



Minutes of the meeting of the OCPP Steering Group  
held at 9.00am on 26 September 2012 in the McClure Room, NHS Orkney

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Present:	Steven Heddle John Ross Scott Jim Foubister Albert Tait Cathie Cowan Ken Grant Les Donaldson Duncan Smith Sally Inkster Hannah Thomson Anna Whelan	Convener, Orkney Islands Council ( <i>Chair</i> ) Chair, NHS Orkney Vice-Convener, Orkney Islands Council Orkney Islands Council NHS Orkney ( <i>from 9.50am</i> ) Highlands & Islands Enterprise Northern Constabulary H&I Fire and Rescue Service ( <i>by VC</i> ) Partnership Liaison Group Community Planning Officer Orkney Islands Council ( <i>Secretary</i> )
Apologies:	Gail Anderson David Clark Andrew Drever	Voluntary Action Orkney H&I Fire and Rescue Service Northern Joint Police Board and Highlands & Islands Fire Board
By invitation	Chessa Llewellyn-White Lt Col Nick Mifsud	Highlands & Islands Enterprise ( <i>for item 3</i> ) CO 71 Engineer Regiment (V) ( <i>for item 4</i> )

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*Note: Items were taken in the order 4, 3, 1, 2, thereafter as per agenda.*

**1. Draft minutes of meeting held 18 June 2012**

1.1 The minutes were approved.

**2. Matters arising**

2.1 Ambulance services (item 5.1)

Cathie Cowan reported that the Scottish Ambulance Service had visited Orkney recently and met with Liam McArthur MSP. A recent letter from the Minister for Local Government and Planning, Derek Mackay MSP, to the Convener (see item 2.4) had referenced the integration of ambulance services. However, her immediate priority was to sort out the responder service on the isles, which supported all medical professionals working on the isles including doctors, nurses and ambulance crews. This was especially important for single practitioners, which were difficult to recruit. It was noted that isles GPs were salaried staff while mainland GPs were independent businesses.

2.2 Scoping exercise on service integration (item 5.2.3)

Cathie Cowan reported that this matter was ongoing.

2.3 Scottish Government location support

It was reported that Catriona Carmichael had been unable to arrange a visit to Orkney so far, but Hannah Thomson had met in Edinburgh with another member of Orkney's location support team, Pamela Kennedy, and had arranged for Pamela and John Ireland to attend the next meeting of the Steering Group on 7 December.

2.4 Scottish Government Review of community planning and SOAs (item 12.4)

It was reported that the Convener had written to the Minister for Local Government and Planning, Derek Mackay MSP, and had received a reply supporting the service integration agenda but discouraging structural reform and the "single public authority" concept. A similar message was coming from Health. It was agreed to continue to progress Orkney's integration agenda but refrain from using SPA terminology.

2.5 Integration of Adult Health and Social Care in Scotland (item 14.1)

Cathie Cowan reported that a provisional response had been submitted to the Scottish Government consultation on 11 September and subsequently endorsed by Orkney Health & Care at their Board meeting of 13 September.

**3. The Potential Impact of Community Owned Wind Turbines on Orkney's Fragile Island Areas**

3.1 Chessa Llewellyn-White presented a report which considered the sustainability gap between the haves and have-nots in terms of community owned wind turbines. The report proposed a workshop to explore the issue.

3.2 It was noted that the landscape had changed, and public sector agencies had to consider how services should be delivered from now on. The funds available, and how they were distributed, might make a difference. There were also other ideas under consideration to promote self-sustaining islands.

3.2 It was acknowledged that there was a risk that those who were pro-active and took risks themselves would gain no advantage if income was redistributed. There was also a risk of influencing how people managed future projects. Nevertheless, a power shift was taking place and the development trusts were becoming serious players. Expectations were changing as to how isles communities should be run, and more services might be devolved. However, it was noted that support could only be offered when individual communities were ready for it, i.e. agencies had to move at their pace. In addition, the Council could not devolve services for which it was statutorily responsible.

3.3 It was agreed there was potential to enhance services but also to be divisive. Some communities were excluded through no fault of their own e.g. lack of grid connectivity, and should not be disadvantaged. Future incomes would also depend on the investment policy adopted by each Trust. Some were front-loading payback, others were taking a longer-term view. More

background information was needed for the Steering Group to take an informed view and develop a co-ordinated response.

- 3.4 It was agreed that a workshop for all stakeholders, including the development trusts, would be productive, but that a preliminary session should be held for the Steering Group initially. This would be organised by HIE, who would also collate some background information. **Action: KG**

#### **4. Orkney Community Covenant**

- 4.1 Colonel Mifsud reported that Orkney's draft Community Covenant had been commended by the MOD for the undertakings included in Section 4, which had evidently been given more thought than in most other places. While there were not many veterans or serving forces in Orkney, the partnership would still be eligible to apply to the Community Covenant Fund for any project they wished to undertake in support of the Covenant.
- 4.2 Sally Inkster reported that the Management Committee of OHAL would be considering the Covenant at its meeting later that day. John Ross Scott confirmed that the draft had been put to the NHS Board for approval, and Jim Foubister confirmed that the Council had approved the draft the day before.
- 4.3 The meeting discussed the possibility of matching the need for skilled employees in marine renewables industries with some of the 20,000 personnel likely to be leaving the armed forces in the next five years. It was agreed that the Secretary would liaise between Nick Mifsud and local contacts, and Nick would spread the word to those who might become available. Albert Tait noted that there was a wider piece of work to be done with developers looking forward to longer term needs. Ken Grant noted that Energy North would be interested (chief executive Ian Couper).
- 4.4 The Secretary reported that the Partnership Liaison Group had met the previous week and agreed to adopt the undertakings in the Community Covenant, with a view to incorporating relevant actions in their individual thematic group plans.
- 4.5 It was queried how the Army Cadets and young people in general featured in the Covenant. It was confirmed that Malcolm Macrae of the Cadets had given apologies for the ceremony, but the local Firm Base group would ensure that young people were fully involved in the Covenant.

