



Minutes of the meeting of the OCPP Steering Group
held at 10.00am on 18 June 2012 at Orkney Housing Association

Present:	Steven Heddle John Ross Scott Jim Foubister Andrew Drever Albert Tait Cathie Cowan Ken Grant Gail Anderson Les Donaldson Sally Inkster Hannah Thomson Anna Whelan	Convener, Orkney Islands Council (<i>Chair</i>) Chair, NHS Orkney Vice-Convener, Orkney Islands Council Northern Joint Police Board and Highlands & Islands Fire Board Orkney Islands Council NHS Orkney Highlands & Islands Enterprise Voluntary Action Orkney Northern Constabulary Partnership Liaison Group Community Planning Officer Orkney Islands Council (<i>Secretary</i>)
Apologies:	David Clark	Highlands & Islands Fire and Rescue Service
By invitation	Leslie Burgher Pam Beasant Marie O'Sullivan Gillian Morrison	Orkney Arts Forum (<i>for item 3</i>) OIC Arts Development (<i>for item 3</i>) Orkney Health & Care (<i>for item 4</i>) OIC Corporate Services (<i>for items 7 and 8</i>)

1. Draft minutes of meeting held 28 February 2012

- 1.1 Approval of the draft minutes was proposed by Andrew Drever and seconded by Sally Inkster.

2. Matters arising

- 2.1 There were no matters arising that were not already on the agenda.

3. Orkney Arts Forum – progress report and draft Strategy
(*Leslie Burgher/Pam Beasant in attendance*)

- 3.1 Introducing the arts development plan, Orkney's Creative Landscape, Leslie Burgher noted that the arts were an important industry in Orkney. While it was not a statutory plan, it was good practice to have one; the plan showed how much was going on in the arts and pulled it all together. It was difficult for arts organisations to secure the funding they needed in the current economic climate so the plan could be seen as ambitious but not entirely unrealistic, given that some of the more aspirational elements of the previous plan –

DRAFT

notably the new Arts Theatre – had come to fruition against the odds. Two major new initiatives were planned: the Orkney Moving Image Company and a professional theatre and education company. The latter was being driven by Alan Cameron, the Arts Forum's drama representative, and was intended to supplement and enhance the Curriculum for Excellence.

- 3.2 Pam Beasant reported that the Arts Forum was putting together a bid for a Creative Place award. Creative Place was aimed at small rural populations and only one award, worth £150k, would be made each year for three years. The deadline for the current round was 20 July and the winner would be announced in January 2013.
- 3.3 In discussion, the new strategy was welcomed as a valuable piece of work. It was emphasised that the new projects planned should underpin and not undermine existing activity and confirmed that this was the intention of the Arts Forum, the members of which represented existing festivals etc.
- 3.4 The group discussed how non-arts organisations could both contribute to, and make use of the arts to help promote their own messages. It was anticipated that the new theatre company would be well placed to achieve this. It was noted that public art was budgeted for as part of the new schools project, but was being treated as an afterthought, whereas the project might have benefited from earlier involvement and better integration with the arts. Sally Inkster confirmed OHAL's interest in public art in relation to new housing developments, and felt that OHAL might well be interested in using the new theatre company.
- 3.5 It was agreed to endorse Orkney's Creative Landscape as OCPP policy.

4. Joint Inspection of Services for Children *(Marie O'Sullivan in attendance)*

- 4.1 Marie O'Sullivan reported that Orkney was likely to be one of the first areas selected for inspection under the new joint regime. A pilot joint inspection had been running in Tayside but the outcome had not yet been reported. Guidance issued by the joint inspection stated that inspections would be organised around community planning partnerships, and that they would be given 12 weeks written notice. It was anticipated that the inspectors would select a sample of records to follow through, and would be looking for consistency across all contributing agencies. Robust self-evaluation would be expected, which should be integrated between service providers. Marie noted that she was expecting the inspection to focus on three main priority areas:
 - Early years (all children from pre-birth to age 8)
 - Children made vulnerable due to life circumstances
 - Child carers
- 4.2 In discussion it was noted that the present meeting was intended to raise awareness of what might be required of partner agencies in advance of the formal notice. It was queried what was meant by community planning

DRAFT

partnerships having “accountability”, and suggested that the inspection would probably test whether partner governance procedures were robust enough to support integrated working, but not expect full integration as yet. It was noted that the inspectors were expected to request meetings with specified service providers relevant to each case selected.

5. Integrated Service Provision (Single Public Authority) – progress reports

5.1 Ambulance services

Cathie Cowan reported that she was due to meet with the Scottish Ambulance Service the next day, following which she would write a briefing note for the Scottish government on Orkney’s progress with integration in this area.

Action: CC

5.2 Social housing

5.2.1 Anna Whelan and Sally Inkster presented a discussion paper which considered the benefits and drawbacks of three progressively integrated models for service provision, from enhanced community planning to full integration, via a half-way house (the Orkney Health and Care model.) It was noted that Orkney Housing Association was not a public body but a registered charity, which might constrain what it was able to do within Charities Commission regulations. The report was due to go to the OHAL Board shortly.

