



## Minute of the meeting of the Orkney Partnership Board

held at 10:00 on 10 June 2020 via Microsoft Teams

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Present:	James Stockan Meghan McEwen Gail Anderson Seonag Campbell Cheryl Chapman Alan Dundas Graeme Harrison Rachael King Graham Lindsay Leslie Manson Gillian Morrison John W Mundell Graham Neville Graham Sinclair Iain Stewart Matt Webb Craig Spence Anna Whelan	Orkney Islands Council ( <i>Chair</i> ) NHS Orkney ( <i>Vice Chair</i> ) Voluntary Action Orkney Skills Development Scotland VisitScotland SEPA Highlands and Islands Enterprise Integration Joint Board Sports Scotland Orkney Islands Council Orkney Islands Council Orkney Islands Council Scottish Natural Heritage HITRANS NHS Orkney Police Scotland Orkney Housing Association Limited Orkney Islands Council ( <i>Secretary</i> )
By invitation:	Gavin Barr James Henry Jo Kirby James Wylie	Orkney Islands Council Orkney Islands Council The Northern Alliance Orkney Islands Council
In attendance:	Andrew Kemp	The Orkney Partnership

### 1. Apologies

Edward Abbott-Halpin	Orkney College / UHI
Dougie Campbell	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Les Donaldson	Orkney Islands Council
Andy Fuller	Scottish Ambulance Service
Alan Johnston	Scottish Government
Gerry O'Brien	NHS Orkney
Garry Reid	Scottish Sports Council
Sally Shaw	Integration Joint Board and Orkney Community Justice Partnership

## 2. Covid-19 Recovery

- 2.1. Gillian introduced the framework for recovery planning within the guidance 'Preparing Scotland – Recovering from Emergencies in Scotland' and the opportunities for better 'place-based' recovery planning through the partnership.
- 2.2. The strategic objectives were also covered along with the partnership's role within the recovery and what provisions there are for this.
- 2.3. The Vice Chair highlighted the opportunity for the partnership to turn its full attention to recovery. The Chair agreed and added that this was an opportunity to refocus and declutter to energise future meetings.
- 2.4. Gavin presented the councils coordination of community recovery; followed by a proposal for the structure and governance of Orkney's recovery planning and how this might link in with the partnership. He also summarised the work of the council's current recovery groups and gave the background behind the Business and Economy Recovery and Resilience Group (BERRG). Gavin finished his presentation with a summary and setting out the expected outcome from today's discussion.
- 2.5. The Chair highlighted some of the challenges to come, welcomed the input from local business leaders and encouraged comments from partners.
- 2.6. Graeme Harrison highlighted the importance of the 'Preparing Scotland' guidance and supported previous comments. He also raised that it shouldn't just be a local solution for the economy and that the business representation needs to be wide and inclusive. Finally he thought that input from the other partners should be harnessed.
- 2.7. Gavin agreed with Graeme's comments and that future meetings were already being setup to formalise the structure and reconvene the BERRG. The Chair highlighted the importance of moving quickly to support the economy.
- 2.8. Graham Neville supported the comments so far and highlighted that along with this crisis (Covid-19) we are also dealing with a climate crisis. He raised that it was vital to tackle both at the same time and that the partners take the opportunity to ensure that economic recovery is in the most sustainable way possible. He also highlighted the Scottish Government's 'Green Recovery' which we should embed into the recovery and that nature, and the environment, can provide some of the solutions. He asked that the partners be aspirational in bringing the environmental tier into the structure, governance and documentation. The Chair supported Graham's comments and confirmed that this message was also coming from government.
- 2.9. Seonag Campbell mentioned that it would be helpful to have more detail about what each of the groups will do so that we can ensure that the right people are represented on them. Skills Development Scotland (SDS) were keen to share data to help with recovery planning. She also raised the issue of unemployment and the need to work in a different way to address, youth employment, support for businesses and how work places will change (i.e. use of technology).

