

## Representing the Interests of the Third Sector: Third Sector Forum Statement of Intent

Members of the Third Sector Forum will represent the interests of the community/voluntary sector in partnership forums and working groups.

### 1. Underpinning Values

Representatives will:

- Work in partnership as outlined in the 3SF Partnership Protocol – see Appendix 1;
- Work within the aims and aspirations of Dumfries & Galloway Compact and promote Compact implementation;
- Promote Full Cost Recovery for third sector services;
- Promote effective outcome measurement for third sector services;
- Highlight the Single Outcome Agreement and the role the Third Sector can play in its delivery.

### 2. Selection of representatives

Representatives will be selected by:

- Their knowledge of the particular area of expertise/specialism;
- Their knowledge of Strategic Planning;
- Their awareness of the Public Service Reform/Improvement agenda.

### 3. Role of Representatives

- Representatives are expected, as far as possible to attend all meetings of the group on which they sit, or seek a substitute to attend in their place;
- Representatives sit on forums/working groups as representatives of the community/voluntary sector, **not** of their own organisation;
- Representatives are required to consult with 3SF members prior to each meeting, as appropriate and as capacity allows, to ensure the views they put forward are informed;
- As a condition of acceptance of this role, representatives will complete a Feedback Form – see Appendix 2 - and circulate this to 3SF members within two weeks of the meeting.

### 4. Next Steps

A database directory of representatives will be prepared and gaps on partnerships and working groups identified. Suitable representation will be sought to fill the gaps and support the Third Sector to feed their views into the SOA.

Each 3SF member would be responsible for contacting the representative for information and the timetable for meeting.

**Introduction**

This partnership protocol is a commitment from members of Dumfries & Galloway Third Sector Forum to work together to improve services to our communities, and was endorsed at the 23 September 08 Forum meeting.

**What is a partnership?**

A partnership can be defined as the relationship between two or more organisations or individuals that are working together to achieve a shared goal.

A networking partnership such as the Third Sector Forum will require co-operation between members, a willingness to share information to work together, and good communication.

**What we will achieve by working in partnership**

As members of the Third Sector Forum, organisations will work together to:

- improve communication between organisations;
- address policy issues and respond as a collective voice;
- build on existing partnerships with external agencies;
- contribute more effectively to Community Planning;
- demonstrate the value of the work of voluntary organisations to regional services and the regional economy;
- reduce the isolation which may be experienced by individual voluntary organisations.

**Principles for partnership working**

The Third Sector Forum aims to:

- Make sure that all members bring strengths, skill, experience and knowledge to the Forum;
- Support equality and diversity;
- Work in the interests of our members, stakeholders and service users;
- Agree realistic, achievable aims and a timetable for joint work to be carried out;
- Make sure that communication between Forum members is clear, open and transparent, respecting organisational confidentiality where appropriate;
- Seek to reach decisions by consensus;
- Agree the roles and responsibilities of members;
- Agree clear decision making processes;
- Adopt a co-operative and flexible approach to partnership working.

3SF

Appendix 2 – 3SF Feedback Report

**3SF FEEDBACK REPORT**

**REP ATTENDING:**

**PARTNERSHIP MEETING:**

**PLACE/VENUE:** **DATE:**

**KEY AGENDA POINTS:**

**OPPORTUNITIES/IMPLICATIONS FOR THIRD SECTOR**

**PAPERS CIRCULATED – STATE WHEN & TO WHO**