



Orkney Partnership Board

Minute of the meeting of the Orkney Partnership Board held at 10:00 on 12 March 2020 in the Council Chamber, Kirkwall

Present:	James Stockan Meghan McEwen Stuart Allison Gail Anderson Alan Dundas Rachael King Thomas Knowles Leslie Manson Paul Maxton Gillian Morrison John W Mundell Graham Neville Gerry O'Brien Mark Shiner Marcus Shearer Sally Shaw Marcus Shearer Graham Sinclair Craig Spence Iain Stewart Matt Webb Craig Spence Anna Whelan	Orkney Islands Council (<i>Chair</i>) NHS Orkney (<i>Vice Chair</i>) Vibrant Economy Delivery Group Voluntary Action Orkney and Strong Communities Delivery Group SEPA Integration Joint Board Historic Environment Scotland Orkney Islands Council Scottish Government (Islands Team) OIC, Corporate Services OIC, Chief Executive Scottish Natural Heritage NHS Orkney and Living Well Delivery Group Orkney College / UHI Scottish Ambulance Service Integration Joint Board and Orkney Community Justice Partnership Scottish Ambulance Service HITRANS Orkney Housing Association Limited NHS Orkney Police Scotland (<i>arrived 11.35, item 17</i>) Orkney Housing Association Limited OIC, Corporate Services (<i>Secretary</i>)
By invitation:	James Wylie Jo Kirby	OIC, Edn, Leisure & Housing (<i>for items 20-23</i>) The Northern Alliance (<i>for items 20-23</i>)
In attendance:	Andrew Kemp Marie Love	The Orkney Partnership The Orkney Partnership

Item

1 Apologies

Edward Abbott-Halpin	Orkney College / UHI
Dougie Campbell	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Seonag Campbell	Skills Development Scotland
Cheryl Chapman	VisitScotland
David Drever	NHS Orkney
Andy Fuller	Scottish Ambulance Service
Alan Johnston	Scottish Government
Garry Reid	Scottish Sports Council
Graeme Harrison	Highlands and Islands Enterprise

	Bob Walker	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	
Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose
1.1	The Chair welcomed Meghan McEwen to her new role as Vice Chair of the partnership and thanked Marie Love on her retirement from the role of Community Planning Business Manager.		
2	Draft minute of the meeting of the Board on 4 December 2020	Chair	To amend as necessary and agree the minutes
2.1	The minutes were agreed.		
3	Matters arising	Chair	To consider matters arising from the minute
3.1	The Chair noted his action at item 3.3 and confirmed that his meeting had been cancelled but will follow this up shortly		
4	Draft minute of the special meeting of the Board on 30 January 2020	Chair	To amend as necessary and agree the minutes
4.1	The minutes were agreed.		
5	Matters arising	Chair	To consider matters arising from the minute
All items included on the agenda today. No further matters arising.			
6	Executive Group		
	6.1 Update from the Group	John W Mundell	
	6.2 Development Plan update	Marie Love	
6.1	John presented the Executive Group report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army Reserve has offered support and should be invited to present at future meeting of the Board. • Skills Development Scotland (SDS) had offered assistance to the Executive Group and it was agreed that they be co-opted for meetings when workforce planning was included on the agenda. 		
6.2	Marie presented the updates on the development plan highlighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06. Annual delivery group conference had been added. • 15. Conduct Place Standard exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was discussed that timescales may need to be considered and it was agreed that one year would be suitable. ○ Gail reported that she had secured funding for two years for a community development delivery worker who could potentially assist with the Place Standard exercise. 		

6.3 It was noted that a self assessment workshop had been booked to follow the next Board meeting on the 10th June. The importance of this was highlighted along with the complexity of landscape that the partnership has to deal with.