- 2.10. The Vice Chair reminded the Board of discussions from previous meetings to that groups are not duplicating effort and that focus should be on what requires partnership involvement.
- 2.11. Gillian Morrison raised the Major Emergency Plan previously agreed by the partners and the fact that this is where these groups are formed from. They are temporary groups and different from the long term community planning groups of the partnership. She highlighted that they do sit well together and that perhaps there is joint-meeting or joint-chairing could be considered.
- 2.12. Cheryl Chapman raised that tourism will be key for recovery and that the strategy will be available shortly. She confirmed that it has at its heart sustainability. She questioned what the community could cope with in terms of visitors returning including infrastructure, healthcare etc. Also what is the sentiment of the community to welcome back visitors. She hoped that any new structure would be able to answer these. The Chair acknowledged these questions and confirmed that he had future meetings that he hoped would help.
- 2.13. Gavin highlighted the community liaison group and hoped that this would also be able to discuss Cheryl's queries. In addition he acknowledged the Vice Chair's earlier comment regarding duplication and suggested that a meeting be called with the Chairs of the council recovery groups and the partnership delivery groups.

**Action: GB/AK**

- 2.14. Gavin was also keen to ensure the correct people were on the groups and will share more details once the proposal is ready. He also confirmed that the environment was one of the four pillars in the renew strategy and expected this to be one of the top priorities for the steering group.
- 2.15. Graeme Harrison voiced a willingness to review delivery plans refocussing efforts on the recovery and supporting new structures, whilst ensuring all partners are still involved.
- 2.16. Gail Anderson supported previous comments, not to duplicate, but review and change where needed. She added that it is essential to decide what the priorities are for Orkney based on consultation and engagement.
- 2.17. Matt Webb raised the issue of positive destinations for not just school leavers but for those who find themselves unemployed, and ensuring that education partners are engaged. Seonag confirmed that SDS are working through this issue including work based learning. However, she also recognise that businesses are under increased pressure at the moment to be able to engage with this. She also mentioned the University of the Highlands and Islands Highlands strategy, which is looking at how they respond specifically to island communities.
- 2.18. Graham Sinclair highlighted that the council must lead the recovery but that it is essential to engage with the wider community including businesses.
- 2.19. The Chair summarised that we want to declutter where we can and change our priorities to support recovery.

- 2.20. It was agreed to engage business as suggested and reprioritise where needed.

### **Risk Register**

- 2.21. Gillian presented the risk register and highlighted the recommended changes.

- Risk ratings had remained the same
- Each risk had been updated to reflect the impact and uncertainty around Covid-19
- Risk 2 – Uncertainty in particular for phases 3 and 4 of the route map for legislative changes and islands impact assessments not in place.
- Risk 3 – Priorities changing swiftly during the crisis.
- Action plans for each risk had also updated.

*The updates were agreed.*

### **3. Draft minute of the meeting of the Board on 12 March 2020**

*The minutes were agreed.*

### **4. Matters arising**

- 4.1. Graham Neville acknowledged that the climate emergency working group were due to report back to the Board but due to the members having to reprioritise to deal with the crisis this was not possible. He also noted that there was an opportunity to see how this could feed into the recovery.
- 4.2. The Chair noted his action to write to Maree Todd MSP regarding childcare provision but that the government had since changed and so this needed to be reviewed.

### **5. Living Well Delivery Group – Appointment of Chair**

- 5.1. The Chair requested proposals for the appointment. John Mundell suggested that since the previous Chair was the chief executive of NHS Orkney, it was appropriate to nominate Iain Stewart. The Chair supported this and asked Iain to confirm that he was willing to be nominated.
- 5.2. There being no further nominations, Iain agreed to take on the role and was duly appointed.

