



The Orkney Partnership

Annual Report 2017/18





The Orkney Partnership



Working together for a better Orkney



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
New Chair of the Board	1
Our Mission and Values	2
Our Strategic Priorities	2
Orkney Community Plan 2018-21	4
Locality Plan 2018-2021 for the Non-linked Isles.....	4
Your Island Your Choice.....	5
Challenges	7
The Islands Deal	7
Participation Requests	7
Orkney Skills Investment Plan.....	8
Do you need a small grant?	8
Living Well whatever your age.....	9
What else have we been doing?.....	10
Syrian Resettlement Programme	11
Want to know more?	12

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INTRODUCTION

The Orkney Partnership is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2017/18.

It's been an exciting period for us as a Partnership. We've reviewed and updated our strategic priorities. We've also updated our values which are now simpler and more relevant for our current work. As before, The Orkney Partnership Board is concentrating on the larger challenges such as transport, housing, fuel poverty and connectivity while the Delivery Groups are busy working towards our new strategic priorities.

Normally the Annual Report covers a one year period, but because so much change has taken place since we published our 2016 report this document covers the period 2017 until the time when the new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) was published earlier in 2018.

NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD

The Orkney Partnership is chaired by the Council Leader. Following the Local Government Elections in May 2017 we welcomed James Stockan, our new Chair, to the Board.



'I'm delighted to be leading the Partnership and to be taking it forward with a view to delivering outcomes as soon as possible. In such unsettling economic times all public services are expected to do more in terms of providing improved services to larger groups, yet with less financial resource. Through community planning we must find imaginative solutions within the current difficult environment, notably through better joint working.

'As well as looking ahead it's important to recognise past and current successes. The two that spring to my mind are the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus, a project that will be hugely beneficial for Orkney as a whole and transformational for Stromness, and the recent work in resettling two families through the Syrian Resettlement programme. These show what we can achieve by working together. As they say, watch this space ...'

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

We've carried out a piece of work since the last report to consider whether our mission, values and strategic priorities are still right for us. This has involved workshops and special meetings of the Board. Following discussion, we agreed there was no need to change our mission, but we decided to review our values. Our existing values were a good fit when they were first agreed, but that was a few years ago and they were in need of an update. Our mission and new values are shown here:

Our shared mission:

Working together for a better **Orkney**

Our values:



Resilience
Enterprise
Equality
Fairness
Innovation
Leadership
Sustainability

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We're no strangers to partnership working in Orkney, we've been doing it for a long time and it would be illogical not to. We're working well together in many areas so, for that reason, The Orkney Partnership's priorities focus on problem areas - which will take imagination and innovation to resolve - and the challenges no single agency can solve on its own.

In 2015 when we set our strategic priorities these were: Healthy and Sustainable Communities, Positive Ageing, and A Vibrant Economic Environment. We decided to refresh these to strengthen focus and ensure clarity. Our updated priorities are: **Strong Communities, Living Well and a Vibrant Economy.**

New Delivery Groups will deliver these strategic priorities for us. At its meeting in March 2018 the Board appointed chairs for the new Delivery Groups and long term visions and medium term outcomes have now been approved for each:

Strong Communities

- **Long term vision:** Orkney's communities and individuals are fulfilling their potential.
- **Chair:** Gail Anderson, Chief Executive, VAO.
- **Medium term outcomes:**
 - A. Our communities have vibrant, innovative, sustainable and inclusive populations.
 - B. Our communities have access to the services, facilities and resources they require to enable them to lead, develop and innovate.
 - C. Partners and communities share trusting relationships and understand their own and others' accountability, responsibility and capacity.

