

Minutes: Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) Board meeting, 23 January 2018, Dundee

Board Members present: The Very Rev Dr Graham Forbes (Chair), Prof. David Harrison (Vice Chair); Pat Armstrong, Dr. Sophie Flemig, Prof. Stuart Cross, Jessica Wade, Shona Ulrichsen

OSCR attendance: David Robb, CEO; Martin Tyson, Head of Casework; Judith Turbyne, Head of Engagement & Targeted Response Unit; Judith Hayhow, Head of Support Services; Moira Cathcart, Senior Legal Advisor.

Board Secretary: Nicola McBain, Engagement Manager

Observer: Paula Duncan, Engagement Manager and Caroline Monk, Engagement Manager

Apologies: Laura Anderson, Head of Professional Advice & Intelligence

| Preliminaries | | |
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| Agenda item | Area | Action |
| 1. | <p>Chairman's introduction</p> <p>Graham welcomed the Board members.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>Declarations of interest were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shona Ulrichsen and Stuart Cross: one of the charities noted under Registration & Enforcement cases. | |
| 3. | <p>Minutes of previous meetings: 13 September 2017 (486)</p> <p>Approved. Minutes to be uploaded to website.</p> | NM |
| 4. | <p>Matters arising & environmental scanning</p> <p>The Board members gave updates on issues of relevance to OSCR's work from their recent experience and personal perspectives.</p> <p>Themes discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barclay Review Report The closure of Voluntary Action Scotland later in 2018 | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Chair of SCVO has been announced. • Work that is ongoing on the Governance Code for Scotland. • Impact of the closure of some Bield Housing Care Homes • Establishment of six regional collaboratives with a focus on education – one of their priorities is engagement with the third sector • Impact of Local Authority budget allocations | |
| 5. | <p>Chief Executive’s report (492)</p> <p>The Board noted the content of the paper.</p> <p>Registration and Enforcement cases: Verbal updates were given on significant cases and recent developments.</p> <p>The Board asked about trends in Enforcement Cases. It was advised that while there has been an increase in the number of concerns being reported to OSCR, the percentage being taken forward is reducing. There are no significant trends; however a number of concerns are being raised following action at employment tribunals.</p> <p>The Senior Legal Advisor also advised that the Scottish Charity Appeal Panel has now ceased with the General Regulatory Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland now taking over its functions.</p> <p>Engagement: Verbal updates were given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a review of the website analytics the website structure has been updated. • Plans are ongoing for the 2018 series of Meet the Charity Regulator events. • Work is still ongoing in respect of Fundraising and Trading Guidance • Charity Public surveys work has begun and staff will be attending focus groups in Glasgow this month. <p>Targeted Response: Verbal updates were given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot work is ongoing in the areas of trusts and random checking. • The review of Risk Framework is complete and this will be submitted to next Board meeting. | JT |

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| | <p>Online applications project: Horisk has been awarded the contract, and development work has begun. The majority of the development work is expected before end of the business year.</p> <p>Legislation: Updates were given on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Reform • General Teaching Council for Scotland • Scottish Government consultation on regulation of animal sanctuaries and rehoming services and Regulatory Strategic Code of Practice • Review of the Water Exemption Scheme <p>CCEW: Awaiting the announcement of the new Chair and proposed public consultation on charging.</p> <p>Corporate Services / Staffing: Verbal updates were given on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and absence • Progress on the 2018-19 Business Plan • Internal Audit | |
| 6. | <p>Performance Report (493)</p> <p>The Board noted the contents of this paper.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Budget Review – Improving Financial Sustainability (494)</p> <p>The Board discussed the contents of this paper and the implications of the increased of public sector pay on the OSCR budget allocation for 2018-19.</p> <p>Financial analysis and scenario planning work has been discussed at the Audit Committee and a number of options were presented to the Board for discussion.</p> <p>It was agreed that a Budget Review will be undertaken with the aim to improve the medium to long term financial sustainability of our operations and this will be presented to the Board once complete.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the CEO will write to Scottish Government about this planned review.</p> | <p>DR</p> <p>DR</p> |
| 8. | <p>AOCB</p> <p>Barclay Review</p> <p>Following the announcement by the Scottish Government that Independent Schools and new</p> | |

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| | <p>ALEOs will lose business rates relief, there has been interest from a number of sides as to how OSCR will respond.</p> <p>The CEO outlined the potential implications for OSCR and asked the Board for views.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Chair will write to Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities outlining the possible consequences of this decision in the overall context of charity law.</p> | <p>Chair</p> |
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