

## Orkney Community Planning Partnership



### PARTNERSHIP LIAISON GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.15am on 29 November 2012 at Orkney Housing Association.

#### **Present:**

Sally Inkster ( <i>Chair</i> )	Housing Development Forum
Anna Whelan	OCPD Steering Group Secretary
Karen Johnstone	Employability Strategic Group
Frazer Campbell	Orkney Equality Forum
Karen Greaves	Strategic Learning Group
Stuart Allison	Strategic Economic Forum
Brian Archibald	Transport Forum
Chessa Llewellyn-White	Community Economic Development Orkney Group
Suzanne Baird	Healthy Communities Group
Gail Churchill	Environment Partnership
Hannah Thomson ( <i>Secretary</i> )	Community Planning Officer

#### **In attendance**

Marie Love	Policy Officer (Equalities), Orkney Islands Council
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#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Marie O'Sullivan	Services for Children and Young People Group
Chris Matthews	Environment Partnership
Clare Gee	Heritage, Archaeology and Visitor Attraction Forum
Frances Troup	Housing Development Forum
Maureen Spence	Community Council Liaison
Jon Humphreys	Community Safety Partnership
Pam Beasant	Arts Forum
Gail Anderson	Third Sector Forum

#### **2. Minute of the last meeting – 20 September 2012**

- 2.1 The minute was accepted as an accurate note of the meeting proposed by CLW and seconded by FC.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

- 3.1 There were no matters arising not on the agenda.

#### **4. Draft minutes of the Steering Group meeting held on 26 September 2012**

- 4.1 The Covenant between the Armed Forces and the Orkney Community Planning Partnership had been signed in October. This is a statement of mutual support for veterans in Orkney and has a number of undertakings which thematic groups are asked to lead on.

- 4.2 Regarding the Police and Fire Reform, the Council had set up a sub-Committee which will take care of the Council's statutory obligations in respect of the new arrangements.
- 4.3 Ken Grant and CLW were to set up a meeting for January of the Steering Group prior to a workshop for all stakeholders about the potential impact of community owned wind turbines.

## **5. Draft agenda for the next Steering Group meeting on 7 December 2012**

- 5.1 SI would not be available to attend the meeting and therefore CLW as Vice Chair would represent the PLG.
- 5.2 The Care Inspectorate would be attending the meeting as part of the CPP Children's inspection. KG explained that in terms of engagement with other partners such as housing providers, it was hoped that after the file reading, which was to be the following week, that there would be more known about specific organisations the inspectors would wish to meet.
- 5.3 An OCPP/Third Sector Joint Statement, which set out the Third Sector's relationship with public sector partners within the OCPP, was to go to the Steering Group for endorsement. The Joint Statement had existed in a draft format for several years and had not been formally endorsed. It was agreed that it would be circulated to the PLG once a final draft was available.

**Action: HT**

## **6. Welfare Reform and Universal Credit**

- 6.1 KJ provided an overview of some of the changes planned through Welfare Reform and Universal Credit. She explained that DWP asked that the information referred to in her presentation could not be distributed due to the pace of change with the Reform.
- 6.2 The Reform aims to provide a simpler system and will affect people in and out of work. There are significant changes to be made to the way in which benefits will be paid, with more sanctions and conditions imposed on those seeking work. Housing Benefit (also known as under-occupancy or Bedroom Tax) will also create changes and mean that some households will have to move to accommodation appropriate for their requirements, or to pay the additional rent.
- 6.3 There was a discussion about whether there are groups within Orkney who need additional support if they have a limited understanding and abilities due to a learning disability or mental health problem. It was felt that there is a good relationship between the Jobcentre Plus and partners such as Advocacy Orkney and the Blide Trust and that they were always encouraged to work with the Jobcentre.
- 6.4 A CPP Welfare Reform group had been set up and was chaired by Gillian Morrison and was considering local issues such as access to computers and internet. Whilst the default was for customers to access services online, there would still be some face to face provision through the Jobcentre Plus for those who need it.
- 6.5 The group discussed potential pressures on libraries for internet and computer access, although it was acknowledged that there would be access from other places such as the Jobcentre Plus.

- 6.6 CLW explained that a digital inclusion project would be commencing in the new year and KJ requested that the Jobcentre Plus be involved with this.

**Action: CLW**

- 6.7 KJ encouraged partners to think about setting up Work Clubs, which offer job focussed space for customers. They are currently run within Blide Trust and Life Skills and some start-up costs could be met by DWP.
- 6.8 There was also funding available from the Flexible Support Fund for partnership working where there is a need to look at provision within an area or there is something lacking around the changes with Welfare Reform. KJ encouraged applications to be made before March.
- 6.9 SA queried the process with New Enterprise Allowance and KJ confirmed that the Jobcentre Plus assists in the start-up of a new enterprise but do not monitor after that as they are referred to the Business Gateway.

