### MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD ON THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2020 VIA ZOOM AT 2:00PM.

**Present:** L Hood (Chair), F Falconer (Vice Chair), G Whitefield (Honorary Treasurer), B Stevenson, L Macdonald, D Spence, N Brett-Young, N Dickie and J Wilson.

**In Attendance:** T Frew (Chief Executive), G Lithgow, L Little and S Dow. Inputs from K Kane, S Paterson and M Bruce.

### ACTION

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
   
   L Hood welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from K Reilly and S Quinn.

2. **MINUTE OF LAST MEETING (30 APRIL 2020)**
   
   The minute of the meeting held on 30 April 2020 was approved as an accurate record without amendment.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**
   
   There were no further matters arising not on the agenda.

4. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
   
   L Macdonald declared an interest in Item 6.3 Rosebery House Lease.

5. **COVID-19**

   **5.1 CEO Update**
   
   T Frew drew attention to the 5 questions within his SMT update and thought it would be helpful to discuss further, at a later point, questions Board members may want to put to SMT and the wider staff group. He noted that we have now moved from crisis phase to recovery. Staff have been extremely productive and working well collaboratively. There has been great support from the sector.

   **5.2 Sector Guidance and Youth Work & Schools**
   
   M Bruce gave background to the special interest group set up that quickly turned into the Youth Work COVID-19 Recovery Planning Group. The group meets every 2 weeks with 30-40 in attendance each meeting. YouthLink Scotland is supporting group members to take a strategic approach to recovery. A statement on behalf of the youth work sector was issued outlining the planned approach.

   A series of toolkits and guides have been published:
• Education Recovery: Youth Work – A Guide for Schools
• Youth Work: Supporting Young People Through and Out of Lockdown
• Youth Work: A Message to Scotland’s Young People - a short film produced in association with Youth Theatre Arts Scotland outlining our commitment to young people.

G Lithgow updated that Outdoor Learning and Education Recovery guidance has been produced providing information on opportunities to collaborate with outdoor learning organisations. It was also noted that the Outdoor Learning Network has been established as a sub group of NVYOS.

In response to a request from LAYWM we have also produced Detached Youth Work Guidelines.

Various tools, resources and training opportunities have been developed to support Digital and Online Youth Work service delivery.

These can all be found on our website here. Scottish Government’s Guiding Framework to support the gradual phased renewal of youth work services and the CLD Sector Guidance which YouthLink Scotland contributed to can also be accessed on our website.

On behalf of NVYOS, D Spence acknowledged the hard work and support over the last few months and gave her thanks.

**5.3 Public Affairs, Communications and Lobbying**

S Paterson focussed on the following points from the SMT report:

- Youth Work Sector Leader’s Survey Report published early May and issued to all politicians, party leaders, council leaders and chief executives.
- Cross Party Group on Children and Young People session 28 May, 3 ministers in attendance. The minute of the session is available on request.
- Education Committee special evidence session specifically on youth work.
- Letter sent to Party leaders requesting meetings, the first of which was held with Labour Party leader, Richard Leonard and Iain Gray, Education spokesperson. Meetings with Greens, Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are still to be arranged.
- Several questions raised in Parliament around youth work as a result of the Survey Report.
- John Swinney announcement on reopening schools specifically referred to seeking youth work sector assistance. T Frew is following this up.
- Launch of LockdownLowdown with Young Scot and Scottish Youth Parliament.
- Currently working on YouthLink Scotland manifesto, out for short consultation in July.
- New Link magazine tracking the response of the sector to COVID-19 during and after lockdown in progress – currently seeking a sponsor for this.

K Kane highlighted the following points:

- Positive collaboration between Policy & Public Affairs
- Influencing Training first session delivered
• NYWS Progress Report published in May. New Strategy on hold for time being and will now include COVID-19 recovery. Seeking confirmation of renewed timeline.
• Met with Humza Yusaf as part of a series of meetings around the Hate Crime Bill and is committed to working with YouthLink Scotland.
• UNCRC incorporation in Scots Law Bill will be laid in September.