5.2.2 In discussion it was emphasised that the key question to ask was whether service performance and/or efficiency would improve. There were other aspects which could be considered. There was potential to relocate housing within the Council, as it could potentially sit in OHAC. The officer group had not so far looked into practical efficiencies, which had been addressed by the Sorton report of 2009. The wider role of Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) had not been addressed in the paper but gave OHAL access to funding for community benefit projects.

5.2.3 It was felt that while there were definite benefits in closer working, total integration would probably not be practicable when one body was an independent charity. It would be more constructive to conduct a wider-ranging scoping exercise on the benefits of integration across the Partnership in general, and Cathie Cowan agreed to draft an initial paper in consultation with Albert Tait and Sally Inkster.

Action: CC

5.2.4 The role of the Scottish Government on the integration agenda was discussed and it was confirmed that Dermot Rhatigan had been replaced by Catriona Carmichael. It was agreed to invite Catriona to Orkney to meet with Albert Tait and Cathie Cowan.

Action: AFW

5.3 Economic Development

5.3.1 Ken Grant tabled a report on the ongoing alignment of economic development services in Orkney. The report noted that this had been a process of ongoing

DRAFT

evolution but recent changes both at OIC and at HIE offered an opportunity to move up a gear. Senior managers at both OIC and HIE were now meeting regularly and had recently discussed and identified a number of areas of opportunity for closer alignment, viz:-

- Strategic planning
- Inward investment
- Research activity
- Taking an integrated approach to renewable energy opportunities to the next level
- Intensifying the approach to critical infrastructure
- Intensifying the approach to community development

5.3.2 The report recommended that HIE prepare a discussion paper on an integrated approach to community development across all OCPP partners. It was noted that much community development was done by volunteers, who merited support: some volunteers on isles development trusts were running businesses as complex as some mainstream businesses on the mainland. A more joined up approach was needed; for example housing was critical to economic development and some isles trusts were looking into low cost home ownership. Another issue to consider was whether national priorities should be factored in. It was agreed that HIE should develop a discussion paper to bring back to a future meeting. **Action: KG**

6. Employability Strategic Group

6.1 Short Life Working Group – progress report

Hannah Thomson reported that the report was a follow-up to the paper presented to the February meeting of the Steering Group on the proposed Employability Hub. The issue had since been discussed (separately) by both the Council's and NHS Orkney's Corporate Management Teams. Two distinct workstreams had emerged, one being to develop a holistic employability service (bringing the pipeline to life) and the other being to scope the better utilisation of facilities at St Colms following the opening of the planned Lifestyle Base at the Pickaquoy Centre in 2013. The report was noted.

6.2 Six-month unemployment statistics for Orkney

The statistics were noted and it was observed that unemployment had decreased in April in line with the usual seasonal trend, but this masked an underlying uplift in the unemployment figures for all times of year. It was suggested that partners should use short-term summer jobs to give certificated skills to young people, as part of the integration agenda.

7. Welfare Reform Working Group *(Gillian Morrison in attendance)*

7.1 Gillian Morrison presented draft terms of reference for an inter-agency officer group which would keep a watching brief on the effects of welfare reform on

DRAFT

individuals and agencies in Orkney, and report back to the Partnership. The proposal was welcomed and it was noted that the reforms were expected to have a tremendous impact, with serious implications for some client groups. It was noted that the Partnership Liaison Group had recently had an update from Hi-Scot, the credit union, which might well have a larger part to play. It was noted that the police might have a peripheral interest if the reforms caused an increase in fraud, as was anticipated, and HIE might also have a role to play. It was agreed that HIE and the police could be co-opted onto the group as and when necessary. The proposal was agreed.

8. Property Asset Management *(Gillian Morrison in attendance)*

8.1 Presenting the report, Gillian Morrison noted that the proposed work to be done by the Scottish Futures Trust was a diagnostic project on opportunities for partnership asset management. Presenting it to the Steering group at this stage provided an opportunity to gauge the views of OCPP in advance of any opportunities that might arise. There was some discussion as to whether the project might be used to scope the benefits of joint asset management with particular reference to OHAC.

8.2 It was agreed to endorse in principle the proposal that OCPP should take a partnership approach to property asset management.

9. OCPP Equality and Diversity Strategy

9.1 It was noted that the Strategy had been to the Steering Group before in draft, but following the release by the Scottish Government of specific duties on public bodies, it had now been completed. It was agreed to endorse the Strategy as OCPP policy.

