

Volunteering Strategy

Nominated Leads

PFPI Designated Directors

Volunteer Service Managers



7 December 2011

Dear Colleague

REFRESHED STRATEGY FOR VOLUNTEERING IN NHSSCOTLAND – NEXT PHASE

The joint letter of 7 October from Fiona Montgomery and Pat Dawson and the 3rd (and final) report of the original National Group for Volunteering set up in 2008 as part of the Refreshed Volunteering Strategy issued under CEL (2008) 10 (http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2008_10.pdf) outlined the proposed way forward in relation to the Refreshed Strategy. The Report (attached again for ease) captures the progress achieved on the 3 year action plan set out in CEL (2008) 10.

We know that the work undertaken across the NHS over the three years has provided a strong foundation for volunteering and we are keen to ensure that work continues and that the volunteering agenda is further developed and taken forward in line with Scottish Government priorities.

Sandy Watson, Chair of NHS Tayside who has undertaken to chair the National Group and Alan Bigham, who has taken up his appointment as the Volunteering Programme Manager, are now preparing to work with you to agree the membership, remit and action plan for a new National Group that will provide leadership and support across NHSScotland for the next two years.

A Steering Group (comprising of NHS members of the original National Group) led by Pat Dawson has considered and prepared a draft remit and action plan. The drafts are based on, and identify, areas not completed during the first three years and are therefore being carried forward and also areas identified during various events, discussions and the review conducted by the SHC in December 2010 (report attached separately).

Sandy and Alan are keen to organise an event, possibly in January or early February 2012, to allow them to meet and discuss with an appropriate range of colleagues the draft remit and plan and also the potential membership of the new group. This would also provide an opportunity to explore how the National Group will interact with the VSM network and other relevant stakeholders to ensure maximum effect and benefit. Alan will be in touch shortly with details. There is no doubt that the work undertaken to achieve the Investing in Volunteers (iV) standard has helped raise awareness and acceptance of volunteering by senior management and front-line staff. SGHD is keen therefore that these standards are maintained and, as many of you will be aware, we have agreed that central funding will be provided over the next three years to VDS to cover the costs for Boards going through the iV reassessment process. SGHD has also covered the cost of membership of VDS for all Boards until August 2014.

We recognise and appreciate the support, enthusiasm and commitment shown over the last three years and look forward to working with you all on the next phase of the Strategy.

Yours sincerely



FIONA MONTGOMERY



SANDY WATSON