7 CONTEST/PREVENT Gillian Morrison To report progress

7.1 Gillian presented an update and noted current threat level had been raised to “severe” meaning an attack was likely. It was highlighted that Prevent training sessions had been carried out face-to-face previously but that going forward the Home Office had updated only its online support materials. Scottish Government had been asked to raise with the Home Office the need for continuing support for face to face sessions.

8 The Islands Deal Chair To review progress

8.1 The Chair presented the update. It was reported that the Islands Deal was not included in the recent UK budget. Scottish Government have previously matched UK gov funding for other Deals, so the UK gov has to declare first. The Islands will be the last area to secure a Deal but have been assured they will have the highest per capita funding of any Deal. Funding is expected to be split equally between the three islands areas.

9 Single Authority Model Gillian Morrison To receive an update and report progress

It was agreed to move this item to the end of the meeting.

10 Locality Plan actions Anna Whelan To review progress

10.1 Anna presented the plan actions highlighting that for item 15 (Your Islands Your Choice 2) VAO will be reporting on this later in the year. Gail confirmed that VAO are working through the projects and a report will be forthcoming.

11 Living Well Delivery Group Gerry O’Brien To review progress towards delivery of strategic priority

11.1 Gerry presented the delivery group plan. He highlighted mental health and planned to explore the new Mental Health Strategy 2019-24 at the next Delivery Group meeting. There was discussion of delivering on the plans of each group and remembering the objectives.

11.2 It was highlighted that communities are willing to do things themselves and we should support them in doing so.

12 Strong Communities Delivery Group Gail Anderson To review progress towards delivery of strategic priority

12.1 Gail presented an update confirmed that activities are progressing well. It was highlighted that the academic evaluation is in progress and also that a further two years of funding had been secured to support the project listed at C1 in the delivery plan (to plan and facilitate consultations with a focus on engaging with

	those who are 'seldom heard'). It was agreed that it would be beneficial to spend some time to reflect on plans going forward.		
12.2	There was some discussion about academic evaluation and Gail would like to explore with fellow Chairs the option to evaluate collectively across the delivery groups and look for opportunities for student research projects to be based in Orkney.		
12.3	It was noted that there was a need for collective understanding of the cumulative impact of decision making across organisations and the potential for unintended consequences for the community, notably depopulation.		
13	Vibrant Economy Delivery Group	Stuart Allison	To review progress towards delivery of strategic priority
13.1	Stuart (Vice Chair of the group) presented an update and confirmed that the plan is progressing well. He highlighted A1/2 (digital connectivity) and A4 (skills investment plan) and noted that the latter was expected to be completed by June. Noted that A6 (talent attraction) and B6 (islands deal) were progressing well and the Islands Deal was due to be workshopped at the Scottish Government later in the week.		
13.2	There was some discussion around decentralisation of jobs and remote working, which had been highlighted by the coronavirus and which HIE colleagues were doing at present. SDS had been reviewing off-isles working for their new Charter, which they would bring to the Board shortly.		
13.3	The Chair highlighted the 5G test bed trial which was to run over a 2 year period. Orkney was demanding a target of 100% for 5G coverage. Historically, anything less than 100% always saw Orkney in the area not covered. 5G would be essential to support robust home working.		
14	Climate Emergency	Graham Neville	To receive update on work of Short Life Working Group
14.1	Graham presented an update from the new group which met for the first time on 26 February with 12 attendees. The group had clarified its scope and identified threats and focus areas, with the main priorities being transport, heating, housing and the environment, both land and marine. The group was exploring targets, joint leadership and adaptation planning. and were looking to moved forward with suggesting targets specific to Orkney. It was planned to meet again in May to consider recommendations and a possible workshop with the delivery groups, with a view to presenting recommendations at the June Board.		
14.2	It was noted that HIE wished to be involved and Graham will follow this up with Graeme Harrison.		<u>Action: GN</u>
14.3	It was proposed that the group seek out more like-for-like comparison of Orkney's carbon footprint c.f. other parts of the UK. Orkney's geography gave us the highest carbon footring in the country and it was difficult to achieve a level playing field with aircraft and ferry emissions skewing the results. It was confirmed that the group was likely to recommend a joint target for net zero for		

Orkney's public sector with a date to be agreed. Graham noted that we did not yet have an aggregated baseline and might need to commission a piece of work to determine this. It was likely that step changes would occur in time e.g. ferry replacement with hydrogen powered vessels.