#### **5. Integrated Service Provision (Single Public Authority)**

- 5.1 With regard to the discussion paper on housing integration considered at the June meeting, it was reported that feedback had been received from both Orkney Housing Association and the Council's Education, Leisure and Housing Committee. Both had supported the implementation of Model 1, which was to progress service integration within the existing community planning framework. The ELH Committee had additionally supported the

further exploration of Model 2, which would provide integrated services at point of delivery but without merging the service providers (OHAL and OIC).

- 5.2 It was noted that the OHAL Board had expressed reservations about previous moves towards joint working with OIC, but would not rule themselves out if the council wished to explore Model 2. Albert Tait noted that joint working should be about what was best for the public, rather than the service providers.
- 5.3 It was noted that historically Orkney had a housing list of 600-700. This had reduced a little following the recent house building programme, but not by much, due in part to a tendency towards smaller household sizes. However, it was a promising sign that the number of households with high priority need was coming down.

## **6. Police and Fire Reform – verbal update**

- 6.1 Les Donaldson reported that the new Chief Constable of the Scottish Police Authority was to be Stephen House, formerly of Strathclyde. It was not anticipated that the SPA budget would be regarded as a platform for savings, as the police in Scotland were already 24% more efficient than they were five years ago. Les was currently working up a three year plan from the national policing plan and the Single Outcome Agreement which would be presented to the Council and OCPP Steering Group later in the year.
- 6.2 Albert Tait confirmed that the Council's Policy and Resources Committee had agreed to create a Joint Board sub-committee at its meeting of 25 September. Seven elected members had been appointed to the sub-committee, these being Councillors Clouston, Crichton, Drever, Johnston, Moodie, Sinclair and Stout. The sub-committee, together with the OCPP Steering Group, would receive the plans for consideration later in the year and report them up to the Policy and Resources Committee. Albert noted that different councils in Scotland were setting up various structures to accommodate the process but nothing was set in stone and if Orkney's didn't work in practice it could always be changed.
- 6.3 Duncan Smith reported that the new Chief Fire Officer for Scotland was Alasdair Hay, formerly of Tayside. Pat Watters (former COSLA president) would be the Chair of the new FRS Board. Mr Hay had gone on record as saying that communities would see no difference in local provision of services. He was now focusing on the FRS strategic plan for Scotland in liaison with partner agencies.
- 6.4 It was noted that Councillor Andrew Drever was in Edinburgh that day attending a learning network event as part of the national Pathfinder strand on local engagement and scrutiny.

## **7. Single Outcome Agreement Annual Report 2011-12**

- 7.1 It was reported that a recent meeting of the national Community Planning Network had been advised that the Scottish Government no longer required

an annual report on the SOA for 2011-12, but nothing had been received formally on the subject. The report would still be completed as it was useful locally. John Ross Scott confirmed that he found it a meaningful document and excellent to carry around for reference.

- 7.2 It was noted that new legislation was awaited on CPPs and SOAs, following the Scottish Government review, and the next meeting of the National Group considering the matter would be on 23 October. Orkney was represented on the group by Cathie Cowan and Andrew Drever, the latter in his capacity as Chair of the Highlands & Islands Fire Board.
- 7.3 It was noted that OIC Councillors had expressed the view that the indicators in the report were not showing how well Orkney was performing in a difficult climate. It was noted that while private sector house completions (indicator 1.3) were holding up, affordable housing starts (indicator 10.1) were down and this would feed through in future years. The importance of housing in the countryside was emphasised as being critical to enabling family members to stay on the land.
- 7.4 Ken Grant indicated that HIE had further information they could contribute to the report. It was agreed to circulate an updated version and delegate authority to the Chair to sign off the final version, following which it should be submitted to the Scottish Government whether or not it was formally required.

**Action: HT**

## **8. OCPP Risk Register – updated draft**

- 8.1 It was reported that an updated version of the original 2010 OCPP Risk Register had been prepared, with provisional RAG status allocated to each risk, subject to amendment by the Steering Group. A risk management plan would be prepared once the register had been approved.
- 8.2 The Risk Register was approved, and it was agreed that a risk management plan should be submitted to the next meeting of the Steering Group.

**Action: HT**

## **9. Any other business**

- 9.1 The Chair reported that he had met with Andrew Thin, Chair of Scottish Natural Heritage, at SNH's recent reception in Kirkwall, where SNH had signed up to the SOA.
- 9.2 The Chair reported that OIC Members had recently received a presentation on the potential provision of IT services via a mutual body, and this might be appropriate for a future meeting of the Steering Group. **Action: AFW**
- 9.3 It was confirmed that the Joint Inspection of Services for Children was to commence on 12 November and would include 13 days on site between 18 November and 13 January. The programme would include feedback sessions with OCPP partners. The main thrust of the inspection would be following

through individual records. Cathie Cowan undertook to distribute further information to OCPP partners.

**Action: CC**

- 9.4 John Ross Scott requested that a report on decisions made by thematic groups should be submitted to future meetings, as per minute 13.2 of the meeting of 18 June.

**Action: HT/AFW**

**10. Press release**

- 10.1 It was agreed that the press release should feature the Community Covenant, the SOA annual report and an update on Police/FRS reform.

**Action: HT**

**11. Date of next meeting**

- 11.1 The next meeting will be at 10.00 on Friday 7 December, in the Board Room at Voluntary Action Orkney.

Anna Whelan  
16 October 2012