



## Steering Group Orkney Community Planning Partnership

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Minutes of the meeting of the OCPP Steering Group  
held at 1.30pm on 17 February 2011 in the St Magnus Centre

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Present:	Stephen Hagan	Convener, OIC ( <i>Chair</i> )
	John Ross Scott	Chair, NHS Orkney
	James Stockan	Vice-Convener, OIC
	Andrew Drever	Northern Joint Police Board and Highlands & Islands Fire Board
	Albert Tait	Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council
	Louise Wilson	Director of Public Health, NHS Orkney
	Ken Grant	Area Manager, HIE
	Gaynor Jones	Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Orkney
	Elaine Grieve	Chair, Partnership Liaison Group
	Hannah Thomson	Community Planning Officer
	Anna Whelan	Corporate & Community Strategy, OIC ( <i>Secretary</i> )
By invitation (for item 1)	Ross Martin	Centre for Scottish Public Policy
	Joy Lewis	Centre for Scottish Public Policy
	Karen Johnstone	JobCentre Plus
	Craig Spence	NHS Orkney Board
	Suzanne Lawrence	NHS Orkney Board
	Liz Middleton	NHS Orkney Board
	Naomi Bremner	NHS Orkney Board
	Steven Heddle	OIC Elected Member
	Mike Drever	OIC Elected Member
	Janice Annal	OIC Elected Member
	Roderick McLeod	OIC Elected Member
	Ian Johnstone	OIC Elected Member
	Graham Sinclair	OIC Elected Member
	Bobby Leslie	OIC Elected Member
	Russ Madge	OIC Elected Member
	Jack Moodie	OIC Elected Member
	James Foubister	OIC Elected Member
By invitation	Stuart Allison	Economic Development, OIC ( <i>for item 2</i> )
	Karen Johnstone	JobCentre Plus ( <i>for item 5</i> )
Apologies:	Cathie Cowan	Chief Executive, NHS Orkney
	Mhairi Grant	Area Commander, Northern Constabulary
	David Gill	Highlands & Islands Fire and Rescue Service
	Gillian Morrison	Assistant Director (Strategy & Improvement), OIC

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### 1. Joint Working/Single Public Authority

## 1.1 Report by Centre for Scottish Public Policy

- 1.1.1 Ross Martin presented the key points contained in the CSPP report “A Report into Future Public Service Provision” commissioned by the three Islands councils. He noted that the solution would not come ready-made but would need further iteration before each area arrived at the right model for itself. Ross noted that the final version of the report would be available shortly and would take into account any final amendments made during his current round of Islands visits.
- 1.1.2 In discussion it was noted that CSPP had spoken to all four main political parties’ policy teams and was lined up to speak at the next round of party conferences. None of the parties was looking much further ahead than the May election, but no impediments to change had been identified. CSPP had also spoken to Campbell Christie and established that all four parties would accept the recommendations of the Christie Commission. It was noted that the time was ripe for a debate on the power relationship between central and local government.
- 1.1.3 Of the three Islands councils, it was noted that Orkney was the best prepared to move ahead quickly but all were keen to progress the SPA concept. The public should be given credit to understand the proposed new two-tier electoral system, given that they had coped well with the Scottish system. The proposal had the advantage over the elected health board pilots which gave the appearance of duplicating democracy. Within a single organisation no such conflict would arise. The actual system adopted could differ from that in the SPA proposal which was provided merely to illustrate the availability of alternative approaches.
- 1.1.4 The role of the Third Sector was discussed and it was suggested that the public sector was too large and needed to diversify. It was queried whether contracts awarded by a single entity would be too large for local SMEs, and noted that commissioning bodies elsewhere were designing contracts to suit their preferred outcome.
- 1.1.5. Regarding timescales, it was noted that Christie would report in June and the report would be placed before the Scottish Parliament on their return from the summer recess. The Chair reported that he would be meeting with the leaders of the main political parties the following week to present the final CSPP report. There would also be an opportunity to discuss it at the Highlands & Islands Convention on 14 March. It was agreed that the CSPP report would be submitted to NHS Orkney at their April board meeting.

