



OCPP Steering Group

Minutes of the 43rd meeting of the OCPP Steering Group
held at 11.00 on 16 December 2008 in the St. Magnus Centre, Kirkwall

Present:	Stephen Hagan James Stockan John Ross Scott Alistair Buchan Iain Crozier Ken Grant David Miller Gaynor Jones Elaine Grieve Hannah Laird	Convener, OIC (<i>Chair</i>) Vice-Convener, OIC Chair, NHS Orkney Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council Chief Executive, NHS Orkney Area Manager, HIE Chief Inspector, Northern Constabulary Executive Director, VAO Chair, Partnership Liaison Group Community Planning Officer (<i>minutes</i>)
Apologies:	Anna Whelan	Head of Policy, OIC (<i>Secretary</i>)

1. Minutes of 42nd meeting held 26 November 2008

1.1 The minutes were accepted.

2. Matters arising

2.1 It was agreed that the economic climate would be discussed under AOB.

2.2 The group acknowledged the attendance of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and found this to be beneficial. A suggestion was made that this group could be invited again in the future.

3. Fairer Scotland Fund

3.1 It was reported that the Partnership Liaison Group (PLG) had tasked a sub-group to assess the bids and present their findings to the Steering Group. Hannah Laird had taken a note of the PLG sub-group's decisions and thought processes and these were presented in a summary sheet along with a covering report. The PLG sub-group had advised of thirteen bids which would make a contribution towards addressing the causes of poverty.

3.2 It was noted that the PLG sub-group had provided an unbiased assessment of bids and used the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) criteria as guidance.

3.3 Concerns were raised about the future of 'Young Scot' which, whilst members were in agreement it did not fit with the principles of the fund, was a service established in the community and seeking funding. Elaine Grieve expressed particular concern about the Youth Café and that this needed to be explored further. DASAT was also considered to be a possible avenue for the work of Young Scot.

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- 3.4 James Stockan asked whether the PLG sub-group had considered duplication of services in their assessment of bids. Elaine Grieve advised that the Corporate Management Team had been shown the summary sheet at their meeting of 15 December and had considered the issue of duplication. The Steering group agreed however, that the PLG sub-group had undertaken an unbiased, forensic assessment of the bids and their advice was considered a fair way to endorse bids.
- 3.5 Concerns were raised about the PLG sub-group's recommendation on the 'Intensive Pupil Support' bid from Stromness Academy. In particular, there was concern that only one school would benefit from the service, as that could be perceived as a disadvantage to secondary school pupils not at that school. In addition, it appeared that Orkney College had applied for funding for a similar project, which the sub-group had recommended be endorsed, which would therefore result in a duplication of services should both be awarded funding. It was therefore agreed that the 'Intensive Pupil Support' bid would not be endorsed.
- 3.6 There was discussion regarding differing views of the sub-group's recommendations, in particular with regard to one transport initiative being endorsed and other similar projects not. However, the meeting agreed that the sub-group had provided a comprehensive analysis of the bids and that, with the exception of 'Intensive Pupil Support' their recommendations should be endorsed. The PLG sub-group were thanked for their work and acknowledgment was given to the time commitment by sub-group members.
- 3.7 There was some discussion around whether or not the 'Intensive Pupil Support' money should be reallocated. It was agreed that it should not at this stage, but may be further considered in the February meeting of the Steering Group.
- 3.8 It was noted that the successful projects should be publicised as receiving Fairer Scotland Funds and it should be confirmed that the funding was for one year.
- 3.9 The group noted that improvements could be made in future should this process be undertaken again. For example, greater consideration should be given to what the community needed rather than what the applications requested. In addition, external factors could potentially be taken into account, such as the prevailing economic climate and its impact on Orkney.
- 3.10 Ken Grant advised that the following criteria should be made clear at the outset to successful applications: what were the conditions of funding, what should be achieved throughout the year and how projects will be monitored. It should be made clear that the funding was for one year only, particularly with regard to those projects employing staff. It should also be made clear that those projects seeking funding for pilot schemes would not necessarily continue to be supported beyond the funding they had been allocated for 2009/2010. Elaine Grieve advised that the Partnership Liaison Group would consider the logistics of the process.
- 3.11 The group requested that a report should be submitted to the January meeting of the Steering Group. This should include an indication of how close bids were to meeting Fairer Scotland Fund criteria. **Action: AFW/HL**
- 3.12 Alistair Buchan queried the process for approving bids, and whether the Steering Group had the legal authority or Committee approval required. Elaine Grieve advised that the Steering Group was giving its 'blessing' to endorsing the funds and that a decision had already been taken that for this one year's allocations, Committee approval was not required.
- 3.13 It was agreed that a press release should be issued regarding the Fairer Scotland Fund, its principles and how it would benefit Orkney, and that it would be circulated around all partners for comment. **Action: AFW/HL**

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- 3.14 Elaine Grieve advised the group of a fund with similar criteria to the Fairer Scotland Fund; it was possible that the 'Wider Role' fund might be of interest to some unsuccessful applicants. It was thought that Orkney Housing Associated Limited were administering the Wider Role fund.
- 3.15 It was agreed that applicants should be informed of the outcome of the bids as soon as possible, or before the closures for the Christmas break. ***Action: HL***

4. Any other business

The Chair requested a discussion around the topic of the current economic climate and asked Ken Grant to speak to the item.

Ken Grant reported that Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE) were undertaking a review of the local economic climate. This also extended to consider neighbouring local government to provide a 'high and wide' picture. It was agreed that Ken Grant would deliver a presentation to the Steering Group in January, which would provide an overview of the pressures on the local economy, in comparison with similar areas.

The Chair advised that the Council would be considering its capital programme on 19 December including options for accelerating projects and opportunities to build council houses. There was money available to progress affordable housing and this would make a big difference locally.

Concern was noted by Iain Crozier at the level of bankruptcies in Orkney. The support offered by Citizens Advice Bureau was recognised as a good resource for those made bankrupt.

James Stockan queried the funding which was provided by HIE to large business in Orkney and whether there were plans to support smaller businesses and entrepreneurs. Ken Grant advised that support was available for business start-up, and other ideas were being considered as to how this group might be supported.

David Miller noted that there was a link between recession and crime, in addition to the increased pressure on other services such as Community Social Services.

The meeting gave consideration to the services in place to support those facing redundancy. It was noted that an initiative named the Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) had an obligation to offer support when there were ten or more redundancies through one company. It was acknowledged that this support had been useful in the past for those requiring to be re-trained. In this context reference was made to the possible closure of Woolworths, which could potentially generate more than ten redundancies.

The Chair asked that, in addition to the presentation from Ken Grant, Skills Development Scotland should be invited to the next meeting of the OCCP Steering Group. The Chair asked that Ken Grant advise Hannah Laird of their availability. ***Action: KG***

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5. Dates of next meetings including in the New Year

It was agreed that the Steering Group wished to continue meeting on a monthly basis for the time being, and a series of dates should be arranged throughout 2009.

Hannah Laird
19 December 08