

**West of Scotland Regional Equality Council Ltd**  
**83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of WSREC Board on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 6.00pm**

Via ZOOM

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT**

Board of Directors

1. Hanzala Malik Chair
2. Dr Malcolm Green (MG)
3. Vince Chudy (VC)
4. Antony Kozlowski (AK)
5. Sharon Schlesinger (SS)
6. Harriette Campbell (HC)
7. Haroun Malik (HM)
8. Sheela Mukherjee (SM)

Observers

None in attendance

In attendance

Mohammed Razaq (MR)  
Manal Eshelli (ME)

**WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Board of Directors

1. Onkar Singh Jandu (OSJ)
2. Anne Mactaggart (AM) *IT issues*

Observers

None

**2. Presentation**

Presentation was provided by Manal Eshelli, Project Coordinator, Shine Bright (Oral Health for Minority Ethnic Communities).

Project is funded by Scottish Governments Oral Health Community Challenge Fund for the period July 2019 to June 2022. The projects overall aim is to improve the oral health and quality of life of individuals including infants.

Manal reported project achievements this financial year:

**199** ME individuals registered and actively engaged with Shine Bright project. **17** Oral health newsletters published and disseminated. **12** Online Oral health awareness sessions held. **3** competitions successfully organised. **400** enquiries responded to with one-to-one support. **9** videos published on YouTube channel. Capacity built **4** community led organisations and **11,039** views of project Facebook Platform

After a number of questions including the breakdown of participants ethnicity on behalf the Board the Chair thanked Manal for the very informative presentation.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Minutes of 82<sup>nd</sup> WSREC Board meeting (8<sup>th</sup> February 2021) were approved as a true and accurate record with the following changes

*6 (b) Executive Report 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph 7<sup>th</sup> Line delete 'for a' and on the same line change i.e. to e.g.*

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Updating Twinning of Board and projects*
- b. MR reported that a letter had been written, and response received dated (20/04/2021) from Martyn Evans Chair of the Scottish Police Authority about situation in relation to the non-availability timeously of hate crime figures. **After some discussion the response was deemed unsatisfactory/unhappy/disappointing, and it was agreed to re-write to the Chair of SPA with the views of the Board.***
- c. WSREC AGM/50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary- The Chair advised that he discuss the use of the Banqueting Hall with the Lord Provost of Glasgow. **The Chair reported having positive discussions with the Lord Provost and advised that we were knocking at an open door. However, it will depend on Covid 19 guidelines etc,***

*and after further discussion it was agreed that the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration event be deferred until early next year allowing for preparations to be made and surety of the venue being available.*

## **5. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were none

## **6. FOR DISCUSSION**

### **Reports**

#### a) Finance – Variance statement for month of March 2021

**Expenditure:** actual **£52,147** and budgeted **£30,713** with a variance of **£21,134** overspend

**Income:** actual **£43,227** and budgeted **£9,625** with a variance of **£33,602** over budget

The Board was content with explanation provided under/over budget expenditure/income and noted the report.

#### b) Executive Director

MR pointed to the report that had been forwarded to Board of Directors and asked for any questions. There were no questions

*The Board noted the report*

#### c) Partner Reports

No reports were received, and partners were in attendance.

#### d) WSREC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

MR reported that staff had been looking at celebrating and sharing with wider stakeholders WSREC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Logo to be used in all its letter heads leaflet, email signatures, leaflets and website. For this purpose, MR shared images of four 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logos prepared by staff (WSREC's logo – the leaves and the message '50 years of championing Equalities' all in Gold colour). After some deliberation the Board agreed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Logo which was also the staff choice. The Board agreed to have to 'pull up' Boards up with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo.

*The Board thanked staff for the work in producing the 50th anniversary logo*

## **FOR DECISION**

### **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was non

### **8. WSREC PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE (Final Draft 'Terms of Reference')**

MR reported that the Final draft 'Terms of Reference' for the property Sub-committee had been circulated and that the sub-committee itself agreed to adopt them at its meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The full Board was requested to formally adopt the property sub-committee Terms of Reference.

*The Board agreed to adopt the property sub-committee Terms of Reference.*

### **9. NEW POLICIES: a) Home and Remote Working Policy b) Online Crises Policy**

MR reported that due to the Covid 19 and shift to homeworking necessitated the above 2 polices which had been widely consulted on including individual Board members.

Board confirmed the adoption of both policies

## **FOR INFORMATION**

### **10. RE-ACCREDITATION- Scottish National Standard on Advice and Information 2021**

## WEST OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL EQUALITY COUNCIL

MR reported that WSREC first obtained the standard in 2018 and was now up for re-auditing for the next 3 years. He said that the standard in 2018 had gone through a revamp and the audit team were a bit lenient at the time however not so this time and it was tough getting the initial application completed with the vast amount of evidence requested. Even before the audit the team came back with a mountain of questions and requested further evidence before the full audit took place. All staff had to 'all hands on deck' to respond to the request for a mountain of information and evidence. As always, the WSREC team pulled together and gave a good account of themselves with the response. Pleased report that WSREC was successful in being awarded the Scottish National Standard on Advice and Information standard. MR further reported that award has come with some recommendations which staff will deal with starting next month.

The Board noted the report and thanked staff for its hard work in maintaining the standard

### **11. UPDATE: 'Shuna Street'**

MR reported that finalised lease documents for both Shuna Street and Napierhall Street with WSREC Chairs signature have been returned to our solicitors Graham Wilson of Addelshaw Goddard LLP. The next stage is the signatures of City Property. We already have keys for Shuna Street and have had the Ben the project manager visit the premises twice with Staff input has provided a draft office fit out layout and plan produced. The project manager has been requested to provide staged repairs with **phase 1** WSREC being able to utilise part of the building for some staff and client contact. Money for repairs has been identified internally to WSREC and an application to the Robertson Trust for a repair grant will hopefully be submitted by end of April 2021. Together with the internal budget and Robertson Trust application being successful the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of repairs could be completed. MR also reported that we are looking at local organisations for possible short-term letting of office space and halls for project face-to-face meetings and events. Mr Ramzan Shah of ASRA has kindly agreed to make available office space for WSREC staff to locate and to be able to have face to face meetings and events within his offices.

*The Board noted the report.*

### **12. Covid-19**

MR reported to the Board that guidelines for covid 19 have been relaxed and looks likely that offices will be allowed to open for face-to-face delivery of project work within the next couple of months.

*Board noted the verbal report*

### **13. REPORT SAREC**

MG (Chair of SAREC) reported that SAREC had finalised its research on hate crime and Covid 19 with a report completed and being widely distributed countrywide. He also referred to the last meeting of SAREC in which proposal for future joint work was tabled. MR added that the SAREC CEO's had met recently and discussed the dissemination of the report. Also a possible meeting with Scottish Government in relation to SAREC applying to the Equality and Human Rights fund. It has been agreed that Dave from GREC would complete the joint application and others REC's would pay for time spent of £100 per REC.

*The Board noted the report.*

### **14. AOCB**

- HC brought the issue of Sheku Bayoh and how discussions went within the Board meeting last year and the Panorama programme brought up at the last meeting. The chair offered to meet HR after meeting to see how he could help.
- MR advised the Board that Antony Kozlowski had been elected Vice-Chair of GCVS and Chair of its Governance Committee. MR along with all Board congratulated Antony for his achievements.

### **15. DATE AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 at City Chambers AGM/online via zoom