Living Well

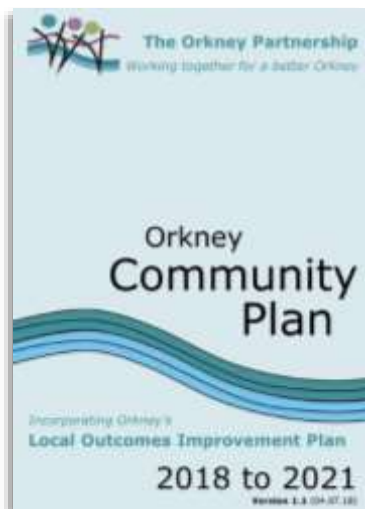
- **Long term vision:** Our people are resilient and live well.
- **Chair:** Gerry O'Brien, Chief Executive, NHS Orkney.
- **Medium term outcomes:**
 - A. People live in safe, warm, homely settings.
 - B. People have the support they need to adopt healthy lifestyles throughout their lives, and take responsibility for their wellbeing.

Vibrant Economy

- **Long term vision:** Orkney has a vibrant economic environment.
- **Chair:** Graeme Harrison, Area Manager, HIE.
- **Medium term outcomes:**
 - A. Orkney is a location of choice for people to live, work, learn, visit and invest.
 - B. Orkney is widely recognised as a location for innovation and the application of experimental thinking in an island context.
 - C. Orkney's economy offers a broad range of employment opportunities in all localities.

The Delivery Groups have started work and report progress to every Board meeting.

ORKNEY COMMUNITY PLAN 2018-21



The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a duty on community planning partnerships to prepare and publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP). This document sets out the local outcomes that The Orkney Partnership has prioritised for improvement.

Orkney's new Community Plan 2018-2021 is now in use as a working document and incorporates Orkney's LOIP. It's a three-year rolling plan and is refreshed, updated and reissued every year. It describes what we aim to achieve by working together in partnership and can be found on our pages on the [Orkney Communities](#) platform.

LOCALITY PLAN 2018-2021 FOR THE NON-LINKED ISLES

We've just published our first Locality Plan. The plan details the top priorities for action identified by isles residents themselves through the Your Island Your Choice consultation exercise, and the action we plan to take.

Locality planning is another new duty placed on us by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Every community planning partnership in Scotland must produce one or more locality plans. A locality plan identifies local areas which are relatively disadvantaged in terms of social and economic opportunities and sets out what the partnership will do to improve outcomes in the area. The plan takes account of existing work and identifies any gaps or issues that need to be addressed. It makes sure our planning is done at a local level.



It has taken time to finish the Locality Plan; the process started in winter 2016. To help us 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. Your Island Your Choice was 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 very good feedback. We were 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. It also offered island communities the opportunity to access funding to progress small projects that might not otherwise have progressed. (You can find more details of the Your Island Your Choice in the next section.)

Once all the results of the survey and the isles visits had been collated, Orkney Partnership Board held a workshop in September 2017 to consider these alongside other evidence and statistics demonstrating the disadvantages experienced by our island communities. The Plan itself was developed by a short life working group. The working group, chaired by Graeme Harrison of HIE, included representatives of partner agencies and elected members representing the isles. These are the top priorities identified by isles residents themselves and the plan sets out what we plan to do to address them.



A public consultation on the draft plan was carried out in February / March 2018. The results were considered by the Orkney Partnership Board on 19 March 2018 following which the Locality Plan was updated and finalised. The Orkney Partnership Board will consider progress around the actions at every Board meeting and we'll be providing regular feedback in our newsletters. You can read the plan [here](#).

YOUR ISLAND YOUR CHOICE

The pilot participatory budgeting project called **Your Island Your Choice** was run by Voluntary Action Orkney, with the support of the Partnership and Orkney Health and Care. It offered island communities the opportunity to access funding for small projects.

The total funding pot of £36k was made up of funding from the Scottish Government's Community Choices Fund and additional funds provided by Partners (NHS Orkney, Orkney Islands Council and Skills Development Scotland).



