



Minutes of the MILTON KEYNES VOLUNTARY SECTOR CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY
held on WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 1999 at 10.00 am

- Present:**
- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Councillor B Barton | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| C Bland | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| C Chapman | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| G Edwards (Chair) | | Milton Keynes Council for Voluntary Organisations |
| T Hill | - | Milton Keynes Community Trust |
| L Kendrick | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| D Savage | - | City Counselling Centre |
| P Scrimshaw | - | Milton Keynes Council |
- Apologies:**
- | | | |
|--------------|---|------------------------------|
| J Balzanella | - | Pre-School Learning Alliance |
| F Skelton | - | Relate MK |
- Also Present:**
- | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------------------------|
| J Williams | - | Milton Keynes Primary Care Group |
| J Hainstock | - | Milton Keynes Primary Care Group |
| S Heap | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| S Stares | - | Milton Keynes Council |

1.0 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 28 September 1999 were received.

2.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

It was noted that as Chair of the Milton Keynes Voluntary Sector Consultative Assembly, Ms G Edwards had been co-opted as a non-voting member of the Grant Aid Committee.

It was also noted that a letter had been sent to Ken Dixon in relation to the 'Partnership Compact'.

3.0 THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND THE PRIMARY CARE GROUP

The Assembly discussed with Mrs Jenny Williams (Director of Health Improvement for the Primary Care Group (PCG) the possibility of the Group signing up to the Voluntary Sector Strategy.

P Scrimshaw outlined the basis of the Voluntary Sector Strategy and reported on the funding arrangements for voluntary sector groups which were currently in place from the Council.

More generally on funding matters it was reported that with the phasing out of joint finance some money was likely to be freed up. It was noted that discussions had been taking place between key partners regarding new financing strategies. It was noted that any new strategies would need to be approved by the Health Forum and ultimately the Health Authority and PCG.

Jenny Williams reported that preliminary work had been going on regarding the PCG's relationship with the Voluntary Sector. Consideration had been given, particularly to funding issues and it was hoped that three months' notice would be given to voluntary groups in the event of any changes to funding arrangements.

It was suggested that the PCG needed to publicise itself to the Voluntary Sector and a number of suggestions on how this could be done were made. Jenny Williams agreed to look at this.

Jenny Williams agreed to take away the Voluntary Sector Strategy for consideration by the PCG with a view to the PCG agreeing to sign up. She also agreed to seek a representative from the PCG to make a presentation to the annual meeting on the PCG and its interface with Voluntary Organisations.

4.0 NEW POLITICAL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES/ROLE OF GRANT AID COMMITTEE

The Assembly considered the potential implications of the reorganisation of political management structures for the Council's relationship with voluntary organisations. The Assembly expressed concern that if the Grant Aid Committee was to be abolished then the Voluntary Sector would lose a key vehicle in its relationship with the Council. It was considered important that the Voluntary Sector was made aware of potential changes to the Council's decision making structures and suggested that the likely changes should be the feature of an open meeting for the Voluntary Sector, which would allow a chance to influence the new structures before any final decisions were made.

The Chair reported on the decisions of the Grant Aid Committee from the previous evening when it had considered its future role, which were as follows:

- “1. That to acknowledge the importance the Committee gives to its monitoring role, full monitoring reports be requested from organisations seeking Grant Aid to be presented to the next meeting of the Committee to enable the Committee to base its recommendations for Grant Aid for the financial year 2000/2001 on the information which is provided.
2. That the Democratic Structures Working Group be informed that the process to revise structures - which affects the work of the Grant Aid Committee - should involve meaningful consultation with the Voluntary Sector and should recognise the importance which the Grant Aid

Committee gives to the uniqueness of the current arrangements for determining requests for Grant Aid from the Voluntary Sector.”

5.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Assembly considered a draft Terms of Reference for endorsement by the Policy and Resources Committee.

RECOMMENDED -

The Terms of Reference, **Annexed** to the Minutes, be adopted.

6.0 MK COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR STRATEGY LAUNCH

It was noted that the Voluntary Sector Strategy had recently been reaffirmed by the Policy and Resources Committee. The Assembly considered how the Strategy should be re-launched.

It was agreed that the Strategy should be re-launched at an open meeting for voluntary organisations which was likely to be held early in the new year.

It was agreed that the Chair, together with Councillor Brian Barton and Pat Scrimshaw should form a Working Group to prepare for the January meeting and the Chair and Kathy Bland should draft a letter of invitation.

7.0 VOLUNTARY SECTOR OPEN MEETING

The Assembly noted that under its Terms of Reference it had agreed to hold an annual open meeting. A special meeting would also be held in January to consider the potential effect of new political management arrangements on the Voluntary Sector and re-launch the Voluntary Sector Strategy.

It was also considered that this meeting could provide the opportunity for the PCG to publicise itself to the Voluntary Sector.

8.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that consideration of the Property Strategy was still outstanding and it was suggested that this should be submitted to the next meeting of the Assembly, together with a review of the effectiveness of the Council's budget consultations and the reports for the next meeting of the Grant Aid Committee.

8.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED -

That the next meeting be held on Tuesday 15 February 2000 at 10.00 am in Room 4.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.56 AM