- 14.4 It was noted that shared facilities could be difficult e.g. grant structures limited the allowable users of electric vehicle charging points, which didn't make sense on an island. Meghan noted that some island communities had found ways round the rules e.g. on Rousay becoming a member of the Development Trust gave you access. Graham confirmed that shared facilities were firmly on the radar of the new group. There was agreement that decisions should be evidence based and reflect local rather than national priorities.

15	Horizon-scanning exercise results mapping	Anna Whelan Marie Love	To consider results of exercise
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- 15.1 Marie introduced the exercise that was undertaken, which included identifying emerging issues and mapping these to existing priorities. She highlighted the items suggested for discussion, which were not currently included in the Community Plan (aka the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, or LOIP). However, Marie confirmed that engagement with Orkney Opinions on the Community Plan showed that all responders agreed with the current three strategic priorities.

- 15.2 Anna went through the results of the mapping exercise including where these were already being addressed. There was no obligation to add any of the new items to the LOIP but it was agreed that a community planning response to some items, e.g. the children's services inspection report, would be necessary.

- 15.3 There was discussion of priorities and a caution to not become overly burdened by adding further items when capacity was limited. It was proposed that the criteria for accepting new priorities should be (i) collective responsibilities where TOP had a leadership role, and (ii) issues whose resolution would contribute towards improved equality and fairness.

- 15.4 Caution was requested regarding changing the existing priorities and delivery groups, and the need to ensure others aren't already working on the same items. It was agreed that the Community Planning Working Group (comprising the Delivery Group Chairs) should be reconvened to discuss the new list, and present its recommendations to the Board in June. **Action: AFW/AK**

16	Risk Register	Gillian Morrison	To consider update
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- 16.1 Gillian presented the risk register and highlighted the recommended changes.

- 16.2 There was some discussion regarding the proposed updates to item 1 (Lack of capacity to deliver) and the particular issues for island communities. The updates were agreed and it was agreed to increase the risk score from B3 to A3.

- 16.3 Paul Maxton gave a brief update from a Scottish Government perspective and noted that guidance on island communities impact assessment (ICIA) was in

preparation and should be available shortly. Paul confirmed that he would be the Board's point of contact with the SG going forward.

17 Streamlining multi-agency groups Anna Whelan To consider report

- 17.1 Anna presented a report proposing a review of Orkney's multi-agency groups (including those which were not part of The Orkney Partnership, with a view to reducing their number and the consequent demand on individuals' time in attending meetings. Board members were invited to consider:
- Whether they wish to streamline Orkney's multi-agency groups along the lines indicated in paragraph 4.1 of the report.
 - If so, whether this work should be undertaken by a partner agency or commissioned from an independent contractor.
 - In either case, how the work should be resourced.
- 17.2 The following observations were made in discussion:
- There was universal support for the proposed review.
 - The landscape was cluttered and we were fighting on too many fronts.
 - It might be an advantage for the review to be conducted by someone without prior knowledge of Orkney.
 - The Orkney Partnership Board could take on other roles e.g. the board proposed to take forward the Corporate Parenting Plan.
 - Many third sector bodies were independent of the public sector, but public provision could be better aligned to avoid duplication.
 - SDS had observed a of of overlap in roles and responsibilities when conducting their skills audit.
 - The reviewer would need an understanding of statutory responsibilities notably in areas like child protection and support.
 - Target outcomes would need to be defined i.e. whether the aim was to save money, time and/or information.
- 17.3 It was agreed in principle to take the proposal forward with an external contractor and to consider funding under item 18 (Joint resourcing).