Projects that were funded on individual islands, voted for by the people in the community themselves, included:

- Hospital car service
- Creation of a small library
- Games club
- Road upgrade
- Memorial garden
- Equipment for a craft group
- Boat house
- Singing workshops and groups
- Improvements to a war memorial
- Establishment of youth drop-in club
- Treatment couch for a nurses' room
- Financial assistance for travel and welfare
- Project to enhance the island's profile
- iPad/tablet for residents of a care facility for older people
- Community benches and outdoor furniture
- Improvements to community halls – water installation, hi fi, lamps and games table, acoustic curtains, gym equipment

It's worth highlighting that local voters awarded funding to **34 projects** that might not otherwise have progressed. The final event in the Your Island Your Choice project took place in March 2017 when funding of £6,000 was awarded to inter-island projects:

- [Orkney Blide Trust](#)'s project on 'Building up Community Wellbeing' offering drop in sessions for Tai Chi, mindfulness, gardening and aromatherapy. Also, funding for trips to Kirkwall for people to access Orkney Blide Trust services there.
- Shared Interest, Connecting Communities – furnishing five islands with hardware and software to connect to the internet and each other.

The final event was also an opportunity to celebrate the individual island projects. The Your Island Your Choice project was described as 'A Masterclass in Co-operation' in the Scottish Community Development Centre blog. You can see the full list of the successful projects in each island [here](#). The blog about the final event is [here](#) along with some video clips. Here is just some of the feedback we received.

"As a very small community this sort of funding process allows us to put money where it is really needed - for us"

"Unusual to get this kind of support and opportunity"

"Although the fund was quite small it is a significant amount for a small community and the process of involvement to decide how it should be used is good for the whole community"

"Good opportunity to support little things that make a big difference"

"Nice to have a fund that accepts ideas from folk rather than just committees as it lets different ideas emerge"

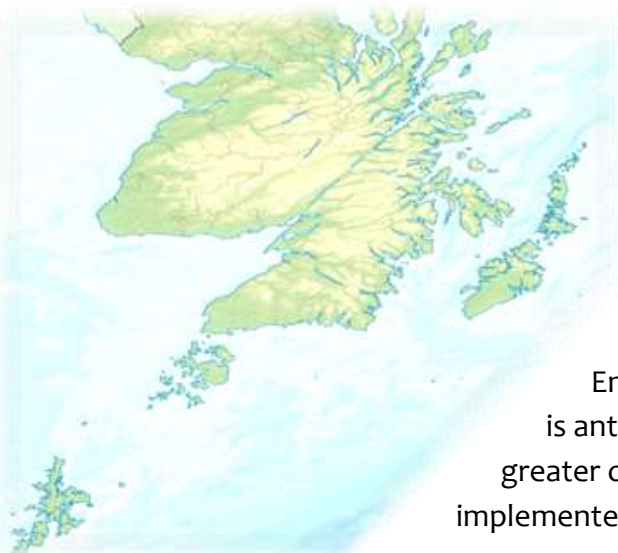
"Thank you for funding our project"

CHALLENGES

Some problems arise in areas where challenges exist for all partner agencies, both individually and collectively. Cross-cutting issues locally are transport, housing, connectivity and fuel poverty. These cross-cutting issues have clear workstreams, led by individual agencies. The Board receives regular updates on these issues to ensure that relevant aspects are being addressed by partner organisations.

THE ISLANDS DEAL

Currently the main initiative addressing these cross-cutting challenges is the Islands Deal. This is a joint proposal from the three islands councils (Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles) to the Scottish and UK Governments. It is modelled on the lines of a City or Regional Deal but with elements unique to the islands. The map shows the view from the islands – a view you’re unlikely to have seen before, but the one we take during our Islands Deal work. The Deal is focused on improving socio-economic outcomes for people who live and work on the three island groups. The programme targets the major challenges common to all the islands, including digital connectivity, transport, housing and fuel poverty, along with opportunities in energy development, tourism, enterprise and workforce development. Work is continuing to develop more detail around a programme of innovative development projects in each area.



The Orkney Partnership Board is fully committed to the Islands Deal and its target outcomes, along with partner Boards in Shetland and the Western Isles. The Islands Deal has been developed in partnership with key community planning partners, notably Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland. It is anticipated that all partners will be involved to a greater or lesser degree as the Deal is agreed and implemented.

