



Orkney Partnership Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 September 2023 in person and via Teams.

1. Attendance and apologies

Facilitating partners

Orkney Islands Council
NHS Orkney
Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Police Scotland
Scottish Fire and Rescue

Cllr Heather Woodbridge (Chair)
Meghan McEwen
Graeme Harrison (from 2.30pm)
Scott Robertson
David McGroarty

Participating partners

Integrated Joint board
HITRANS
Historic Environment Scotland
NatureScot

Cllr Rachael King
Cllr David Dawson
Dorothy Hoskins (till 4pm)
Graham Neville

Co-opted partners

Orkney Housing Association Ltd.
Community Justice Partnership
Voluntary Action Orkney
Scottish Ambulance Service

Craig Spence
Stephen Brown
Morven Brooks (Vice Chair)
Donald Macaulay (Beginning and end)

In attendance

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

Cllr James Stockan
Karen Greaves (till 3.50pm)
Anna Whelan
George Vickers (Secretary)
Oliver Reid
Cllr Kristopher Leask (chair SDDG)
Alex Rodwell
Joe Brown (from 3pm to 4pm)

Orkney Islands Council
Scottish Government

Apologies

Skills Development Scotland
NHS Orkney
University of the Highlands and Islands
Visit Scotland

Anthony Standing
Laura Skaife-Knight
Clare Kemp
Cheryl Chapman

2. Draft minutes of the meeting of the Board 23 June 2023

Minutes were approved: Moved by Heather Woodbridge and seconded by Kristopher Leask.

3. Matters arising

Single Islands Authority and alternative modes of governance. Karen Greaves gave an update. The inequalities and funding challenges were highlighted by the Leader's recent Notice of Motion and work will now start on identifying the problems and how we can solve them. The Scottish Government has put in the Programme for Government that they will explore Place Specific Outcomes and Orkney will need to respond to this.

- Arrange a workshop for the Partners to explore how they can collaborate to better deliver services with diminishing resources and to look at alternative forms of governance that might better facilitate this. Action - Karen Greaves.

It was felt important that any proposals for the National Care Service was consistent with any outcomes from the discussions regarding the Single Island Authority.

- For the visit from SG civil servants to discuss care models. The IJB, NHSO and OIC to discuss how to make best use of the opportunity, including whether it is possible to include an element of engagement with users and the public. Action - Stephen Brown/IJB/NHSO/OIC.

Rachael King asked about the update to the Air Ambulance Procurement exercise and if the CPP wish to have a position on this topic. Oliver Reid explained that there are talks in place regarding the airports and the out of hours cover required.

- To be taken to the EG to ensure that the needs of the community are reflected in the relevant discussions. Action - Oliver Reid/George Vickers/.

Rachael King asked for an update on if the draft carers strategy will be coming to the CPP.

- Stephen Brown assures that it will be brought to TOP. Action – Stephen Brown.

4. Update on the campaign to replace the Orkney Ferry Fleet and generally on transport

Heather Woodbridge informed the group that herself and Leader James Stockan are continuing to liaise with the Scottish Government but there is little progress being made.

Oliver Reid added that the CPP has distributed a risk review proforma to gain a better understanding of the impact of sudden, catastrophic loss of the ferry linked Isles ferry fleet.

The access issues for people with disabilities on the ferries were strongly reinforced to the transport minister and permanent secretary when they visited.

Recent audits taken place have shown the ferries to be well maintained. Heather Woodbridge noted that the staff should also be credited for the work they do.

Meghan McEwen asked if this work could be noted that it is a "tabletop exercise" and its purpose is to aid the ferry replacement task force. Oliver confirmed that the

request for information was used the language that this is scenario planning under normal resilience partnership procedures.

5. Report from the Executive Group (EG) Chair

Stephen Brown gave an update on the First Responders. A SLWG was established last year to look at the inequities across the islands. A resolution to the problem has not been found and the Partnership will be writing to the new chief executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service. Papa Westray, North Ronaldsay and Eday were identified as particularly vulnerable. Papa Westray: some residents who also serve as fire crew have expressed willingness to take on the role of first responders and this approach is being looked into for the other islands bearing in mind it may not work for all islands.

6. Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee report on Community Planning

Anna Whelan gave a background and told the group that the committee came to Orkney in June and met with key partners as part of this enquiry. She then went through the report published on 6 June 2023 that was on the screen for the group to see.

- Action – circulate the slides used by Anna and the report to members of the Board. Anna and George to keep the updated regarding any actions taken by the Scottish Government in response to report.

7. National Islands Plan consultations

George Vickers explained that the Islands Plan is the Scottish Government's plan for the improvements that it wants to bring to the islands. A consultation exercise is ongoing and George shared OIC draft response prior to this meeting. He asked the partners if they would like a joint or individual response.

- After a discussion, the group felt it would be beneficial for individual agencies to submit their responses but also for the CPP to submit one as a whole. Action – George.
- To give time to consolidate CPP response, all feedback to be submitted to George by 27 October 2023. Action - All.

8. TOP Risk Register

The risk register was circulated the around the partners prior to the meeting and explained it looks at the impact of something going wrong, the likelihood and also the mitigating action. There are 3 generic challenges which are, do we have the capacity to deliver the work, the challenges of different agendas and the risk of failing to engage.

Oliver added that the risk register was about the risks of the partnership failing and how the partnership operates, and not about individual actions.

After a discussion Meghan agreed to get in touch with George regarding some points and he will send an updated version around the group in due course.

9. TOP Development Plan

George briefly went through the Development Plan that was sent around the group prior to the meeting.

10. Early intervention and prevention. Ensuring that more interventions take place 'upstream'

- Stephen Brown asked the group to flag up any examples directly to him, where things are moving 'upstream'. Action/All.

11. TOP Annual Report 2022/23

GV gave an overview of the report and explained its purpose. The group approved the report.

12. Local Child Poverty Action Report 2022/23

Anna gave an overview of the report and the board approved this report for submission to the Scottish Government

13. Delivery Group and Task Force reports chairs

- 13.1 **Sustainable Development Delivery Group** – Kristopher Leask gave a brief update on the SDDG and answered questions. The recommendation from the DG group that the Community Wealth Building Working Group take overall responsibility in co-ordinating the implementation of a CWB approach across Orkney, was approved. However, it is the responsibility of the whole Partnership and the Partners to implement community wealth building.
- 13.2 **Cost of Living** – The report was circulated prior to the meeting. Stephen Brown told the group that the Cost of Living had not met yet but a meeting was scheduled for later in the week.
- 13.3 **Local Equality Delivery Group** – The report was circulated prior to the meeting but had not had the opportunity to meet yet but a handover meeting with the chair (Meghan McEwan) would take place later in the week.

14. Any other business

Scottish Ambulance Service participants introduced themselves.

Heather felt that there are not enough informal opportunities to get to know one another. Meghan suggested that this can be done online for short chats and James Stockan suggested lunch prior to meetings. Something for the group to think about.

15. Date of next meeting and any agenda items for future meetings

19 December 2023

The meeting closed at 17:15.