**Action: SH/JRS**

## 1.2 Letter from Highland CPP

- 1.2.1 The Chair reported that he had received a letter from the Convenor of the Highland Council and Chair of the Highland CPP, Sandy Park, seeking support from Orkney CPP for a proposal to create a single emergency service to serve the whole of the Highlands and Islands region, by bringing together

the blue light services currently provided by Northern Constabulary and Highlands & Islands Fire and Rescue Service and seeking the integration of ambulance services within local NHS control.

- 1.2.2 It was noted that the regional model favoured by Highland was not a good fit with the SPA model and agreed that in his reply the Convener should advise Highland that Orkney was pursuing an SPA model and enquire how the Highland model could be reconciled with it. **Action: SH/AFW**

### 1.3 Shared Services and the Scottish Public Sector

Gaynor Jones reported on the recent shared services conference at Linlithgow which she had attended. Points to flag up included the pragmatic approach taken to procurement, and the welcome support for the SPA concept from Peter Tait of Audit Scotland. The conclusion of those present had been that shared services were not a panacea.

## 2. **Low carbon transport funding**

- 2.1 The meeting discussed the bids which had been received from Shapinsay, Hoy and the Council for the purchase of electric vehicles. It was considered that this particular issue should be part of a wider debate and the Partnership should be looking at the whole future of electric vehicles in Orkney, rather than spending the funds on a one-off project. It was felt that piloting the technology carried a level of risk which would be better taken on by the Council on behalf of the Partnership. In view of the potential conflict of interest, the council representatives present did not vote on the matter. John Ross Scott proposed that the funds should be awarded to OIC and this proposal was seconded by Ken Grant and agreed unanimously. It was further agreed that the two vehicles to be purchased by the Council should be made available for public demonstrations and if appropriate loaned for trial periods to interested communities. **Action: HT**

## 3. **Draft minutes of meeting held 2 December 2010**

- 3.1 The minutes were agreed.

## 4. **Matters arising**

### 4.1 Fairer Scotland Fund—Family Group Conferencing

Following consultation with the Steering group via email, it was reported that referrals to the Family Group Conferencing service had picked up. The project manager had enquired whether any funds could be carried over to 2011-12 and had been advised that the Council's financial regulations would not allow any carry-over. It was noted that this question had also arisen with a few of the other FSF-funded projects.

### 4.2 Skills Development Scotland—Service Delivery Agreement

It was reported that officers of the Council's Corporate and Community Strategy team had met with officers of Skills Development Scotland and agreed that the draft Service Delivery Agreement for 2010-11 should not now be formalised since it was nearly out of date. Instead, the draft would be updated and presented to the Council in April as an SDA for 2011-12.

#### 4.3 Community Council involvement in community planning

It was reported that Community Councils had been consulted on closer involvement in community planning and had by a narrow margin been in favour of a forum to meet collectively, but did not want to do so more than once a year. They were due to meet in April and this would present an opportunity to discuss the matter further.

**Action: HT**

### 5. **The Employability Agenda in Orkney**

5.1 Karen Johnstone presented the report on behalf of the Employability Strategic Group (ESG). The ESG had recently felt that they were going round in circles and coming up against barriers, with partner bodies grappling for reduced funding to support their main client groups of people experiencing mental health issues, learning disabilities or long-term unemployment. The ESG was therefore proposing to set up a short-life working group to develop a unified local strategy.

5.2 One amendment was noted: at 2.2 the list of members of the ESG should include Voluntary Action Orkney. It was also noted that the figures for current resources at para 4.2 should be treated with caution as many of these funds were due to run out shortly.

5.3 It was agreed that the employability agenda was core OCPP business and the recommendation was approved.

### 6. **Thematic Groups**

#### 6.1 Strategic Economic Forum—draft Terms of Reference

The draft terms of reference were provisionally approved, pending possible amendment at the first meeting of the new Forum which was scheduled for 7 March 2011. It was noted that Orkney Means Business had met earlier in the week and was still viable, but preferred to stay independent of the community planning framework. It was a characteristic of business forums that they tended to meet on an ad-hoc basis when they needed to address a crisis or opportunity.

