Fife Voluntary Action

1. **Do you know how and when you can get involved with the Integration Authorities to influence decision making?**

   Yes, as the third sector interface for the Fife area, Fife Voluntary Action represents the sector on Fife’s Integration Joint Board.

   In our role as the third sector interface we host a monthly third sector Health and Social Care Forum, enabling us to link and communicate with Fife’s third sector. This Forum has a wide membership and receives a monthly e-bulletin with local and national updates on Health and Social Care (this e-bulletin also goes out to a wider audience). News items are included from Fife’s Integration Authority and this is disseminated out to the third sector.

   All notes from the meetings are published online for anyone to access and they can contact Fife Voluntary Action at any time to find out more information on the Forum, e-bulletin or about Health and Social Care Integration in general.

   The Forum has been consulted on several key milestones in Integration in Fife. Integration updates are a standing item on the Forum agenda so the sector receives regular updates on what is happening.

   Fife Voluntary Action staff are included in Integration Authority meetings at all levels and aim to reflect sector opinions.

2. **Were you consulted in the preparation of the strategic plans or involved with the work of the Strategic Planning Group?**

   Yes Fife voluntary Action continues to be involved with the Strategic Planning Group.

3. **Have you been involved with the work of the Integration Authority following the publication of the strategic plan?**

   Yes Fife Voluntary Action has had continued engagement with the Integration Authority following publication of Fife’s Strategic Plan and communicates with the third sector as described above.

4. **Have you been involved with the work of the localities/ what involvement would you like to have?**

   Fife Voluntary Action is currently involved with the development of work in Fife’s seven Localities. Locality planning in Fife is at an early stage and we continue to disseminate information out to the sector and reflect the sector at meetings and invite Integration Authorities representatives to our Forums.

5. **Do you think that your involvement with the IAs has had an impact on decision making?**
Yes, Fife Voluntary Action has influence on some decision making. We are not a voting member on the Integration Authority but we have a strong voice and ensure the sector is reflected at meetings, facilitate joint working and broker relationships.

6. **What could be done to improve the communication from the IAs?**

The Shadow Board for integration had a key senior management group in Fife. It was dissolved upon the establishment of the Integration Joint Board. Fife Voluntary Action were part of this group and were able to influence decision making, take part in key decisions along with the independent sector and other representatives, and were privy to strategic thinking.

We feel being included at this level of strategic thinking has been affected as this group has not been replaced.

7. **What could be done to ensure greater collaboration and engagement in the decision making process of Integration Authorities?**

It is hoped and anticipated that locality and cluster groups enhance this. Having decision making devolved to a locality and cluster level will ensure that decisions are more bottom up than top down. Locality and cluster groups will have wide representation from the public, private and third sectors as well as from the public and carers.

Fife Voluntary Action continues to work with Fifes third sector to ensure the sector is represented, reflected and develops through the opportunities that arise from Health and Social Care Integration.

**N.B**

The range and volume of third sector organisations and groups is considerable. Time to respond collectively is essential to good communications, so for Integration Authorities to get the best from the sector (and Fife Voluntary Action) means lead time needs to be appropriate and fit for purpose.