to raise awareness of the project. It was agreed that S38(1)(b) could assist with developing a brief.

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ACTION: S38(1)(b) to develop a briefing presentation on the Custody navigator project to raise awareness of staff.

Some discussion followed regarding a range of Custody approaches across the country being adopted and a need to identify best practice. Niven drew attention to the outstanding action for S38(1)(b) to visit DIVERT in London and said that this would be progresses as soon as COVID allowed.

4.7 ECHO Project/Help the Helpers

S38(1)(b) provided an update on the work at G20 which has been suspended during the lockdown. It is the intention, when allowed, to expand this work to include the parents of the young attendees. S38(1)(b) has also been developing an online workshop on trauma for delivery at schools which concentrate on 'stress' rather than 'ACES'.

In terms of schools S38(1)(b) reported that Heartstone is now in every school in the ECHO project area. The ECHO staff have reverted to food provision in the target area as the lockdown continues.

He was pleased to intimate that S38(1)(b) who had come to us from the Panorama programme has successfully completed the first part of the St Giles mentor training programme and is now embarking on the second part. Furthermore, the community navigator positions will be advertised in the short term.

S38(1)(b) S38(1)(b) since Christmas but reported that he continued to support many young people in the area on a one to one basis and along with social work had diverted one individual to an alternative option from Polmont. He intimated that he and S38(1)(b) were to meet representatives from Social Work who need assistance in dealing with a number of troubled young people.

Work with G20 and Lambhill stables continues to build relationships, share services and provide opportunities.

S38(1)(b) reported on excellent progress with Help the Helpers which has been extremely well evaluated. One of the original attendees will now commence her own 10 week programme having undergone train the trainer. This will also be evaluated to see how well the programme is received outside the VRU. Thereafter a train the trainer programme will be conducted with VRU staff, including Jim, Cath and Jason, allowing them to deliver Help the Helpers across the country.

4.8 Community Navigator

S38(1)(b) is engaging with the team at Bowhouse Prison and will report on this project in future. S38(1)(b) reported on progress on evaluation and that the navigators have experienced COVID difficulties being unable to access prison wings.

5 Future Projects.

5.1 Caithness/Sutherland

S38(1)(b) has been in touch with S38(1)(b) at NHS Highland and the Divisional Commander. The issues continue and there is a desire for VRU support. A meeting with interested parties is expected in March.

5.2 Prison Project

Alastair reported on the development of the 'help the helpers' programme with staff and third sector partners in the Dumfries Prison. This is now entering week 3 with 11 attendees – 5 from the prison and 6 from the third sector.

S38(1)(b) intimated an approach from Edinburgh Prison for trauma training for certain staff working with violent offenders.

5.3 You Decide

S38(1)(b) advised that he stays in close contact with the attendees, one of whom has had no adverse involvement with the police for over 3 months. His family life remains difficult however and S38(1)(b) is very involved in attempting to assist there.

Kirsty added that youth services in Castlemilk are keen to be informed by the 'You decide' cohort to shape service delivery in the future.

6 Media/Website

S38(1)(b) outlined her discussions with procurement about the marketing campaign which will target repeat victimisation through social media. In essence we will develop an online navigator service through our website offering links to appropriate services. Some of the engagement levels will give measurements of success.

7 Training

S38(1)(b) drew attention to his written report and highlighted key issues. He has now received materials from Scottish Government from the previous Bystander Project and will review and incorporate these as required. He is aware of some previous concern regarding these and proposes to engage staff representatives for them to approve the programme as it develops.

8 Evaluation/Research

S38(1)(b) had also submitted a written report and highlighted a number of evaluations she is progressing. S38(1)(b) thanked S38(1)(b) for her assistance and support of Police Scotland in this regard. S38(1)(b) also provided an overview of her work with Police Scotland on the violence strategy and related materials.

9 Strategy Development

Niven advised that the 5 year strategy document is at the external consultation phase and that the business plan for 2021/22 has been submitted to government.

10 AOCB

10.1 Edinburgh Business School

Niven intimated that Edinburgh Business School had requested that their annual partnership with Copenhagen Business School in November 2021 focus on the work of the VRU and its influence. He asked for thoughts from members. S38(1)(b) felt that S30(b)(i)&(ii) and Niven asked that she join him in a meeting to discuss this further with the organisers.

ACTION: Niven and S38(1)(b) to meet Edinburgh Business School.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 1030hrs on Tuesday 9 March 2021.