



Orkney Partnership Board

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 June 2022 via Teams

1. Attendance and apologies

Facilitating partners

Orkney Islands Council
NHS Orkney
Police Scotland
Highlands & Islands Enterprise

Cllr James Stockan (Chair)
Meghan McEwan (Vice Chair)
Simon Hay
Graeme Harrison

Participating partners

Orkney College UHI
Skills Development Scotland
HITRANS
Integration Joint Board
Visit Scotland

Claire Kemp
Anthony Standing
Cllr David Dawson
Issy Grieve
Cheryl Chapman

Co-opted partners

Voluntary Action Orkney
Orkney Housing Association Ltd.
Community Justice Partnership

Gail Anderson
Craig Spence
Stephen Brown

By invitation

UK Parliament
Scottish Government
Economic Recovery Steering Group
Orkney Islands Council
Orkney Islands Council
Orkney Islands Council

Alistair Carmichael MP
Philip Raines
Luke Fraser
Kerry Spence
Sweyn Johnson
Susan Shearer

In attendance

Orkney Islands Council
Orkney Islands Council
NHS Orkney
Orkney Islands Council
Orkney Islands Council
The Orkney Partnership

Cllr Heather Woodbridge
John W Mundell
Michael Dickson
Karen Greaves
Anna Whelan (Secretary)
George Vickers

Apologies

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Nature Scot
Scottish Ambulance Service
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Economic Recovery Steering Group

Raymond Fallon
Graham Neville
Marcus Shearer
Alan Dundas
Glen McLellan

2. Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

- 2.1. The Chair welcomed Alistair Carmichael MP to the meeting for this item. Sweyn Johnston, presented the Council's proposed Investment Plan for the purpose of consultation with partner agencies in advance of submission to the SPF.
- 2.2 The following points were noted in discussion:
 - 2.2.1 The SPF was part of the UK Government's suite of "levelling up" funds and had been allocated to local authority areas by formula. Orkney's allocation of £1.774m was considerably less than the European structural funds which the SPF was replacing but there was no scope to challenge the allocation methodology. The SPF was to be spent over three financial years from 2022-23.
 - 2.2.2 The fund was allocated under two headings: Core and Multiply. It was proposed to use the £1.468m Core allocation as gap funding to support three of the Orkney-based projects in the Islands Deal, since these could be actioned immediately and the first tranche of funds spent within the 2022-23 year. The £306k Multiply element was ring-fenced for adult numeracy work and would be delivered by the Council's Community Learning, Development and Employability team.
 - 2.2.4 The broad principles of the proposed plan had been discussed with UK government officers and no problems were anticipated with regard to approval.
- 2.2 The Board agreed to endorse the submission.

3. Orkney Matters

- 3.1. Susan Shearer presented the findings of the Orkney Matters consultation.
- 3.2 The following points were noted in discussion:
 - 3.2.1 Orkney Matters was a great engagement exercise. It had yielded no great surprises but had evidenced the disparity in outcomes on the isles compared to the Orkney mainland and the lack of impact which we had made to date.
 - 3.2.2 The virtual meetings had been poorly attended by the public, demonstrating that they didn't work as well as face-to-face and it was hoped to be able to revert to in-person meetings going forward.
 - 3.2.3 The low turnout at virtual meetings might also indicate consultation fatigue. It was best to offer a wide range of ways to engage where possible.
- 3.3 It was noted that the information and insights gathered from the consultation would inform the future work of the partnership, including the development of the new Community Plan/Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and the new Locality Plan.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 March 2022

- 4.1. The draft minute was agreed as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising

- 5.1 There were no matters arising that were not addressed by other items on the agenda.

6. Report from the Chair of the Executive Group

- 6.1 John Mundell presented the written report and noted that the review of the Partnership being conducted by the Improvement Service was now under way. The Executive Group's workshop had identified two main areas of improvement: Review the Terms of Reference of the Partnership and consider approaches to ensure that Executive Group members are clear about their role and responsibilities within the Executive Group. An improvement plan was being drafted.
- 6.2 It was noted that the Board's workshop with the Improvement Service was scheduled for 23 August and a self-assessment checklist would be circulated in July for completion in advance of the workshop.

7. Review of the Locality Plan for the Non-Linked Isles 2018-21

- 7.1 George Vickers spoke to the review document which was effectively a closing report on the original Locality Plan for 2018-21. This had been overtaken by the pandemic and extended by default to 2022. The report noted which of the original actions had been completed and which carried forward, for example by the new Connectivity Delivery Group. It also revisited the indicators published in the plan and updated these where data was available.
- 7.2 The report was accepted by the Board.

8. Locality Planning going forward

- 8.1 George Vickers spoke to the written report, which noted the criteria laid out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for locality planning. These were that localities had to be selected on the basis on socio-economic inequality, and that a locality for this purpose must have a population of less than 30,000.
- 8.2 The report appraised two options for consideration by the Board:
 - 8.2.1 Option 1 was to select one or more areas and to develop locality plans for each along the same lines as the original plan. This was not likely to be supported by isles communities which had already developed their own plans and did not want any more.
 - 8.2.2 Option 2 was to create a single locality plan, as an appendix to the next Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, which focused on supporting the existing activity of communities to address socio-economic deprivation in their localities, as documented in their current development plans. This thematic approach would meet the criteria of the Act as the population of Orkney as a whole was below the threshold for a locality plan.
- 8.2 Comments from Board members, which will be taken into account in developing the next locality plan, included:
 - 8.2.1 There needed to be a continued focus on supporting the Ferry Linked Isles.

