

D&G HANDYVAN/SMALL REPAIR & HOME SUPPORT SERVICE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT (2013-2014)

April 2013 saw the Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS), Social Enterprise Network (SEN) and Volunteer Action subsumed into the umbrella organisation Third Sector First in Dumfries & Galloway. Suddenly, D&G HandyVan/SRHSS was a small organisation on the outside looking in. CVS staff from Annandale & Eskdale CVS were also automatically transferred to the new organisation.

From that time, D&G HandyVan/SRHSS has worked tirelessly, while maintaining an efficient service to the populace of Dumfries & Galloway, to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Legal and financial matters have also been addressed, some of which are still ongoing.

D&G HandyVan/SRHSS was fortunate that the majority of the Board of Directors of Annandale & Eskdale CVS were happy to transfer to form the first Board of D&G HandyVan/SRHSS. However, it soon became apparent that the loss of all CVS staff created an office operational problem. D&G HandyVan/SRHSS was again fortunate that a member of Annandale & Eskdale CVS staff applied for, and was successful, in filling a post advertised.

Scottish Government and Dumfries & Galloway Council budgets are shrinking year on year and this affects those organisations who depend on grants to maintain essential services. To date, D&G HandyVan has not been affected but it is inevitable that the status quo will not last. D&G HandyVan/SRHSS has, therefore, considered seeking external funding, not only to maintain the present workload but also to diversify its activities as it has been requested by the disabled and elderly over the previous two to three years. The Putting You First programme which is attempting to keep people in their own for as long as they wish is helping D&G HandyVan/SRHSS to maintain a high profile in the region.

In conclusion, a bumpy start for D&G HandyVan/SRHSS is slowly becoming a smooth journey but much has still to be done in the next twelve months by which time D&G HandyVan/SRHSS hopes to have achieved Investors in People (IIP) accreditation.

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