



**Minute** of the meeting of the **Orkney Partnership Board**  
held at **14:00** on **24 August 2020** via Microsoft Teams

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Present:	James Stockan Meghan McEwen Gail Anderson Dougie Campbell Seonag Campbell Cheryl Chapman Alan Dundas David Drever Graeme Harrison Rachael King Leslie Manson Gillian Morrison Graham Neville Marcus Shearer Mark Shiner Graham Sinclair Craig Spence Anna Whelan	Orkney Islands Council ( <i>Chair</i> ) NHS Orkney ( <i>Vice Chair</i> ) Voluntary Action Orkney Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Skills Development Scotland VisitScotland SEPA NHS Orkney Highlands and Islands Enterprise Integration Joint Board Orkney Islands Council Orkney Islands Council Scottish Natural Heritage Scottish Ambulance Service Orkney College / UHI HITRANS Orkney Housing Association Limited Orkney Islands Council ( <i>Secretary</i> )
By invitation:	Gavin Barr Michael Harvey Jim Lyon	Orkney Islands Council Orkney Islands Council Orkney Islands Council
In attendance:	Andrew Kemp	The Orkney Partnership

### 1. Apologies

Edward Abbott-Halpin	Orkney College / UHI
Michael Dickson	NHS Orkney
Andy Fuller	Scottish Ambulance Service
Alan Johnston	Scottish Government
John W Mundell	Orkney Islands Council
Garry Reid	Scottish Sports Council
Sally Shaw	Integration Joint Board and Orkney Community Justice Partnership
Matt Webb	Police Scotland

### 2. Draft minute of the meeting of the Board on 10 June 2020

*The minutes were agreed.*

### 3. Matters arising

- 3.1. Graham Neville updated the Board on the climate emergency working group. After their recent meeting it was highlighted that the climate emergency was

now well embedded in green recovery from Covid-19 and that there was synergy between their expected recommendations and the environmental and economic recovery. They will be reporting back to the next Board meeting in October.

**Action: GN**

- 3.2. 4.2 under matters arising from previous minutes – noted that the action to write to Maree Todd MSP regarding childcare provision needed to be followed up.

**Action: AFW**

- 3.3. Also under 4.2 0 there was a query from previous discussions as to whether the NHS could assist on a capital front as opposed to revenue.

**Action: JS/DD**

- 3.4. 6.12 under matters arising from previous minutes – It was queried if the Child Poverty Short Life Working Group had now been setup and confirmed that this had been done at the last meeting of the Living Well Delivery Group on 22 July. The workstream was being led by James Wylie.

**Action: AK/AFW**

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

- 4.1. The Chair requested proposals for the appointment. Gail Andersen nominated Craig Spence and Rachael King seconded.
- 4.2. There being no further nominations, Craig agreed to take on the role and was duly appointed.

#### **5. Stromness Place Plan**

- 5.1. Michael Harvey presented a short presentation and highlighted the following:
- Community engagement had been carried out in March 2019.
  - A community led vision was established, resulting in a Local Place Plan.
  - The plan had been endorsed by the Council in February 2020.
  - It was hope that the partnership delivery groups would have an important coordinating role in many of the projects.
  - Recovery would need to be considered as part of the plan and it was recommended that the recovery groups also considered the plan.
  - It was also recommended that the Kirkwall Place Plan should have the same level of assistance from the partnership.
- 5.2. Following questions, it was noted that:
- The various projects had different priorities, and some had already moved forward without assistance.
  - Some will be easier to deliver than others.
  - It was confirmed that to be Dementia-friendly should be a consideration for these projects and that the delivery groups could offer this expertise.

- Further engagement would be required with community and recovery groups to help communicate and reassess the projects.
  - The plan was aspirational and ambitious, and this should be seen as positive while acknowledging that it would not be possible to deliver everything.
  - Covid-19 had changed how people used their local space, as well as patterns of active travel, and this might lead to changes to the hierarchy and focus of the plan in the longer term.
- 5.3. It was agreed to endorse, as far as possible, the recommendations that the community planning partners continue to support the delivery of the Place plans.

## 6. Covid-19

### Community Recovery

- 6.1. Gavin Barr introduced the attached paper and updated the Board on progress of the recovery structure. It was highlighted that:
- Following the previous Board meeting the Chairs of the delivery groups and recovery groups had met and discussed the recovery structure resulting in this paper.
  - The Living Well Delivery Group and Care For People recovery groups had decided not to combine meetings at this time as they had less common ground at present than the other pairs of groups.
  - The Economic Recovery Steering Group had been formed and recently met for the first time.
  - Gavin now planned to re-form the BERRG to sit alongside the ERSG and ensure it coordinated with longstanding work of the VEDG.
  - The groups will continue to report back regularly to the Board.
- 6.2. Following a question about publicity for the ERSG it was confirmed that initially it would be shared with sector groups but that wider communication will need to be considered.
- 6.3. The paper was supported by the Board.

