



Community Planning News – January 2017



Plans are being finalised for the help and support that will be offered when two young families are expected to arrive in Orkney in the coming months. They're currently living in refugee camps in the Middle East after being forced to flee their own homes because of the fighting in Syria. The move to Orkney is being arranged through the Syrian Resettlement Programme.

This programme prioritises people in greatest need, including those who need urgent medical attention, people who have survived torture and violence, and women and children at risk. People often live in refugee camps for years and many children have lived their entire lives in such precarious circumstances.



The Syrian Resettlement Programme Working Group was formed last year by The Orkney Partnership, to ensure co-ordinated and effective resettlement plans are in place. A range of support measures are being developed and will be implemented by public agencies and the voluntary sector in Orkney. You can find out more [here](#).



Alcohol statistics was a topic of discussion at our December meeting. Figures from the Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS National Services Scotland have been quoted for years to verify the case that Orkney has a uniquely poor record on alcohol misuse. Audit Scotland made reference to them when they published their report on the Partnership in 2014 and said that '... Orkney has the highest proportion of patients being discharged from hospital for whom an alcohol-related diagnosis was a factor in their treatment. Its level is more than double the national average ...' When we investigated the figures for 2012/13 (the year referred to in the report) the Principal Information Analyst at ISD explained that when figures that relate to patients rather than stays are used, the rates of admissions based on patients were not significantly different to other similar local authority areas for the period in question. However, the use of hospital stays is a recognised marker of the impact on health service as an individual patient may have more than one admission. We welcome the clarification but have to accept that being average for Scotland doesn't mean our alcohol statistics are good so there's still work to be done.



Orkney's new **Community Plan 2016-19** is now in use as a working plan. The plan doubles as Orkney's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan - publishing a LOIP is a new duty on community planning partnerships introduced in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Locality planning is another new duty for us introduced by this Act. Locality plans make sure our planning is done at a local level. We chose the non-linked isles for our first locality plan – it will supplement the LOIP and be published later in the year along with our updated LOIP.

To help us develop our locality plan and find out what the priorities are for people living in the isles we used the place standard model survey alongside a pilot participatory budgeting project called **Your Island Your Choice**.

Step 1: Survey

Step 2: Follow-up visits to Isles

Step 3:

TOP and IJB use the information to help develop their locality plans. VAO continue the YIYC project - by the end of March 2017, £36k will have been given to the isles for projects they have voted for.

Excellent, reliable connections are crucial for remote island communications and our internet connection is neither...

A recurring comment both in the survey and visits

YIYC is being run by Voluntary Action Orkney, with the support of the Partnership and Orkney Health and Care (who also have to carry out locality planning work). Because we all know how much consultation and engagement work is carried out,

we did this work together rather than doing it separately - an approach that was appreciated and we received some great feedback.

The first part of the project was the survey where a range of questions were asked. The results were analysed and collated to show where people think the issues in each island are. This was followed up by visits to the isles to let people know their results. Here we are in North Ronaldsay.



We used the meetings as an opportunity to gather more information for our locality plan and the team from Voluntary Action Orkney explained the next steps in the YIYC project. We're delighted so many people took the time to respond to the survey and came to speak to us - we found it a very valuable experience. We'll tell you more about YIYC as it progresses, there are some really interesting ideas coming forward and we can't wait to find out more!

Your Island Your Choice



If you'd like to know more about the [Place Standard](#), the [Improvement Service](#) will be holding a workshop in Orkney in the spring to help us make the best of the model and the quality of information collected. The workshop is aimed at practitioners and any staff within the partner organisations who might be interested in finding out more. We'll send out more information when it's available, but if you're interested or think this would interest someone in your organisation please get in touch and we'll make sure we keep you up to date.



In our last update we told you about this exciting new initiative.

ActiveLife was launched on 16 January. A joint initiative between Pickaquoy Centre Trust and OIC, it offers unlimited access to 12 different sports and leisure venues across Orkney. Members can tap into a host of facilities, activities and fitness classes available at the Pickaquoy Centre, OIC's seven Healthy Living Centres, Stromness Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre, KGS Sports Centre, Stromness Squash Courts and the Dounby Centre all under one card. You can take part in lots of activities covering a wide range of age groups and fitness levels - from Jungle World soft play to gyms, health suites and exercise classes. What we're particularly pleased about is that there are three affordable membership options – being more active, more often is now a more affordable new year's resolution.

To find out more visit OIC's [ActiveLife webpage](#).



If you want to know more about the Partnership, why not have a look at our [Terms of Reference](#) which have just been updated?

As well as details of our groups, roles and responsibilities you can find everything from the key principles of community planning to how to contact us.

If you would like more involvement in community planning, and making a difference to your community, or if you would like this publication in a different language or format, please contact Marie Love by email on corporateservices@orkney.gov.uk or telephone 01856 873535 extension 2153.