



Rural SEN – 30th August 2022

Notes

Participants:

Lorraine Thomson – Interface, Lynda Mitchell – ALLenergy, David Rennie - Argyll and Bute: Communities and Partnership Team, Fiona Thomson – Outside the Box, Jeanne Christie - Barra Citizens Advice Bureau, Jenny Lyall - Dumfries and Galloway Growbiz, Jane Benson – Outside the Box, Nicky Francey – Retweed, Laura Martin – Perth and Kinross Council, Rachel Canning – Scottish Government, Candice Adam - Cunninghame Housing Association, Ricarda Fillhardt – JRS Know How, Laura Ffrench-Constant - JRS Know How, Gemma Malcolm - North Lochs and Kinloch Communities on the Isle of Lewis, Dean Fisher - Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber, Danielle McKinnon – Eat Sleep Ride CIC, Laura Macleod - Outer Hebrides Social Economy Partnership, Carmen Paputa-Dutu - First Port, Lucy Conway - Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, Graham Galloway - Kirrie Connections, Laura Worku – DTAS, Theona Morrison – Scottish Rural Action, Eoin Macneil - Voluntary Action Barra & Vatersay, Ewen McLachlan - Assynt Development Trust, Aimee Spence – Inspiralba, Ailsa Clark – Inspiralba and Nicole Shields – Inspiralba.

The group were introduced to our four speakers, Lynda Mitchell from ALLenergy, Lorraine Thomson from Interface, Laura Ffrench Constant and Ricard Fillhardt from JRS Knowhow and Carmen Paputa-Dutu from First Port.

Lynda gave a presentation about fuel poverty which is a very topical issue that had been highlighted in previous SEN sessions. The presentation provided some statistics on fuel poverty in Scotland and revealed that rural communities are often hit the hardest as homes in rural areas are typically less energy efficient and can be more reliant on potentially more expensive heating fuels. Lynda then discussed some of the initiatives and schemes that are available to alleviate fuel poverty such as the [Fuel Bank Foundation](#) and the [Scottish Government Home Heating Support Fund](#). More info about ALLenergy can be found here - <https://www.alienergy.org.uk/>

Lorraine Thomson then discussed some of the student placements that were available with Interface at that moment in time. More info about these placements can be found here - <https://ruralsehub.net/latest-news/>. More info about Interface can be found here - <https://interface-online.org.uk/>.

Laura and Ricarda from JRS Knowhow then gave an overview about the work that they had been producing in collaboration with Inspiralba to create new materials focusing on legal rights in social enterprise. They put a call out for anyone who would be interested in contributing to the materials through the creation of a case study. They revealed that they were aiming to publish the materials by the end of September 2022, in time for the Social Enterprise World Forum. More info about JRS Knowhow can be found here - <https://jrsknowhow.org/>.

Aimee then gave an update on Inspiralba's involvement in the SEWF Community Hubs that had been discussed at the previous SEN session. Inspiralba have decided not to hold a blended event to cover the SEWF due to a number of logistical issues. Aimee will be attending the event in person in Brisbane, Australia so the possibility of doing a live blog was suggested. Online tickets for SEWF found here - <https://sewfonline.com/events/sewf-2022/>

Carmen Paputa-Dutu then discussed the Social Innovation Challenge which is a programme that aims to fund and support innovators to kick-start solutions that tackle some of the most pressing challenges of our time. The programme will be centred around a new theme each year and the 2022 theme is: Innovative solutions to climate change issues faced by rural communities in Scotland. More info on First Port and the Social Innovation Challenge can be found here - <https://www.firstport.org.uk/funding/social-innovation-competition/>.

The group were also told about Inspiralba's future Learning exchanges: The first of which would focus on fuel poverty and was due to take place on the 5th of September. Tickets for the event and more info can be found here - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fuel-poverty-community-learning-exchange-tickets-402311744257>.

It was agreed that moving forward, Rural SEN meetings will occur quarterly, the next being 29th November.