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Responding to a crisis

The first half of 2020 has certainly been a challenge for all of us, with many having to adapt or maintain services with limited resources.

As we look to the future it is clear that the partnership will play a key role during the recovery, which will see a shift in some of our priorities.

In this newsletter we take a look at the future with a particular focus on recovery.

Stepping up

At a recent Board meeting the partnership agreed to support the recovery efforts and the delivery groups have already begun to reprioritise their plans. The delivery groups will also begin working alongside the council's recovery groups, where relevant, including with the business community.

A new Economic Recovery Steering Group (ERSG) formed of business representatives, councillors and officers has been convened and is reporting directly to the Orkney Partnership Board. The ERSG is tasked with developing an economic recovery strategy for Orkney and determining how best to target resources to support recovery.

Green shoots

The Climate Emergency Group has been working for a while on its recommendations for the partnership and how we can collectively help Orkney to adopt, and adapt to, a greener future. In particular they have been discussing how they can contribute significantly to recovery planning through alignment to 'green recovery'. Graham Neville of Scottish Natural Heritage, who chairs the group, said "in responding to the critical, acute economic crisis... we must not hinder our ability to deal with the chronic crises of climate change and biodiversity loss."



We're all ears

Voluntary Action Orkney have been successful in securing funding for a new role which will help develop and deliver an innovative community engagement project.

This will ensure that as many people as possible, particularly those experiencing disadvantage and inequality, have a say in shaping future services as we move out of lockdown and focus on the renew agenda. In addition, the role will be able to develop programmes and mechanisms to contribute the views of the community to Locality Plans.

Rebecca Crawford has taken up this new post and we welcome her to the partnership.

New look website

www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/communityplanning

Some of you may have noticed that the website has been revamped, which should make it easier to find what you're looking for. We will be continuing to make updates and improvements over the coming months. If you have any suggestions please get in touch using the contact details at the bottom of this newsletter.

Got your period? We've got it sorted

We are working with our suppliers to pilot a new way to combat period poverty and supply people with the products they need, free of charge.



During lockdown, our usual distribution channels - schools, community centres and other facilities -

have been closed. Our free period products are still available from the Foodbank, internal ferries and those public toilets that remain open. To improve availability for everyone, we are trialling online ordering, with products posted directly to your home. Look out for publicity in the coming weeks.

Who cares? Orkney

The partnership is currently working on a number of initiatives to improve the lives and support available for children and young people in Orkney.

- The Child Poverty Action Plan aims to address the contributing factors which lead to children living in poverty. A report and plan has been accepted by the Scottish Government and a short life working group is being formed to progress this going forward.
- An improvement plan for children and young people services is being developed to ensure the best outcome and protections are in place. All partners are committed to supporting this and significant work and a number of changes have already been implemented.
- A Corporate Parenting Plan is being developed to ensure the best outcomes and meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers. As corporate parents we will publish these plans, collaborate with each other, follow directions and guidance, and provide relevant information to Scottish Ministers. To find out more about corporate parenting visit www.corporateparenting.org.uk



Hello and goodbye

In March, the Partnership bid a fond farewell to Marie Love. Marie is a familiar face to many having worked with the Sheriff Clerk, the Procurator Fiscal, the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board, the Council and finally the Orkney Partnership, where she has made her mark as Community Planning Business Manager since 2015. Marie's organisational flair and diplomatic skills kept the Partnership running like a well-oiled machine, and she leaves with our thanks and very best wishes for a well-earned retirement. Marie will be a hard act to follow but we are delighted to welcome Andrew Kemp, who has taken on the role.



Andrew joins us from the change team at the council and has a background in communications, project management and digital marketing for both the private and public sector. He said "it has been a pleasure to meet so many of the partners, even if it has only been virtually. Thank you for being so welcoming and I look forward to working with you in the future."

If you would like to contribute or have something that you would like featured in a future newsletter please contact Andrew Kemp at andrew.kemp@orkney.gov.uk