

12th Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday 23rd of January 2008 at 6pm
Napiershall Street Centre
39 Napiershall Street
Glasgow, G20 6EZ

Attendance

Board of Directors

O P Khanna MBE
Sharon Schlesinger
Brij Gandhi MBE
Vincent Chudy
Haji Munir

Staff

Mohammed Razaq
Michael Wilson (Minute Taker)

Observers

Supt. David Stewart

Strathclyde Police

Chair:

O P Khanna MBE

1. Apologies

Board of Directors

Mohammed Zahid
O S Jandu
Bailie Hanzala Malik
Linda McTavish
Harriette Campbell
Syed Jafri

Observers

Cllr Irfan Rabbani	Glasgow City Council
Cllr Jonathan McColl	West Dunbartonshire Council
Suzanne Greer	West Dunbartonshire Council
Arshaq Ahmed	Scottish Prison Service

2. Welcome

Chair welcomed all those in attendance to the 12th Board of Directors Meeting.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting of the 4th of December 2007 were accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings. This was proposed by Brij Gandhi and seconded by Vincent Chudy

4. Matters Arising

Mohammed Razaq (MR) alerted attendants to point 7c of the pervious minutes regarding corporate health and safety training for the Board of Directors. MR informed attendants

that he had contacted Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector who will be providing training on this area in June 2008. Details will be passed on to Board members nearer the time.

MR also reported that the Seasonal Lunch mentioned under A.O.C.B in the previous minutes will be taking place on Tuesday 29th of January 2008 at the Village restaurant at Bellahouston Park. Invites were sent to all Board members and Observers.

5. Reports:

• **Mohammed Razaq: Principal Officer**

1. Scottish Alliance of Racial Equality Councils (SAREC)

Since my last report I have attended two meetings of SAREC 5th September 07 and 22nd November 07 along with the Chair and one meeting of CEO's only on the 2nd November 07.

I am pleased to report that a SAREC Business Plan has been completed and the Scottish Government will be approached in relation to funding for 2008/10. A full report has been compiled for the Scottish Government by WSREC and other REC's in relation to ongoing work this year. Also included in the report is the work that we wish to continue and new areas of work that we wish to take up.

SAREC will be approaching other funders in relation the wider issues/work that it wishes to take up.

2. Community to Community (C2C) project

This project funded by the Scottish Government through SAREC is on course to meet its objectives; staff have been working very hard to make sure all tasks are completed on time. One of the successes of this project is that WSREC is to bring all the Community Planning Partnership in the West of Scotland together by holding a Seminar. This will be to discuss how the CPPs could work together in the best interest of equality and cross border issue in particular for EM communities. The seminar is to held on the 6th of March 2008 in Glasgow

3. Statistics

Statistic showing contact with WSREC office and the reasons for the contact in relation to the last 6 months

Nature of Calls/Visits Aug 2007-Jan 2008	Number
Racial Complaint	71
Advice & Information	146
Info on External Services	20
Info on WSREC Services	57
Other	18
Total	312

4. **Funding/Projects**

The funding committee agreed to take work forward from the Business Plan including agreeing who would be taking it forward and from whom resource may be obtained to carry its out the work.

This is to report that the meeting with British Transport police was undertaken Dr Malcolm Green and Bushra Iqbal. The meeting was arranged to in relation to how WSREC was able to assist in their work. I am advised that the meeting went well and areas of partnership work were identified and that a further meeting will be arranged to progress this.

CEiS

As reported in the last meeting CEiS has started consultancy work on assisting WSREC with funding bids on identified gaps in service. The following provides information on progress made so far:-

Roma Young People Project

This bid was completed and forward to BBC Children in Need for consideration on the 27th November 07. A telephone assessment of the bid was undertaken on 8th Jan 08. We will hear of the outcome be end of March 2008. **WSREC staff completed the application and the consultant provided advice and suggestions on some minor changes to the final document**

- Her Majesties Revenue & Customs (HMRC)

Staff saw an opportunity in applying for funds from the HMRC in relation to the take up of their products to the 'hard to reach' communities. Therefore staff (in worked hard at this) and completed the application and had John Black, the consultant provide advise and suggestions on any changes that he deemed appropriate. The final application was completed and forwarded on 21 December 07. Outcome of the application will be announced in mid February 08.

- Mentoring (Volunteers) Project

An updated project application was provided to the consultant. The consultant has revamped 2 whole sections to 'fit' with funder guidelines. It is hoped that this will be completed by the end of February 08 and forwarded to the Big Lotteries as an outline proposal with start date of August 2008.

- EHRC, section 17 Funding

WSREC will be bidding for the above funds which have been transferred from the now defunct CRE. We will apply for funding in the following three areas

- Good Community Relations
- Equality
- Casework

CEiS Consultant and WSREC staff are working on this proposal and it is in its final stages. The deadline for applications is 5th February 08 with announcement of results by end of March 08

MR further added that WSREC would be holding a feasibility conference in March 2008, resourced by West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and East Dunbartonshire CPP, to look at establishing a network for community planning partnerships in the West of Scotland which would encourage inter-authority collaboration on issues of engagement and equality affecting minority ethnic communities.