PARTICIPATION REQUESTS

We wanted to take this opportunity to make sure you know about participation requests. The [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) allows some community bodies to make requests to public service authorities to participate in ‘outcome improvement

processes'. The intention is to give a new way for communities to start formal dialogue with public service authorities about issues that are important to them, although they're not intended to replace good quality existing community engagement or participation processes. The request can involve one or more community planning partners. Whether you're a partner or a community body, please do get in touch if you want more information.

ORKNEY SKILLS INVESTMENT PLAN

At our meeting in March 2017 the Board endorsed Orkney Islands Skills Investment Plan. The Vibrant Economy Delivery Group has oversight of the plan which was commissioned by Skills Development Scotland. It supports the Orkney Offer and Developing the Young Workforce initiatives and is a great demonstration of how Skills Development Scotland is committed to island-proofing their services. Thanks to the plan, we now have a strong evidence base on the demand for skills which will help ensure the right blend of academic and vocational opportunities are developed. The themes and actions are being incorporated into a newly formed multi-agency Strategic Employability and Skills Group for Orkney. The group is in the process of developing an Employability and Skills Strategy which will draw together education, skills and enterprise plans / activities into a cohesive document. The group will then provide the leadership and direction to ensure that we are working together to provide the skills and education offer from early years to those approaching retirement.

DO YOU NEED A SMALL GRANT?

If so, the **Community Development and Capacity Building Fund** might be just what you're looking for. Read on to find out if you're eligible.

In 2014 the Scottish Government made additional resources available to local health and social care partnerships to support the delivery of improved health and social care outcomes, with a focus on prevention and strengthening our approach to tackling inequalities. Small grants from this fund are offered to communities / community groups in association with the Orkney Partnership. Previously these were offered through the Partnership's Positive Ageing Delivery Group but following the change in priorities the grants will still be offered, but through the Living Well Delivery Group. The funding is available to support the establishment and/or development of new and innovative activities in local communities that will help to keep people with long term health conditions, including older people, active and socially engaged. If your group applies you'll be asked to explain how you will sustain the activity following the period of 'pilot' funding and it's important you ensure that there are measurable outcomes at the end of the funding period.

Any group that is interested should contact Gail gail.anderson@vaorkney.org.uk or Meghan meghan.mcewen@vaorkney.org.uk at Voluntary Action Orkney.






The latest project was in **North Ronaldsay** where the grant ‘topped up’ their Your Island Your Choice award to enable them to create a healthy living centre to provide exercise opportunities, particularly for older people with long-term conditions, and create a hub for those who are socially isolated and vulnerable. So far 20 people have had an induction in its use and it’s also being used to maintain fitness by North Ronaldsay’s retained firefighters.



LIVING WELL WHATEVER YOUR AGE

Gail Anderson hosted a live online discussion on behalf of the Partnership in February 2018. The aim of the Facebook chat was to provide an opportunity for people to tell us what getting older in Orkney is like. It also allowed us to highlight a range of activities older people can participate in. Information, including film clips, was shown on the website in the days leading up to the chat and the number of people who viewed these ranged from 1847 to 5385 - the Men’s Shed proving to be of particular interest. During the evening itself views ranged from 645 to 3572. While there were fewer comments during the live event than anticipated, we were really pleased to see that discussions took place throughout the evening and the days that followed. We asked a few questions, for example what do you think of this road sign?



-  It just says there could be people around who can't move so quickly...
-  Hate it!
-  ... I keep an extra lookout
-  Outdated and stereotypical
-  Immediate visual effect needed - but alternative image?

The discussion that stimulated most debate was one on whether older people felt pressure to retire to make way for younger people. Comments highlighted that older

people have valuable experience and it would be a shame to lose that. Contributors added that if you're well and want to work there's nothing wrong with that, but expressed concern for people who don't want to continue working or are experiencing ill health but have no option. The majority of comments reflected the view that it is not always a question of choice, many people would like to retire but can't afford it, particularly given the rising state pension age.

It was useful for us to see your concerns and to note the sorts of activities that people are interested in. We hope it also gave you some food for thought.

