

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council Ltd
70th Meeting of the Board of Directors
 Monday 11th February 2019 at 6.00pm
 WSREC Offices, 39 Napierhall Street, Glasgow, G20 6EZ

Minutes

PRESENT

Board of Directors

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| 1. Cllr Hanzala Malik | (Chair) |
| 2. Harriette Campbell | (HC) |
| 3. Dr Malcolm Green | (MG) |
| 4. Onkar Singh Jandu | (OSJ) |
| 5. Sharon Schlesinger | (SS) |
| 6. Sheela Mukherjee | (SM) |
| 7. Antony Kozlowski | (AK) |
| 8. Munir Choudry | (MC) |
| 9. Cllr Anne McTaggart | (AM) |
| 10. Vince Chudy | (VC) |
| 11. Cllr Rashid Hussain | (RH) |

Observers

Stuart Cassidy COPFS

In attendance

Mohammed Razaq (MR)
 Mohith Lakhanpal (ML)
 Tauseef Khan (TK)
 Stuart Aiton (Accountant)

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Board of Directors

1. Syed Jafri (SJ)
2. Dr. Javed Gill (JG)
3. Tunweer Malik (TM)

Observers

2. Presentation

A verbal presentation was made by Stuart Aiton as the Accountant for WSREC and advised that their will be requirement for a full audit as the company continues to have income of over £500k per annum. He said that he was required to address the Board and asked a number of questions to the Board including anything they would like to share with him. He also made it clear that he was happy to meet or be contacted by Board members out with the meeting.

3. Presentation

A presentation on "Minority Ethnic Silver Surfers/ Minority Ethnic Super Surfers projects" (MESS) was made by Mohith Lakhanpal; Project Lead the presentation was a quick summary of project outcomes.

There are 2 parts to the MESS project one funded by Maryhill Housing Association and other part by North West Learning Partnership till 31/03/2019.

The project will make a positive impact in reducing isolation, increasing the confidence of BME Individuals

Outcomes

- Minority Ethnic People – With particular focus on South Asian Communities in Glasgow have increased communication using modern day technology.
- Minority Ethnic people – with particular focus on Asylum seeker and Refugee Communities – in North Maryhill have increased support to live a more independent life.

After a number of questions and answers the Board thanked Mohith Lakhanpal for the presentation.

4. Minutes of the previous meetings

Minutes of 69th Meeting held of 19th November 2018 were approved as a true and accurate record

5. Matters Arising

Action: A letter to be sent to John Service and Mr Haji Munir on behalf of the Board thanking both for their support over the many years. Letter of thanks sent

Action: It was agreed by the Board for written criteria for suitable premises for WSREC to be provided to the Board. Distributed at the meeting today

At this point the Chair requested approval to spend a modest amount of money to purchase gift for retiring Board members. The Board agreed with this request.

6. Conflicts of interest

There were none

**7. For discussion
Reports**

a) Finance – Variance statement for month of October 2018

Expenditure: actual **£40,031** and budgeted **£49,463** with a variance of **£9,432** under spend

Income: actual **£63,530** and budgeted **£73,909** with a variance of **-£10,379** below budgeted

The Board noted the report

b) Executive Director

There was a comment by MC in relation to 3CH project suggesting that nothing changes unless senior managers in organisations are on board. MR explained that at a recent meeting the funders were keen for WSREC to go to the next stage of the work in providing one-to-one support for local authority staff in utilising s Toolkit that WSREC and Women's Library had jointly produced but are unsure if there will be a budget heading for anti-sectarianism work in the coming year. A discussion ensued and it was noted that changes are hard to come by but as an organisation we need to keeping pushing for change and cannot stand by and do nothing.

The Board noted the report

c) Partner Reports

Stuart Cassidy of COPFS advised that there was not new to say about the work of the COPFS suggesting that any cases of Hate Crime were rigorously pursued as a matter of policy. AK spoke about the hate crime via 'social chat rooms' which were considered 'private spaces' by the COPFS and a personnel case he has been involved with. Stuart Cassidy suggested that AK provide the details out-with the meeting and he would look into this. SS asked Stuart Cassidy if there was equality training for individuals convicted of Hate crime and he responded that this was for Sheriffs to decide when sentencing and restorative justice element that the Prison Services are charged with.

Action: the Board requested MR to write to the Scottish Prison Service and request this information.

The Board thanked Stuart Cassidy for his attendance and report.

For decision

8. Correspondence

There was none

9. WSREC Referral Policy

MR spoke to the draft Referral Policy and advised that the policy had input from staff, affiliated organisation and the Board. This was now being presented to be WSREC's Board to be formally adopted.

The Board agreed to adopt the policy.

For more information

10. Update: Napiershall Street Centre:

A report was tabled by MR which contained criteria for new WSREC offices search:-

- Location: Must be north of the river Clyde
- Rental: £23k per annum (Rent, repairs and light & heat)
- Floor space: Minimum of 2,500 Sq Ft
- Transport: good links to the premises
- Car parking: some client and staff car parking facility required

The report also contained information on 3 properties that had been identified and viewing had taken place. The Chair advised that the property locations are not being divulged at this moment and time due to commercial sensitivity.

The Board noted the report.

11. Report SAREC

MG (Chair of SAREC) reported that the organisation is pursuing a meeting with the Scottish Government officials and had received an acknowledgment for the same with a meeting possibly in March 2019.

12. A.O.C.B.

The Chair advised that due to the recent resignations from WSREC's Board he was recommending the co-option to the Board of Mr Haroon Malik (a solicitor) and a Mr Nadeem Arshad (Construction and Building) to fill the gap. The chair advised that WSREC is in the process of an office move and will require expertise in both legal and building/construction.

The Board agreed to the recommendations.

The Chair advised that Board's annual Christmas lunch was not well attended and that he was going request WSREC's Office Manager Farrah Rashid to arrange lunch/dinner

13. Date and Times of future meetings

Future meetings at 6.00pm meeting room ground floor, WSREC offices agreed as follows:
Monday 29th April 2019