N Brett Young passed on huge thanks from the sector, particularly LAYWM for the support from YouthLink Scotland and the team.

L Hood thanked everyone for their inputs.

6. FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

6.1 Draft Annual Audit of Accounts 2019-20 – For Information

G Whitefield noted that, subject to Audit, final findings will be presented to the September Finance & Audit Committee meeting.

6.2 Lothian Pension Fund Update – For Information

This pension issue has now been resolved and removed as a standing agenda item. Annual accounts will be subject to adjustment by the Auditors.

L Hood thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

6.3 Rosebery House Lease – For Information

G Whitefield advised that redevelopment of Rosebery House has been confirmed. Alternative accommodation options are being explored. The impact of COVID-19 and adaptations required will be taken into consideration.

6.4 Revised Budget 2020-21 – For Information (BOD/14/20)

The revised budget which takes account of the changing situation was circulated for information. The income generation target has been reduced from £113k to £87k. The effect on the bottom line would be minor.

6.5 Management Accounts to 31 May 2020 – For Information (BOD/15/20)

The Management Accounts were noted.

7. SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE

7.1 Senior Management Team Report – For Information (BOD/16/20)

The report was noted.

7.2 Digital Evolution Strategy Update – For Information (BOD/17/20)

The report was noted.

8. NVYOS
8.1 Summary of discussions at recent meetings – For Information

G Lithgow noted that the main areas of discussion included funding and access to it, preparing to move out of lockdown and the establishment of the Outdoor Learning Network.

L Hood noted that funding issues had been raised with Richard Leonard & Iain Gray who had committed to taking this back to Kate Forbes.

9. LA YOUTH WORK MANAGERS

9.1 Summary of discussions at recent meetings – For Information

G Lithgow highlighted the main issues relating to IT and digital barriers, refocus for youth work staff to community hubs and while adaptability praised could cause future difficulties and the development of the Guidance on Detached Youth Work.

L Macdonald advised that the use of Zoom had recently been approved by the Cyber Resilience Team. However, it does come with responsibilities in managing it and ensuring safety.

T Frew noted that 60% of Youth Work Managers had encountered barriers to engaging digitally with young people. N Dickie agreed that bandwidth was a huge issue for local authorities. J Wilson advised a recent survey of the 30,000 students of City of Glasgow College found that lack of hardware was an issue for 1-10%. The major barrier was that the internet access supplied was restricted to specific devices. He imagined this would be similar for schools.

10. MEMBERS NETWORK AND POLICY SEMINARS

10.1 Report of June Meetings – Youth Work’s Offer Post Lockdown – For Information (BOD/18/20)

The report was noted.

11. EQUALITIES REFLECTION

11.1 Reflection on items covered during the meeting

F Falconer asked what we could do as a Board and an organisation in relation to tackling racism and racial equality. He noted how we have found it difficult to engage BAME organisations as members and Board members in the past. T Frew responded that although the governance review was on hold this was an important ongoing issue. Staff have had discussions internally looking at organisational issues and what the implications are for the wider sector. Unfortunately, we are just not in a position to respond right now.

L Macdonald highlighted the recent excellent report from ACEVO, Home Truths: Undoing racism and delivering real diversity in the charity sector and recommended checking out Charity So White. We need to continue to listen and learn for now.

L Hood agreed that this would be revisited at a future meeting.

12. AOB
### 12.1 Board Membership

L Hood advised that M Pitcaithly tendered her official resignation therefore, we are looking to fill that position. There is still a vacancy for a specialist in HR. L Hood suggested that Joyce White, CEO, West Dunbartonshire Council (previously Executive Director of Corporate Services) be approached. This was agreed.

**TF/LH**

### 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 17 September 2020, all other arrangements to be confirmed.