## **7. Service Delivery Agreement between Skills Development Scotland and Orkney Islands Council**

- 7.1 KG presented a Service Delivery Agreement for 2012-13 between Skills Development Scotland and the Council. It had been approved by the Council's Education, Leisure and Housing Committee and was to go to the Steering Group for endorsement on 7 December.
- 7.2 HT suggested that the agreement should be changed to be between Skills Development Scotland and the Orkney Community Planning Partnership. It was agreed that the Steering Group could be asked to decide whether it should be an agreement between the CPP or the Council.
- 7.3 KG explained that Skills Development Scotland were going through a period of radical changes to their service delivery and that Delivery Agreements for the following year would be quite different to this one.
- 7.4 The PLG confirmed they were happy with the document to be presented to the Steering Group for endorsement.

## **8. Update from thematic group – Strategic Community Learning Group**

- 8.1 The Strategic Community Learning Group had formed as a merger of the Community Learning and Development group and the Strategic Learning Forum. The Group had an Evaluation Event on the 19 September 2012 and was well attended by a broad representation from partners. Participants were asked to report on what was working well, gaps in the current provision and priorities. A work plan would be created from these identified priorities and outcomes from the event.
- 8.2 The Group had good links with the North Alliance (a network formed to promote access to training and development opportunities for CLD staff in North Scotland) and were able to access £7k funding to develop a six month CPP training programme.
- 8.3 SI added that the 'People in Communities' fund which replaced Wider Role funding would be available to community anchor groups and may be relevant to the work of the Strategic Community Learning Group.

## **9. Successes and achievements/meetings attended outwith Orkney**

- 9.1 AW had attended the Holyrood conference in Edinburgh on 20 November regarding the future for public service delivery, and reported that there were some messages of concern, in particular that public spending had risen significantly even during the past few years of notional savings, and not enough was being done to address the national debt. This would inevitably impact on the future resource available for public services. If not addressed urgently there was an appreciable risk of a “domesday” scenario such as Greece was currently experiencing.
- 9.2 KG reported that there had been a successful youth work week where information days had been held in the secondary schools. Orkney was recognised by Youthlink as having a significantly higher number of youth achievement awards compared to other areas in Scotland, and this was commendable as the majority of these were supported by youth workers with short term contracts or volunteers. Regarding the information days, the Jobcentre Plus felt that whilst the events were successful, they would have liked to see more teaching staff there.
- 9.3 CLW noted that Orkney had been shortlisted for a Creative Place award and that if successful, there would be £150k to benefit Orkney’s creative programme.
- 9.4 GC noted that the Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership had been nominated for a SURF award for excellence in regeneration. It had been a great success and had completed 48 projects.
- 9.5 The Business Gateway had undertaken a survey with businesses to determine the future prospects for Orkney. The results were positive and showed that four out of five felt optimistic about the future. The full results were available on the Council website to view.
- 9.6 KJ noted that unemployment levels were healthy with around 100 less on the register than the same period in the previous year. The numbers of young people aged 18-24 had decreased in line with the overall decrease and remained at about a third of the total register.

## **10. Any other business**

- 10.1 GC explained that next year would be the Year of Natural Scotland, commencing in January and running through the rest of the year. There would be events which aimed to encourage people to enjoy the outdoor heritage. In relation to this, a query was raised regarding financial support for farmers to maintain country paths. In the past this had been funded by RPID and a new programme would be introduced in 2014, but there would be a gap until then. BA explained that within the Council, this was under his area of responsibility. He had been working with Gavin Barr (Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure) and Evelyn Mathershaw (Head of Strategic Development and Regeneration) on the issues around funding shortages, access, safety and tourism and the loss of the Council’s Access Officer.

## **11. How Good is Our Community Planning Partnership?**

- 11.1 Due to time constraints, it was agreed that only one of the two proposed HGIOCPP quality indicators should be addressed on this occasion and the one selected was 5.3: Inclusion, equality and fairness. The other, 9.2: Leadership and direction, was deferred to the next meeting.

- 11.2 It became apparent in discussion that there was uncertainty about whether the PLG should consider the self-evaluation as thematic groups or as partner bodies. There was also a lack of understanding of the respective roles of the thematic groups and the Equality Forum in promoting inclusion, equality and fairness. It was therefore agreed that Marie Love, Equalities Officer for OIC, would prepare key questions for each thematic group to consider and report back to the PLG, which would give it some evidence to evaluate. These questions would be approved by the Equality Forum at their meeting on 14 December. **Action: ML**

HT/AFW  
09.01.13