### Skills Impact and Response

- 6.4. Seonag Campbell presented the findings from Skills Development Scotland's recent review of skills planning. The highlights were:
- An Islands Charter had been previously discussed and the benefits noted.
  - The current skills structure and activity in Orkney had been reviewed along with the issues that had been identified.
  - Figures for the impact of Covid-19 was shared along with the key activities that were already taking place.

- 6.5. Seonag proposed that an education and skills partnership group could support recovery planning and that a Charter should be developed to maximise investment in skills.
- 6.6. Following questions the importance of simplifying and avoiding duplication was acknowledged. It was clarified that the new group would be formed from the current skills and employability strategic group, with a renewed remit and focus.
- 6.7. Further discussion took place regarding data and ensuring that the isles are considered individually when looking at skills. It was highlighted that there had already been some good progress with complete pathways from education to required skills in certain sectors.
- 6.8. The proposal that a charter be created refined around skills, knowledge and response was accepted by the Board.

## **7. Islands Deal**

- 7.1. The Chair introduced the item with an acknowledgement of the deal that had been recently publicised. He thanked all partners and other organisations for the effort that had been put in so far.
- 7.2. Gavin Barr explained the report and the steps that had been taken and will be taken in the future. He highlighted the following:
  - The outline business case development phase will take place over the coming months, aiming to reach Heads of Terms by the end of the year.
  - There will be further clarity on where allocation of funds will be as we move into next year.
  - Important to note that not all projects are council led and are very much multi-agency.
- 7.3. He went on to share some of the projects with the group and the climate focused projects were particularly welcomed by members. Some of the challenges were also discussed, not least finding resources in the short term for the business cases.

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

- 8.1. Jim Lyon introduced the report and noted that the plan itself had not been circulated at this time as there were significant changes still to be made to it. He highlighted the following:
  - The plan had been driven by a small number of people and delayed by vacancies in key roles.
  - He had met with key agencies and service leads to ensure that all involved would “own” the actions and contribute to them.
  - The plan was being amended to streamline activity, focus on improvement and review timelines for achievement.
  - There was an urgent need for multi-agency interim child and adult protection guidelines which had been produced.

- Once the plans are in place there would be a need for a multi-agency self-evaluation framework.
- 8.2. It was acknowledged that there was limited capacity and infrastructure in Orkney. The challenges were the same as elsewhere, but on a different scale, with the added complication of the isles. Orkney could benefit from benchmarking against and learning from others, and most importantly by giving staff the support they needed.

## 9. Good Parenting Plan

- 9.1. Jim Lyon introduced the plan and noted that it had been approved by the council before being submitted to the Board. He acknowledged that there was still further work to do on the plan going forward.
- 9.2. A number of queries were raised including:
- Re: Section 5.3.3 - Whether there was suitable funding in place and an acknowledgment that cost savings also needed to be found.
  - Re: Improved access to sport and leisure facilities performance measures – Whether young people were actively making use of Young Scot and ActiveLife cards.
  - Re: Section 5.3.4 – It was understood that corporate parenting responsibility went up to age 26 but every local authority in Scotland had been underfunded to support this. Foster parents had no obligation to carry on but advice and support was still provided.
  - It was queried whether the roles of all the agencies and specialist officers involved had been suitably reflected in the plan. NHSO in particular would have liked to have seen a more collective approach to its drafting rather than being presented with a fait accompli. It was also felt that the introduction should better reflect the collective responsibilities of the Orkney Partnership.
- 9.3. Jim welcomed the feedback and highlighted the importance of using the correct language and involving young people in the development of any plans going forward.
- 9.4. There was further discussion around resources and responsibilities but also noted that there was some urgency to get an agreement so that work could proceed. Jim explained that the document inevitably had a local authority slant due to the Council's statutory duties with regard to child protection. He would be happy to make it more of a partnership plan but there was an urgent need to approve it so the work could be progressed without delay.
- 9.5. It was proposed that the plan be approved as a working document subject to the following amendments, and that the revised document should be circulated following the meeting:
- The roles of the child health commissioner and public protection nurse be added.
  - The Vice Chair of the partnership be added at the front as the NHS Orkney representative.

- Add a note that future commitments were 'dependant on funding' to ensure that expectations were not raised unrealistically.

9.6. This proposal was agreed by the Board.

## **10. Single Authority Model**

10.1. Gilliam Morrison introduced the update and highlighted the following:

- 2.4 – In March a draft submission to the Scottish Government's Local Governance Review was considered by the Board
- 4.3 – All members of the Board were supportive of the proposal apart from NHS Orkney who had expressed some concerns.
- The Local Governance Review had not been progressed due to redeployment of Scottish Government staff to work on Covid-19 response and recovery.

10.2. The Chair shared the background with members along with the current Scottish government position.

10.3. It was noted that HIE were not represented at the March meeting where a discussion on the Single Authority Model had taken place.

10.4. Following some discussion, it was agreed to park the SAM for the moment but continue to look at ways that the Partnership could do things differently. There was scope to learn from the joint working that had been happening most effectively during the pandemic.

## **11. Any other business**

11.1. None raised.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

12.1. 8th October 2020 at 14.00 (*post meeting note: date subsequently changed to 6 November 2020 at 14.00*).

The meeting closed at 17.00

AFW/AK  
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