### **6. Child Poverty Action Plan**

- 6.1. James Wylie introduced the report provided to the Board and explained the background. The Northern Alliance had been asked to support to coordinate and produce Child Poverty Reports for 2018-19 and 2019-20 and an Action Plan going forward. The Alliance had provided funding and allocated resource (Jo Kirby) to complete this work. Four members were requested to work with Jo from the Orkney Child Poverty Task Force to represent housing, health and social care, third sector and education. He explained that the

- 2018-19 report had been accepted by the Scottish Government and they are in discussion with Jo regarding our next steps.
- 6.2. The report for 2019-20 had originally been due by the end of June but there is an understanding that there will be a delay due to Covid-19. James acknowledged the challenges going forward and proposed the establishment of a more streamlined Child Poverty Task Force that engages with the review of Covid-19 and what affects this has had. He went on to explain what would be expected of the group.
  - 6.3. He raised that ongoing financial support was not available from the Northern Alliance but that the resource could continue if relevant funding could be found. He estimated that around £5-6k would be needed to support that. In addition he had been in correspondence with Glasgow University to carry out research into the effects of Covid-19 on child poverty in Orkney. The researchers would then be able to work with the task force to pull together an action plan for 2020-23. He hoped that this would put us in a good place to be able to drive forward in this area.
  - 6.4. He then introduced Jo to run through the 2018-19 report. Jo highlighted areas to note:
  - 6.5. There had been comments about the age of some data used but this was a basis to move forward from in this year's action plan.
  - 6.6. There had been a number of items around improving and maximising income.
  - 6.7. Housing had been looking at improving poor housing and ensure social housing has the appropriate standards.
  - 6.8. Young persons supported accommodation had received funding from Tesco's Fairshare.
  - 6.9. Provision for school uniforms and toiletries at halls of residence.
  - 6.10. Courses raising awareness of child poverty.
  - 6.11. The Chair thanked James and Jo for the report.
  - 6.12. Anna Whelan raised that following the last Board meeting discussions had taken place around the Scottish Government requirement that the child poverty group be embedded into community planning. It had been proposed that the Living Well Delivery Group form a short life working group to progress the child poverty work. This would effectively be the task force previously mentioned. She asked if this is still a requirement and if so that Iain as the new Chair could progress that. The Chair agreed that this was an opportunity for recovery and child poverty to work hand-in-hand. Iain agreed that this would be added to the Living Well Delivery Group agenda for the next meeting.
  - 6.13. Craig Spence welcomed the report and thought that this was a good opportunity to move forward. He went on to offer time, expertise and a contribution towards the funding.
  - 6.14. Rachel King also welcomed the report and raised some queries around the data and if this could be clarified with the research. James confirmed that

there was an abundance of data available from the Scottish Government and that the research scope will include this.

## **7. Services for Children and Young People - Improvement Plan**

- 7.1. John Mundell introduced the report to the Board confirming that this will be considered by the council on Thursday and an update report on the improvement plan had already been considered by NHS Orkney and the Integrated Joint Board. He drew attention to the Orkney Partnership Child Protection Improvement Plan prepared in response to the inspection is attached as an appendix. He confirmed that additional resources to support this work had been allocated by the council and NHS Orkney but that there were still challenges. The Chief Officer group is monitoring progress on the actions within the plan.
- 7.2. External support continues to be provided. In addition, there are a number of significant changes being implemented including a new, highly experienced, interim Chair for the Orkney Public Protection Committee. A development day was also planned for the Chief Officer Group and the Committee.
- 7.3. He highlighted that progress on the plan had not been as quick as hoped due to the same reasons previously mentioned. He finally drew attention to the recommendations in section 2 of the report. The Chair supported the report and the recommendations were noted.

## **8. Corporate Parenting Plan**

- 8.1. James Henry presented the report to the Board. He highlighted that further work had been required and since then at a meeting of senior managers further scrutiny prioritisation had taken place. A clear timescale has now been put in place and a small team identified to progress this. He added the importance of working on the plan as a partnership and that the report will be brought back to a future meeting.

## **9. Any other business**

- 9.1. None

## **10. Date of next meeting**

- 10.1. Anna Whelan reported that a change to the planned meeting dates had been requested in order to accommodate an additional meeting during the Covid-19 recovery period. After some discussion the Chair asked that the Executive Group set the dates.

**Action: AK/AFW**

The meeting closed at 12.20pm

AFW/AK  
10.06.2020