

## New Third Sector Forum (TSF) Structure



Arranged and facilitated by Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan), the Third Sector Forum (TSF) was launched in 2015 as a platform for South Lanarkshire's third sector to network, share ideas and influence public policy, while also promoting ways of working that address local need, encourage creative thinking and celebrate the sector's contribution.

TSF events are held quarterly in each of South Lanarkshire's four localities (Clydesdale, Rutherglen & Cambuslang, East Kilbride & Strathaven and Hamilton, Larkhall & Blantyre) and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, were held physically at community venues in each locality. Currently, events are hosted online using the Zoom platform. VASLan's vision has always been that TSF agendas would be driven locally by third sector organisations in each locality. However, to date this unfortunately hasn't come to fruition and in order to work towards achieving this vision, we recognise the need to restructure the events.

In order to enhance sector engagement, provide ownership and better drive the local agenda of the events specific to each locality, VASLan is seeking to rebrand the TSF to locality network events. As a test of change and in keeping with VASLan's value of inclusiveness, we are seeking to identify third sector organisations that would be interested in taking the lead in the facilitation of these new network events in their locality for the next year. We appreciate the time commitment and financial implications of taking on this role and as such, **£10,000** will be provided to each successful organisation or partnership to contribute to the associated costs e.g., venue hire and event promotion etc. VASLan will still play a key role in the planning of events, providing access to resources and support.

The successful organisation or partnership in each locality will be required to:

- Determine the most appropriate framework for the locality (this may be one locality wide network or smaller geographical/neighbourhood events).
- Organise and facilitate four locality network events over a twelve-month period (historically these are held in March, June, September and December).
- Promote the locality network to as wide an audience as possible within their locality, encouraging a range of third sector organisations to participate in local events and awareness raising sessions/initiatives.
- Ensure that the content of events is reflective of current third sector issues in the locality as well as supporting an increase in community engagement related to local and national agendas such as community wealth building, Community Planning Partnership (CPP) priorities and health and social care initiatives etc.
- Test local views on what matters and improve community connections.

- Through the locality network events, provide a platform that shows the depth of the sector, encourages networking, the sharing of best practice and access to peer support, helping to raise the profile of grassroots organisations, build locality intelligence and promote the services of VASLan and the new thematic groups in supporting the sector.
- Regularly attend VASLan sector wide planning meetings, feeding back on local issues and emerging trends in order to:
  - Inform the development of new thematic groups which will focus on targeted issues that may affect one locality or more e.g., young people, volunteering, mental health etc.
  - Escalate local issues and potential solutions to CPP, Scottish Government and governing bodies via VASLan.
  - Provide wider sector awareness of locality similarities and differences, promoting solution-based discussion.
- Commit to four data collecting exercises to build sector intelligence.
- Once established, potentially progress to representing the sector at Community Planning Partner (CPP) level.

The below diagram illustrates where the new locality networks will fit into a wider communication pathway.



The key deliverables for each successful organisation or partnership are:

- To facilitate four locality network events.
- To represent their organisation/partnership at pre and post locality network event planning meetings.
- To lead a thematic group, formed to address an identified need.

The new locality network structure represents an exciting opportunity to shape the agenda to reflect the distinct key needs and issues of each separate locality, with the potential for future strategic investment. To register your interest in leading facilitation of the locality network events in your locality, please email complete and submit online application form <https://www.tfaforms.com/4971047> by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**. The successful organisation or partnership for each locality will be determined by an independent panel and notified by **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April**.