Minutes of the VHS 19th Annual General Meetingheld on 30th November 2023

In attendance:

Sheena Arthur, Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector
Lauren Blair, Voluntary Health Scotland
Christine Carlin, Voluntary Health Scotland
Jennifer Carroll, Eden
Sarah Curtis, University of Edinburgh
Anne Docherty, Living Streets
Alan Eagleson, Terrence Higgins Trust
Jennifer Forsyth, Obesity Action Scotland
Heather Hartman, Voluntary Health Scotland
Roisin Hurst, Voluntary Health Scotland
Laura Jones, RNIB Scotland
Lewis Macleod, Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland
Frankie Macpherson, Health and Care News Scotland
David Main, Voluntary Health Scotland
Iona McCann, art in healthcare
Billy McCLean, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
John McGill, Health and Care News Scotland
Paul Mooney, Voluntary Health Scotland
Tanith Muller, Parkinson's UK Scotland
Justina Murray, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs
Rob Murray, British Red Cross
Maureen O'Neill, Faith in Older People

Vanessa Paynton, art in healthcare
Elaine Pritchard, Lloyd's
Ruairidh Smith, Generations Working Together
Kimberley Somerside, Voluntary Health Scotland
Claire Stevens, Voluntary Health Scotland
Sheila Thomson, Community Renewal Trust
Kellie Thomson, Voluntary Health Scotland
Sarah Van Putten, Lifecare

Apologies:

Richard Meade, Paul Okroj, Emma Nieminen, James Jopling, Kirsty Cumming, Wilma Paterson, Keith Irving, Tilly Robertson-Miles

1. **Welcome to the AGM and apologies**

   Rob Murray, Chair of VHS, welcomed members and guests to the AGM and noted apologies.

2. **Minutes of the 18th AGM held on 30th November 2022**

   Proposed by Jennifer Forsyth, seconded by Paul Mooney. Duly accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

3. **This year's achievements and future plans**

   Rob Murray summarised the year's achievements, in particular the success of the Scottish Community Link Worker Network; VHS's contribution to the two Scottish inquiries into health inequalities; the 28 events held; and our policy consultation responses and briefings including our research paper, 'Broader Reach'. He acknowledged the retirement (June) of Alison Crofts, VHS's long-standing administrator, the departure (today) of Policy Engagement Lead

Kimberley Somerside for a role at Glasgow University, and the welcome addition to the team of Heather Hartmann as VHS's accountant. He acknowledged the planned retirement in March 2024 of VHS's Chief Executive, Claire Stevens.

Claire Stevens gave a brief report to highlight current work and thank members for their engagement throughout the year. She formally launched VHS's new publication, 'Essential Connections', VHS's latest research, which maps and analyses Scotland's community link work programme. She emphasised VHS's pro-active work with its membership, including current research being undertaken for Volunteer Edinburgh to establish the extent to which volunteering in clinical mental health settings may lead to career paths in health and social care. She also mentioned the ongoing scoping exercise with Versus Arthritis in relation to youth workers based in hospitals. She said that VHS always welcomes approaches from member organisations seeking support or partnership to undertake specific pieces of work and gave the example of the now well-established Arts Culture Health and Wellbeing network.

4. **Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023**

   David Main, Treasurer, gave a summary of the accounts for the year, and thanked Alison Crofts and Heather Hartman for their support in preparing them. Whitelaw Wells had independently examined the accounts. The full, approved accounts had been circulated to the membership by email and were published on the VHS website. VHS's income for the year was £281,000 and expenditure was £262,000. Unrestricted reserves were at a respectable level: six months' operational costs. There were no questions concerning the accounts.

5. **Retiral and election of Directors**

Maureen O'Neill, gave a vote of thanks and appreciation to Rob Murray and to David Main, whose terms of office were ending at this AGM. Rob had served on the Board for a total of six years, including a period as Treasurer and three years as Chair. David had served as Treasurer and Director for three years. She also thanked Nicola Sinclair and Ian Bruce, the other two Directors retiring at this AGM.

Rob Murray explained that there were five vacancies on the Board and that electronic voting would now take place, as the number of candidates exceeded the number of vacancies. Members had received the eight candidates' personal statements in advance of the AGM, and were invited to elect up to five of them. There was a short break in the AGM to allow counting of votes, and then Rob announced the outcome. The five new Directors elected were: Alan Eagleson, Jennifer Forsyth, Richard Meade, Sarah van Putten, and Paul Okroj. Rob congratulated the new Directors, and thanked the unsuccessful candidates. The five new Directors will join seven existing Directors whose term of office continues, namely Maureen O'Neill, Christine Carlin, Bushra Riaz, Emma Nieminen, Paul Mooney, Wilma Paterson and Billy McClean.

6. **Any other competent business**

There was no other business. The formal business of the AGM was therefore concluded, and those present were invited to stay for the 'Big Debate', a panel discussion about the future of healthcare in Scotland, chaired by John McGill and featuring former, current and new Board members Rob Murray, Maureen O'Neill, Christine Carlin, Jennifer Forsyth and Billy McClean.