- 8.2.2 Tourism has a significant role to play in supporting economic development on the Ferry Linked Isles.
- 8.2.3 Residents have already been consulted numerous times and future consultation should only take place where it adds value.
- 8.2.4 The cost-of-living crisis should be placed at the centre of any future locality plan or plans.
- 8.3. The second option presented in the paper was agreed, viz:
The Orkney Partnership develops a single Locality Plan for the whole of the county. The Locality Plan would sit alongside the new Orkney Community Plan/LOIP for 2023/26, ensuring that this Plan, along with the Plans and Strategies that sit alongside it, address the specific local needs of each locality.

9. The Orkney Partnership Annual Report 2020-21

- 9.1. Anna Whelan presented the draft report and noted that its production had been delayed due to lack of capacity during 2021 and it was a year behind schedule, but as a statutory report it still needed to be published. The report described how the Partnership had responded to the first year of the pandemic and its associated challenges. The team was now working on the annual report for 2021-22 which would be presented to the Board in September, bringing the Partnership back into line with its normal reporting schedule.
- 9.2 The Board agreed to endorse the Report.

10. Child Poverty Strategy 2022-26

- 10.1 Anna Whelan presented the final draft of the Strategy, which had seen further development following its first draft last year. The time had been used to conduct the “Making Ends Meet” consultation and develop an outline action plan, which the Community Wellbeing Delivery Group was now making plans to put into effect via a Poverty Action sub-group.
- 10.2 It was reported that the draft strategy had already been considered and approved by the Council’s Policy and Resources Committee, NHS Orkney’s Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee and the IJB. It was due to be submitted to the NHS Orkney Board and the Council’s General Meeting the following week for endorsement.
- 10.3 It was suggested that, given the cost of living crisis, poverty should be higher up the Partnership’s agenda than a sub-group. This was expected to happen in the development of the new LOIP, to take effect from April 2023, but direct action was needed now in advance of the coming winter.
- 10.4 The Board agreed to approve and adopt the Strategy.

11. Report from the Chief Officers Group

- 11.1 Stephen Brown, in his capacity as Chief Officer of OHAC, reported that the COG report had been drafted but had not yet been submitted to the Integration Joint Board and would therefore come forward to the next meeting of the Board once the IJB had had an opportunity to consider it.

Action: Stephen Brown

12. Joint Inspection of Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection – Second Progress Report by the Care Inspectorate

12.1 Stephen Brown, in his capacity as Chief Officer of OHAC, spoke to the written report and noted the progress taken to address the recommendations of the original Inspection Report. A positive aspect of recent feedback from children with experience of the care system in Orkney was that they all reported that their lives had improved following intervention.

12.2 The Board requested that an update be brought to its Spring 2023 meeting.

Action: Stephen Brown

13. Delivery group updates

13.1 Connectivity Delivery Group

Graeme Harrison presented the written report from the Chair and Vice Chair and noted that progress in digital connectivity was pending the release of the Plum report commissioned by the Council. Meanwhile the group had focused on transport and had made a collective response to the STPR2 consultation, appended to the report.

13.2 Community Wellbeing Delivery Group

13.2.1 Gail Anderson spoke to the written report and sought approval of a number of recommendations made to the Board by the Delivery Group.

13.2.2 The Board agreed three recommendations with regard to poverty-related workstreams:

- That a Fuel Poverty Strategy Working Group be established
- That a Poverty Action Subgroup be established
- That the Food Dignity Recommendations Report be approved

13.2.3 The Board was asked to consider adopting a Poverty Pledge on behalf of the Partnership, viz:

“We believe that it is not acceptable that people in our community live in poverty. Over the coming years, we will commit our time, energy, and resources to do all we can, in partnership, to work towards the elimination of poverty throughout Orkney.”

13.2.4 The Board agreed two recommendations regarding the Poverty Pledge, viz:

- That all partners subscribe to the Poverty Pledge
- That all partners take the pledge into consideration when developing plans and strategies

13.2.5 Gail raised the need for a small amount of funding to support the work of the Poverty Action Group until substantive funding could be obtained from grant applications. Meghan McEwan (NHSO) and Craig Spence (OHAL) agreed to explore whether their organisations could contribute, and other partners would be asked. It was agreed that a mechanism was needed to enable the Executive Group to identify funds required for any future work that the Board agreed needed to be done.

Action: Executive Group/AFW/GV

13.2.6 The Chair noted that the current meeting would be the last to be attended by Gail Anderson due to her pending retirement, and proposed a vote of thanks to Gail for her dedicated support of the Partnership over many years.

13.3 Sustainable Recovery Delivery Group

13.3.1 Luke Fraser, in his capacity as Vice Chair of the Sustainable Recovery Delivery Group, spoke to the written report and noted that the group had made progress in a number of workstreams, including Community Wealth Building (CWB), the Local Employability Plan and Skills Planning. Climate change work had been delayed pending the appointment of a new climate change officer at the Council, but the group had considered potential projects including a Carbon Offsetting Project which would invest in restoring Orkney's peatlands.

13.3.2 It was noted that CWB in particular offered potential as a blueprint for future development and had been adopted by other CPPs for this purpose.

13.3.3 The Board endorsed the approach taken by the delivery group.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Cllr Heather Woodbridge raised the disparity of Scottish Ambulance Service first responder provision across the ferry linked isles. She explained that with NHSO challenges in recruiting ANP & Locum emergency cover, there are some serious concerns around the burden on volunteers attending medical emergencies in islands with no nurse or locum doctor cover. Michael Dickson and Issy Grieve explained that the NHS and IJB would be visiting the isles to consult on the provision of health and community care services.

14.2 John Mundell, in his capacity as chair of the Executive Group proposed establishing a short life working group to address disparities in first responder provision, and this was agreed by the Board.

Action: JWM/Executive Group

15. Date of next meeting

2.00-5.00pm on 27 September 2022.

The meeting closed at 16.59.

AFW/GV/150722