MR also commented on the investigative work carried out by Bushra Iqbal, Head of Policy & Strategy Development, and Dr Malcolm Green, Chair of Strategy Committee, on looking at working with the British Transport Police. Further to a meeting on the 14th of January 2008 WSREC will sending a proposal of work to the BTP in the coming weeks.

After the reports were considered the following comments were raised:

Supt. Stewart expressed an interest in the possible establishment of a West of Scotland Community Planning collaboration and enquired if Strathclyde Police could sit on this body. MR responded that at this time the conference would just be looking at the feasibility of such a body and the inclusion of any external agencies would have to be considered by the stakeholders once the body was established.

Sharon Schlesinger asked if WSREC had figures available for service users from various geographical areas based on postcode. MR responded that these would be ready by the end of March 2008.

a. Financial Summary

A copy of WSREC's income and expenditure report was passed out to attendants for discussion. Further to chairs request at the previous meeting that this summary was presented on sheet MR advised attendants that due a staff shortage that day this was not possible but would however be provided at the next meeting.

For the period 1st of April to 31st of December 2007 the following figures apply:

Income	£179,542.96
LESS Expenditure	<u>£138,430.64</u>
Balance	£41,112.32

b. Chair

Due to absence of the Chairperson, Hanzala Malik, no report was provided

c. Partners

Strathclyde Police: Supt. David Stewart

It was reported on behalf of Strathclyde Police the following:

- As of 23rd of January 2008 a Sergeant was been identified for a post in the BME Youth Engagement Team and should start within the next four weeks. This individual will be joined by a Constable to support them shortly. The post holder

will be looking to develop stronger links between local BME organisations and local police divisions to help both sides better engage with each other.

- Work is well underway in relation to the Single Equalities scheme currently being reviewed. This scheme will be an easier one stop document for equality in Strathclyde Police and it anticipated it will go live before the end of this financial year.
- Work is being carried out to enhance the use of Third Party Reporting/Remote Reporting Sites. Supt Stewart will be meeting with Glasgow City Council to discuss ways to enhancing Third Party reporting. In addition to this a document has recently been posted on the Strathclyde Police website which allows individuals to report racist crimes anonymously on the website. MR asked if it would be possible for organisations to use this feature to which it was replied that that option is not available at this point but should be in future.

6. Correspondence

The following correspondence was put to Board for discussion

	Received From	Subject
1	Equality and Human Rights Commission	New Office details FOR INFORMATION
2	Glasgow Anti-racist Alliance	Meeting on 31 st Jan at 30 Bell Street Glasgow to discuss ways of working towards a joint approach on race equality and community planning
3	Home Office	Race Employment Targets 2006/07 Report FOR INFORMATION
4	Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire	Invite to Royal Garden Party Tues 1 st July 2008 at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh Open to individuals working or living in East Renfrewshire or Renfrewshire.
5	Strathclyde Pension Fund (WSREC's Pension body)	Annual Accounts 2007 FOR INFORMATION

MR informed attendants that he would be attending the meeting as stated in correspondence item 2 which would be looking at how minority ethnic organisations could work together in Glasgow. Any board members who wished to come along are to let MR know before hand.

MR informed attendants that if they know of individuals from East Renfrewshire or Renfrewshire who may wish to attend the garden party then details should be forwarded to WREC.

7. New WSREC Policies

The policies below were distributed prior to the meeting and were put forward to the Board to consider.

a. Child Protection Policy

Further to discussion in the previous meeting the Child Protection Policy was put forward for approval from the Board after consideration of comments.

Comments made by Councilor Jonathan McColl of West Dunbartonshire Council were as follows:

1. "Under 'Individual Roles Within the Child Protection Process', second paragraph, I'd like to see an addition stating that we should seek to involve a child's guardian where appropriate.
2. Under 'Child Protection – Procedures for Line Managers/Designated Persons', third paragraph, I feel it might also be appropriate for line managers to see advice from their own senior management and where appropriate, the Police.
3. Would volunteers and workers keeping case notes have to register under the data protection act?
4. Given the nature of this policy, might it be more appropriate to review the policy after 18 months in the first instance rather than 3 years down the line?"

These points were put to attendants and further to discussion it was agreed to incorporate point 2 .

MR thanked attendants and Cllr McColl for their input into the development of this policy.

8. SAREC Update

Chair advised that information on SAREC could be found in the Principal Officer report provided.

MR informed attendants that due to hold up in the release of funding for 2008/09 the Scottish Government equality Unit has offered WSREC the opportunity to apply for extension funding of £6570 for the period April to June 2008. WSREC has applied under this extension is awaiting a decision from the Scottish Government.

9. Funding

Chair advised that information on funding could be found in the Principal Officer report provided.

Michael Wilson informed attendants that he and a Polish volunteer at WSREC, Magdalena Nieradko, are currently looking to start up a project which will work to improve the lives of migrant workers in the West of Scotland.

10. A.O.C.B

None

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 12th of March 2008 at 6.00pm

Wednesday 7th of May 2008 at 6.00pm

All meetings will be held at the Napiershall Street Centre, Glasgow, G20 6EZ.