#### 6.2 Strategic Transport Forum—draft Terms of Reference

It was reported that an interim meeting called by the Convener had addressed the issue of the STF and agreed that Elaine Grieve would take responsibility for setting up and chairing the Forum until it was in a position to elect its own Chair. The Convener observed that the Forum was essential and the

Partnership should ensure that it met at least twice a year. The draft terms of reference were agreed on a provisional basis, pending the first meeting of the group which was still to be scheduled. **Action: EG**

## **7. Integrated Children's Services**

### **7.1 Early Years Framework**

The Early Years Framework was approved for adoption by the Partnership.

### **7.2 Integrated Children's Services Plan**

The Integrated Children's Services Plan was approved for adoption by the Partnership.

## **8. Third Sector—Discussion Paper**

8.1 Gaynor Jones introduced the discussion paper which had been compiled following a workshop attended by the Third Sector Forum. The paper was seeking to raise awareness that the Third Sector in Orkney was galvanising itself to adapt and survive. Potential solutions were floated, including a single global agency for Orkney which would free up third sector capacity by reducing duplication in governance. The paper was being circulated to the wider sector and a meeting had been arranged to discuss it with the Chief Executives of OIC and NHS Orkney.

8.2 It was suggested that the paper should be updated before circulation to elected members, in light of the recent OIC budget which had favoured the third sector. Gaynor Jones acknowledged that the three year settlement was much appreciated and was the best deal secured by the third sector anywhere in the country. It was agreed to update the paper and circulate to elected members. **Action: GJ**

## **9. Audit of CPPs' economic development activity**

9.1 It was reported that Audit Scotland were conducting an audit of the effectiveness of economic activity within community planning partnerships, and had selected Orkney as one of five areas in which they wished to carry out fieldwork. Albert Tait reported that he had asked Audit Scotland to postpone their visit until after the budget round and they had now suggested the end of April. It was noted that the audit findings might usefully generate an agenda for the new Strategic Economic Forum. It was agreed that Albert Tait would reply to Audit Scotland confirming the end of April, and enquiring which other four CPPs were to be visited. **Action: AVT**

## **10. Any other business**

### **10.1 Fairer Scotland Fund—Leasing**

It was reported that Shapinsay, which had been awarded Fairer Scotland funding towards its electric bus project, had queried whether the funding could

be used to lease rather than purchase a bus. Albert Tait confirmed that Council policy did not permit leasing which was generally an expensive option, and the Council would not therefore support the proposal.

#### 10.2 Elected/Board Members and thematic groups

It was queried whether an NHS Orkney non-executive Board member could join the Health and Wellbeing Group and agreed to ask the Chair of the group to arrange it. It was further agreed to circulate for information the full list of elected OIC members who sat on thematic groups. **Action: HT**

#### 10.3 Meeting venues

It had been queried why OCPP meetings were held at external venues and noted that this was done originally so that OCPP could meet on neutral territory. It was agreed that future meetings should use partners' venues where possible. NHS Orkney agreed to host the next meeting of the Steering Group on 5 April. **Action: JRS/AFW**

#### 10.4 Change Plan

John Ross Scott reported that Orkney's submission to the Change Fund needed to be signed off by OCPP, following approval by NHS Orkney. Gaynor Jones noted that the application needed to be signed specifically by OIC, NHSO and VAO on behalf of the Third Sector. It was noted that the report, which was being prepared by Cathie Cowan, was scheduled to go to the Board of Orkney Health & Care on 22 February, and agreed that it should be circulated round OCPP members at the same time, given their role regarding the governance of this fund as stipulated by the Scottish Government. **LW/AFW**

### 11. **Press release**

- 11.1 It was agreed that a press release on the CSPP report on the SPA concept would be prepared in consultation with the other island authorities following the CSPP meetings in all three. **Action: HT**

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

The next meeting will be at 2.15pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011,

*The meeting closed at 4.30pm*

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Anna Whelan  
28 February 2011