10. Community Covenant

10.1 It was noted that the Community Covenant had arisen from the work already done in partnership with the armed forces through the Firm Base initiative. It was agreed in principle that OCPP should participate, and that a draft Community Covenant for Orkney should be prepared in liaison with Firm Base partners and brought back to the next meeting. **Action: AFW**

11. Police and Fire Reform – update

11.1 It was reported that the Bill was now at Stage 2 and undergoing minor amendments but would remain basically as drafted. Despite representations, there had been no progress in increasing the number of members on the single board, which remained at 11. Implementation was still scheduled for April 2013. It was not anticipated that there would be any noticeable difference to services in Orkney as experienced by the public, although one visible change would be a single national non-emergency number to contact a local police station.

DRAFT

- 11.2 It was reported that progress on the islands' Pathfinder project was not panning out as planned. Shetland was leading but in practice each area was progressing at its own pace. Orkney had established a sub-committee for joint boards, but Western Isles did not yet have a governance plan.
- 11.3 With regard to policing plans, it was noted that these would follow the template already circulated. Orkney was well placed as the concept of joint planning was already familiar locally, while the Council's area of operation and local police/fire command areas were already co-terminous. Some police regional boards were accustomed to dealing with much larger areas and were having to adapt to working with smaller local authority areas and new working relationships. There were still a few issues to be resolved locally, notably where accountability lay for plans which were "approved" but not owned by the Council, and where the Council would not be able to scrutinise local expenditure. A formal link between the new Council sub-committee and Orkney Community Planning Partnership also remained to be established.
- 11.4 The Chair, on behalf of the Steering Group, congratulated Andrew Drever on his recent election to the role of Chair of the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Board.

12. Scottish Government Review of Community Planning and SOAs

- 12.1 The Chair reported that he and John Ross Scott had attended the Leaders' meeting on the review which was held in Edinburgh on 12 June. At the meeting, the Scottish Government had confirmed that no structural change to local authority boundaries was planned for at least five years, and progress would instead be made via improvements in community planning. The review was focusing on place and a sense of joint responsibility. There was no need for CPPs to become legal entities, and they would not hold budgets but would be expected to align partner budgets. New formal requirements on partners were planned, but there would be no prescription "unless there had to be".
- 12.2 The Highlands and Islands were well represented at the meeting and contributed actively to the discussion. It was apparent that community planning was working better in the Highlands and Islands than in some larger Council areas. However, there was no prospect of funding to implement any of the more radical proposals arising from the Christie Commission, notably the Single Public Authority. It was noted that, without money or power, community planning had always been at risk of being perceived as no more than a talking shop. In general, the Government approach to reforming Community Planning seemed designed to address the problems experienced by large urban authorities in its implementation.
- 12.3 Gail Anderson reported that she had received a letter from John Swinney addressed to Third Sector Partners and discussing their role in the review. This reiterated the Scottish Government's commitment to public sector reform and "to have a framework that will secure the role of the third sector as a key partner and will fully involve the third sector in putting that commitment into action". It remained to be seen how this was to be achieved. Gail

DRAFT

emphasised that the third sector in Orkney was committed to community planning and appreciated its high level of involvement in comparison to other areas.

- 12.4 It was considered to be important for Orkney to shape the outcomes of the review to suit its own needs. One contribution to this process could be the scoping paper discussed under item 5. It was agreed that the Chair should write to the Local Government Minister, Derek Mackay, reiterating Orkney's enthusiasm to pilot greater outcome-focussed integration. **Action: SH**
- 12.4 With regard to the draft report for the Council's Policy and Resources Committee, it was agreed to compile a paragraph for inclusion on the views expressed by the Steering Group and circulate the completed report to the group. **Action: AFW**

13. Progress reports from thematic groups

- 13.1 Hannah Thomson reported that the thematic groups had been invited to report in person to the Steering Group on a rolling basis, generally when they had a major development to report on. All the groups had been asked to contribute summaries of their recent activity for the written report.
- 13.2 It was agreed that the reports were welcome, and requested that future reports should also include bulleted lists of decisions made by thematic groups at each of their meetings.
- 13.3 Albert Tait reported that the Council's Senior Management Team was looking into the whole question of thematic groups, and Council representation upon them, in general.

14. Any other business

- 14.1 Integration of Adult Health and Social Care in Scotland: Consultation
Cathie Cowan reported that the deadline for responses to this consultation had been put back to 18 September which would give more time to draft a joint submission in consultation with the Partnership. **Action: CC**
- 14.2 OCPD Risk Register update
It was reported that the Community Planning team were planning to update the OCPD Risk Register to bring back to the Steering Group in September, and invited members of the group to assist with the process. Andrew Drever and Cathie Cowan volunteered to help. **Action: AD/CC/AFW/HT**

15. Press release

- 15.1 It was agreed to feature the following items in the post-meeting press release:
- Arts Forum report and development plan
 - Employment statistics
 - Orkney Equality Strategy

DRAFT

- Joint Inspection of Services for Children
- Welfare Reform Working Group

16. Date of next meeting

- 16.1 It was agreed that a date for the next meeting would be set in September, preferably before 18th to allow discussion of the OCPP's response to the consultation on the Integration of Adult Health and Social Care in Scotland.

Action: AFW

Anna Whelan
3 July 2012