WHAT ELSE HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Plans to develop the **Orkney Research and Innovation Campus** in Stromness are rapidly moving forward now. In March 2017 we were delighted to hear that the Scottish Government were contributing £500k from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund. Partners had previously agreed a funding package totalling £6.65M so the overall funding available for the development is over £7M. The joint venture, owned and operated by an OIC / HIE joint partnership, will support the growth of existing research and innovation activity and the expansion of companies in Orkney's world-leading marine renewables, energy and low carbon sector. Work is ongoing to develop collaborative research opportunities for the three universities who want to be part of the initiative and the wider *Orkney as a living laboratory* concept. Discussions with senior representatives from Heriot-Watt University, Robert Gordon University and the University of the Highlands and Islands have led to a number of joint research opportunities being developed which will hopefully enable the universities to broaden the academic footprint, both within the new Campus and elsewhere throughout Orkney.



Confidence to Cook sessions have really taken off. The two day course looks at practical training cooking skills as well as options for cooking with food on a low budget or food provided by the Foodbank. £1,000 from the NHS Orkney Endowment Bid was awarded to support participants who face financial barriers to attend community cooking sessions. Training the trainer sessions have been delivered to allow it to be rolled out further.

We've also delivered a toolkit re **diet / nutrition and physical activity in later life**. This has been delivered to community associations and lunch clubs.

Increasing **tourist and visitor numbers** is something we're all aware of. We've been in dialogue with industry representatives and senior management from Historic Environment Scotland around the need for a more strategic approach to be taken around the management of Orkney's World Heritage Site and other key cultural assets in light of increasing numbers.

This is a key area of future work with significant strands relating to digital innovation.

We've been carrying out a lot of work around **Talent Attraction**. We want to market the attractiveness of Orkney as a career destination and make better use of digital channels to reach target audiences. We've looked at growing competition for skills, the key role of universities and research activity, and links between further education and the employment needs of key sectors. We've identified opportunities for follow-up activity where we can work together.

SYRIAN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

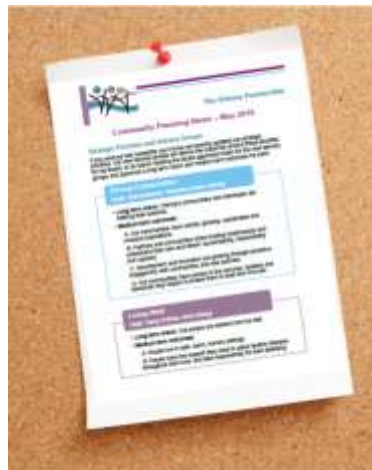
Last, but certainly not least, our involvement in the Syrian Resettlement Programme resulted in two Syrian families coming to Orkney in March 2017 to become part of our community. (You can find out more about the Syrian Resettlement Programme [here](#).)

A range of support measures was developed for implementation by public agencies and the voluntary sector in Orkney, all focused on supporting positive outcomes.

This is not one of the priorities contained in the LOIP, assisting with a humanitarian crisis can't be planned for, but we considered it a privilege to be able to help. It was a huge step for the families to move to a new home that is so different to their own, but it helps that this is such a welcoming community. We've had an enormous amount of help from organisations, businesses and individuals in our local community, both in the planning stages and since arrival. This is an excellent example of partnership working as, without the commitment of the partners and the community, Orkney would not have been able to participate in the Programme.

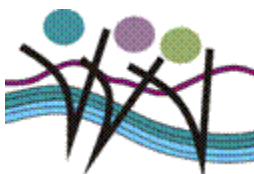
WANT TO KNOW MORE?

We give regular updates on what we're doing. We want anyone who's interested to be able to find out more. For that reason, we publish newsletters regularly so that anyone who wants to can read what we've been doing.



All of this information and more can be found on our web pages on the Orkney Communities platform: www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/

If you can't find what you're looking for there, or if you want more information, please do get in touch as we'd love to hear from you. Contact Marie Love by email on corporateservices@orkney.gov.uk or telephone 01856 873535 extension 2153.



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