Item 4 (a)

9th May 2023

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership
Strategic Partnership

Report by Ian Bruce, Chief Executive, Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector (GCVS)
Contact: Ian Bruce - ian.bruce@gcvs.org.uk

Social Recovery Taskforce – Third Sector Workstream Update

Purpose of Report:

To update the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership on the Social Recovery Taskforce's Third Sector Workstream, which had a remit of considering how relationships between public bodies and the third sector could be improved, how the third sector in the city could better be supported and how we could collectively achieve better outcomes for citizens in the city.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership Strategic Partnership:

- note the report
- expect a further update with a completed Action Plan at a future meeting

1 Introduction / Background

1.1 The Social Recovery Taskforce in the city was established during the Covid-19 pandemic to support the city to learn from the pandemic and to consider what actions would achieve our shared aims of improving outcomes for citizens in the city. The Taskforce had a number of workstreams, one of which was for the Third Sector, with a remit of considering how relationships between public bodies and the third sector could be improved, how the third sector in the city could be better supported, and how we could collectively achieve better outcomes for citizens in the city.

1.2 The Third Sector workstream was chaired by the Chief Executive of Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector as the main umbrella body for the full diversity of the sector in the city.

1.3 The workstream's work has happened in two phases. The first phase was an investigation phase led primarily by the third sector. It sought to understand the experiences of third sector organisations in the city and identify the challenges that should be addressed. It resulted in the Better Relationships, Better Outcomes paper from the group.

1.4 The second phase has been an action planning group formed of both third and public sector colleagues, to take the recommendations from the Better Relationships paper and consider how best to implement them considering the resource and capacity limitations that all agencies face. The group are developing a joint action plan and anticipate this being completed in summer 2023.

2 The Better Relationships Better Outcomes Paper

2.1 The first phase began in November 2020 with consultation with the voluntary sector on their experience and the identification of members to join the group. Based on the feedback from that engagement the group identified a number of key areas they wanted to cover over the course of their work. Each of these was addressed during one of a sequence of meetings:

- Values
- Power Dynamics
- Community Empowerment
- Funding
- Representation
- Communication & Understanding
- Procurement
- Accountability and Implementation

2.2 The full Better Relationships paper was produced in August 2020 from the learning from the series of discussions and is available online at https://www.gcvs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Better-Relationships-Draft-Full-Report.docx

3 Better Relationships Improvement Group

3.1 Following the publication of the Better Relationships paper and engagement with the public and voluntary sector, Glasgow City Council and GCVS convened a new partnership to take forward the second part of the work, the development of the action plan.

3.2 Jointly chaired by the GCVS Chief Executive and the Glasgow City Council Director of Community Empowerment and Equalities, the Better Relationships Improvement Group comprises key leaders from across the public and third sector in the city. It met for the first time in December 2021.

3.3 The group has considered the recommendations from the original report and have sought to establish an action plan to address the key points that is both ambitious in its aim and realistic considering the financial and delivery challenges that agencies in all sectors are addressing.

3.4 The group is in the final stages of agreeing the action plan and it is hoped that it will be finalised over summer 2023.

4 Key Connections

4.1 The Better Relationships work does not sit in a vacuum and a range of other policy areas have referred to the original report and will contribute to the implantation of the actions. Some critical ones include:

- The review of the Glasgow Communities Fund
- The HSCP Maximising Independence programme
- The Child Poverty Pathfinder

5 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership Strategic Partnership:

- note the report
- expect a further update with a completed Action Plan at a future meeting