Action: AFW/AK

18 Joint Resourcing Anna Whelan To consider

18.1 Draft Joint Resourcing Plan

18.2 Community Planning Business Manager

- 18.1 Anna presented the joint resourcing plan. It was noted that the first part of the JRP, setting out the resources available to the Partnership, was becoming increasingly difficult to compile as revenue budgets for some partner organisations were regionalised and not broken down to individual CPP level. This was a problem for all CPPs and was being addressed nationally.
- 18.2 The second joint resourcing report confirmed the budget required to fund the Community Planning Business Manager post (and supporting services) for

2020-21. Given the difficulty in obtaining up to date revenue budget figures from some of the facilitating partners, it was agreed to use the same ratios to apportion the cost as in previous years. The total cost was lower than in 2019-20 because of the change in postholder with effect from 1 April 2020, which took the salary back to the first scale point on the relevant grade.

- 18.3 In order to create a small reserve to put towards funding the review agreed previously (item 17.3) it was agreed to increase all contributions by 3% over the total cost in 2019-20. This would generate a reserve of approximately £4,500 which would be allocated to non-staff costs. The total sums invoiced to facilitating partners will therefore be:

<u>Facilitating partner</u>	<u>Apportioned cost in 2020-21</u>
Orkney Islands Council	34,460
NHS Orkney	22,364
Police Scotland*	748
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	133
Highlands & Islands Enterprise	249
Total	57,954

Action: AFW

19 Any other business

None raised.

20 Child Poverty Action Plan

- 20.1 James introduced Jo Kirby from The Northern Alliance and both jointly presented this item. James reported that due to lack of capacity, support had been sought from The Northern Alliance's child poverty team. Jo had been commissioned to lead a short life working group with a view to establishing a plan.
- 20.2 Jo reported that Orkney had already commissioned a report to fill information gaps on the impact of child poverty in Orkney. The draft plan focused on poverty and disadvantage e.g. the proportion of children living in poverty, families in receipt of income related benefits etc. Contributing factors in Orkney included low paid and insecure employment, multiple jobs, lack of public transport or means to run a car in rural areas, and a significant gender pay gap. Food bank usage was in line with national trends but uptake of free school meals was lower Teachers were increasingly reporting pupils being hungry in school or inappropriately dressed for the weather. Actions proposed in the draft plan addressed all of these issues together with the generic issues of raising awareness, reducing stigma and income maximisation.
- 20.3 James noted that the plan had still to be submitted to Scottish Government but significant work had been carried out and some of the actions were already under way. He thanked Jo and the SLWG.
- 20.4 It was agreed that discussion would continue after the meeting as the plan was required in advance of the next Board meeting on 10 June. The speakers were invited to report progress back to that meeting.

Action: AK

21 Corporate Parenting Plan

21.1 Sally reported that the draft plan needed to be revised in light of the recent joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection. There were three main areas to be strengthened:

- children's understand of their rights and entitlements
- the range of housing services for care leavers and disability
- improving accessibility to health services, including specialist services relating to abuse and neglect.

Sally will look at the governance of the Orkney Partnership in light of suggestions that the Orkney Partnership Board should be the body with responsibility for the plan, rather than a new Board.

21.2 In discussion, it was suggested that the plan needed to identify all corporate parents, and have more to say from the viewpoint of service users rather than providers.

21.3 Sally noted that there were three pieces of statutory guidance relating to corporate parenting plans, including how to put it into practice, which would all be followed. She will report back to the Board in June. **Action: SS**

22 Childcare – Nursery and Early Years Provision

22.1 [Gerry and Ian left the meeting during this item.]

James introduced the item and explained that it was a complex issue. Following notification by Peedie Breeks of their intended closure, the Council's Policy and Resources Committee had established a Member/Officer Working Group to explore options. To date they had reviewed need, potential business models and capacity. Options would be submitted to P&R for consideration.

