



ECHF Forum Meeting
Date 03/06/21

Attendees: Rachel Green (The Ripple), Stephanie-Anne Harris (ECHF), Katie Reid (ECHF), Charlie Cumming (ELGT), Dawn Anderson (PCHP), Maruska Greenwood (LGBTHealth), Marion Findlay (VE), Brenda Black (ECF), Liz Simpson (NHSLothian), Suzanne Paxton (SDCD), Suzanne Lowden (The Junction), Emma Cormack (THA), Brock Lueck (OPF), Anne Munro(PDP)

Apologies: Ruth McLellan(Care4carers), Jen Richards (BHealthy), Kirsty Frankland (Whale Arts), Catriona Windle(HAR), Moyra Burns (NHSLothian), Nancy Bryson (Space) , Magda Czarnecka (Feniks) , Bidy Kelly (Fresh Start)

1. Welcome and Introductions - Charlie Cumming

Charlie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Updates from SAH and KR

KR:

Katie updated on the upcoming Digital Training provided by Ross at the Third Sector Lab which begins on the 8th of June. Currently we have six participants and have the capacity for two more, if anyone would like to be involved please contact Katie ASAP. The sessions will run on every second Tuesday of the month.

Additionally, our ECHF Slack channel is now up and running, this is a space where we will aim to share the information which we circulate in our mailing list so if you haven't already joined, please do so.

Our ECHF evaluation survey for 2020/21 is now out on Survey Monkey and we would love as much feedback as possible so please fill this out when you have time.

SAH:

S-A is a member of the steering group which aims to inform The Pact conversations around Community Anchor Organisations. The next confirmed date for The Pact is the 17th of June with July's meeting being held on the 22nd of July. She is keeping them informed with the growing concerns of Forum members regarding the development of CAO's.

Our OutNav evaluation sessions are running well and we are excited to be holding a 'Showcase Event' where we will be presenting the projects which our members have been working on over the past months. This is a great opportunity to both support the participating organisations and see if you might be interested in using OutNav in the future.

The Forum is running their annual AGM on the 31st of August from 9.30am-11am. We are still looking for a guest speaker so if anyone has any ideas please email either S-A or Katie.

3. CAO's

1. Summer season- what are people thinking about this?

Summer is a quiet point for many organisations where the time could be better spent with organisations developing their own services and responding to the new easing of restrictions and return to services. Confusion over the role of Community Animators, while S-A reassured the Forum that EVOC are looking to develop a proposal for the animators there is still an uneasiness about the nature of the animators. The main concern over the animators is that roles like community animators need a basis of trust and that needs to be developed over time, whereas it seems, as with the whole development of CAO's, the animator role is being rushed. There is a suggestion that we should have a specific meeting about the role of animators and that perhaps grant extensions could tie in with the recruitment of animators? The outstanding worry is that community animators may be the voice that is listened to rather than that of existing organisations who know their organisations and communities and are happy to facilitate and feedback this information on their own accord.

To summarize:

- There is concern over the pace of The Pact work and timeline's concerning Animators and Summer Conversations.
- Members found The Pact report difficult to read and judge the thoughts of the participants involved.
- Emphasis on trust and development rather than rushing into the creation of CAO's.
- Organisations feel overwhelmed at the speed of development, especially when they are still trying to restart services and adjust to the easing of restrictions and feel this has not been taken into consideration when the development of CAOS is considered.

SAH and KR reassured members that their concerns will be addressed when SAH attends the steering group and that an ECHF session will be created where organisations can speak more freely about CAO's and come up with an ideal model for the CAO's. This meeting will run with the help of Susan Paxton on the 22nd of June at 1.30pm.

4. Member Updates

Volunteer Edinburgh : Some concern about safety for reopening. TSI's across the Lothians have been working with the NHS leads to push for better access for third sector lateral flow tests. A Government addressed letter has been sent out regarding this however the Gov stance is that organisations still need to access their lateral flow tests through the helpline. Request for help of organisations in understanding their stance on lateral flow testing.

ECF : Operation Strawberry is underway as is the development of a pop up market place with an open invitation to all organisations to come along.

The Ripple: Are in the process of receiving Thrive Funding, their cafe is now open again and they are in partnership with Cyrenians to start a befriending project.

The Junction : Things are all going again at the junction.

THA : Recruiting for a cancer support worker, if interested please pop Emma Cormack an email. Parents and men's groups are up and running online.

PDP: Youth work and outdoor work are open again and there is now a work focus around digital access for the elderly.

5. Previous Meeting Minutes

All members were happy with the previous meeting minutes.

6. AOBC

None.

7. Date of next meeting(s) :

CAO's - 22nd of June, 1.30-3pm

AGM - 31st of August, 9.30-11am.