



EAP Meeting

Held virtually on Tuesday 25th March – 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Present:

Linda Bamford

Kevin Hutchens

Hannah Grist (Chair)

Oliver Davies (CNPA)

Shreoshi Das

Lilliana Corrieri

Katherine Willing (CNPA)

Apologies:

Kate Dowding

Anita Howard

Marisa Ginger

Kate Christie (CNPA)

Heather Earnshaw

1. Item one: Welcome

- Hannah welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Item two: Review of Minutes of February 2025 Meeting

- The minutes from February 2025 were agreed.
- Hannah suggested a session focused on a horizon scanning exercise and identifying how the EAP can best support CNPA.

3. Item three: Presentation on SCVO Conference – Kevin Hutchens (EAP Member)

- Hannah gave a reminder to the panel prior to the presentation that the panel is non-partisan.
- Kevin asked the panel whether more needed to be done to publicise the work of the panel.
 - The panel felt prior to working on publicising the work of the panel it was important to identify the purpose of any advertising, how this ties in with the function of the EAP and what benefit this would bring to the EAP. The panel added that the audience and message would need to be agreed prior to any work commencing on this.
 - The panel felt it may be beneficial to do a benchmarking exercise and look at whether other National Parks have a similar group and how they publicise them.



- It was agreed that the EAP plays an important role and that there should be a discussion on how the EAP shares its learnings and advocates beyond initial conversations.
- Kevin next discussed the talk he attended which was led by Gordon Brown discussing the importance of multi-year funding for the voluntary sector. Kevin asked the panel whether there were any companies the panel could suggest to partner with to provide support for the communities within Cairngorms National Park.
 - The panel were reminded that the Cairngorms National Park Authority is not a charity which may impact on eligibility to funding sources.
 - The panel suggested that larger companies such as the Coop, Tesco and some of the housebuilding companies offer funding on occasions.
- Kevin attended a talk by the Young Women's Movement and asked CNPA to consider signing the Young Women Work pledge.
 - The pledge will be brought to and discussed by the HR Team.
- Kevin attended a talk led by care leavers discussing co-design principles. Kevin put to the EAP that it may be beneficial to invite these young people to give a talk at an EAP meeting to discuss how co-design principles can help the work of the EAP and how to get more young people involved in the EAP.
 - It was suggested that it may be helpful to include this as part of a horizon scanning exercise.
 - It was agreed that the panel will continue to look at the best ways to engage in supporting care leavers.
- Kevin attended a talk about creating mentally healthy workplaces. Kevin flagged that there are free resources at Scottish Association for Mental Health. Kevin explained the talk did not reference the importance of green space on good mental health and was this something that the panel and CNPA could support the Scottish Association for Mental Health with.
 - CNPA staff present at the meeting explained CNPAs current wellbeing practices for employees and work being done through Cairngorms 2030.
 - It was requested by a panel member that an article is written for the Scottish Association for Mental Health.
- Lastly, Kevin attended a question and answer session with Kirsty McNeill MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. Kevin asked how Kirsty McNeill could use her role to support the work of the EAP.
 - Some suggestions on how to involve the minister in the work of the EAP included offering a video conference, involving key ministers with the work of the EAP and



showing the minister improved parts of the park or projects that have benefited from advice from the EAP.

- Some panel members expressed caution and raised that, similarly to engagement, it is important to consider what the purpose of the work with the minister would be prior to establishing contact with the minister.
- Hannah explained that any work with the minister would need to sit within the wider strategic plan of the organisation. Hannah will raise this at executive level.
- Hannah thanked Kevin for his input and the panel for contributing to the discussion. Hannah asked that the minutes be sent out prior to the next meeting so that anyone not present at the meeting can include their thoughts via correspondence.

4. AOBs

- No AOBs

End of meeting

Next meeting 29 April 2025