James noted that the Council could accommodate statutory provision within available capacity. The MOWG had engaged with people who had expressed an interest in providing 0-3 childcare, after school care and/or wraparound provision. At present there was nobody who could do everything. There was no suitable space available at present but the MOWG was continuing to look for premises.

22.2 In discussion a number of points were made:

- The impact of uncertainty was already being felt as staff were leaving PB and capacity reducing.
- 0-3 provision was not a statutory duty on the Council but was a partnership issue. Orkney already had NHS Orkney had locum and agency staff cover but other employers did not and would potentially lose two additional years of staff cover on top of one year of statutory maternity leave.
- Orkney could not attract incoming families without available childcare.
- Coronavirus was likely to exacerbate an already critical issue.
- VAO was exploring potential community and social enterprise solutions in discussion with HIE and would bring these back to the Board.

- The situation was evidence of market failure and inevitably where the private sector had failed, other potential providers would be nervous about taking it on.
- Both short and long term solutions were required, as it would take a minimum of two months to set up a company, even if a provider came forward.
- There was public expectation that the Council would step in and do something.
- There was scope for the Orkney Partnership to establish emergency provision and for the Council to be the provider on its behalf, but a funding source would be needed.
- The Council was in close discussion with the Care Inspectorate about the structure of childcare in Orkney.
- Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Children and Young People, had pledged that Scotland would not be short of childcare staff by August 2020.

22.3 It was agreed that the Chair would write to Maree Todd MSP asking for financial support for the Orkney Partnership to provide a stopgap service, to be delivered by the Council, in order to avoid any break in provision. **Action: JS**

22.4 It was further agreed that Paul Maxton would refer the problem to relevant colleagues at the Scottish Government who had previously offered support, and report back to the Board. Paul would also report to Scottish Government colleagues on agenda items 20 and 21. **Action: PM**

23 Joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection

- 23.1 Sally briefed the Board on the recent joint inspection which was done between 26 August and 4 October 2019. The report was framed around 5 questions. It had identified three key strengths, which were:
1. The majority of children and young people in need of care and protection and their families benefited from genuine and enduring relationships with a key member of staff or carer.
 2. The majority of care leavers were well supported in their transition to adulthood by staff providing aftercare and others helping them with accommodation, further education and employability.
 3. Together, children's panel members, the children's reporter and social workers went out of their way to make the experience of attending a children's hearing as child centred as possible and to provide continuity for those attending review hearings on mainland Scotland.

Priority areas for improvement were identified as:

1. Ensuring key child protection processes including inter-agency referral discussions, risk assessments, case conferences and core groups work effectively to protect children at risk of harm.
2. Publishing comprehensive up-to-date inter-agency child protection procedures and training staff on these to clarify roles and responsibilities, and to help staff to be confident in their work.
3. Bringing about a step change in the impact of corporate parenting by delivering tangible improvements in the wellbeing and life chances of looked after children, young people and care leavers.

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4. Strengthening key child protection processes, fully implementing the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach, and commissioning services to meet priority areas of need including therapeutic and family support services.
 5. Improving the effectiveness and oversight of the public protection committee in carrying out core functions to protect children and young people.

23.2 Sally noted that she was preparing a presentation on the report to take to partner agencies, and an improvement plan was also in draft. **Action: SS**

23.3 Board members regretted that there had not been time for proper discussion of this item, which merited their full attention.

24 Single Authority Model

24.1 [This item was moved from item 9.]

Gillian introduced a report on the Local Governance Review, which proposed the submission to the Scottish Government by 27 March 2020 of a proposal for Orkney to consult on the option of a Single Authority Model as a 'test of change' site under the auspices of the Local Governance Review.

24.2 Following discussion, it was agreed that further meetings would need to take place with NHS Orkney before the deadline for submission, with other partners supporting the proposal in principle.

25	Date of next meeting	Chair
	10 June 2020 at 10:00	

The meeting closed at 13.45.

AFW/AK
12.03.2020