

Community Conference

28th October 2011

County Buildings, Ayr

REPORT



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1. Introduction

Our fourth Community Conference took place on Friday 28th October 2011 and was attended by 170 people.

The Chair of the Community Planning Partnership Board, and Leader of the Council, Councillor Bill McIntosh, opened the event. He informed the audience that delegates at the previous community conference had quite clearly communicated to the Partnership that too much time had been spent talking at them and not enough time spent listening and that more time should therefore be allocated to let people express their views, ask questions and have discussions about the topics that were important to them. He continued that this year's programme had been designed to take these comments on board with plenty of time for discussion, networking and listening to view and opinions.

Cllr McIntosh referred to the need for continuing public sector budget cuts and the work being undertaken to protect frontline services and find new ways of working in partnership, especially to plan services which will be needed in 10, 20 or even 30 years time, particularly in relation to services for older people. He talked about Isa Anderson, a lady of 100 years old, who had launched the Reshaping Care conference the previous week.

The Chair also spoke about the focus on the very young in our community and the work underway to transfer resources to support children and their families in their very early years in order to try to break the cycle of deprivation and improve their life chances.

The audience was informed of other important issues being dealt with by the Partnership such as the new Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy which is mapping out a way forward for a preventative approach and a 'Road to Recovery' for those with substance misuse issues. Tackling the causes of climate change is also a key issue and he told the audience that the Partnership has jointly signed a Partnership Climate Change Declaration to work together to reduce our carbon footprint in South Ayrshire.

Cllr McIntosh thanked the community representatives on the Board, Joe Lafferty and David Kiltie and also Jodie McCoy who represents our young people, for their continued support. He finished by introducing our partners and young facilitators to the audience and wished everyone a successful day.

2. Theme Group Sessions - '*Over to You*'

Each of the six Community Planning Theme Group ran two sessions. We called them '***Over to You***' because we wanted those attending the sessions to choose the topics they wished specifically to discuss and the questions they wished to ask. The sessions were facilitated by young people from schools across South Ayrshire who introduced the Lead officers attending from each Theme Group and then chaired the ensuing discussions. An overview of points raised in each of the sessions follows.

Overview of the Theme Group Sessions

1. *Economic Development Partnership*

It was stated that there is a need to give young people a reason to stay and work in the area and to attract others in and a question asked in relation developments with Business Gateway? Mark Hastings, the Council's Enterprise Manager, indicated certain possible alterations in funding distribution.

Stuart Lindsay of Ailsa Horizons asked for more community influence in how and where monies are allocated and Les Anderson (S. Ayrshire Seniors Forum) pointed out the advantage of older people influencing and helping in education. She also sought advice on how they might go about finding a suitable employee when their office is set up. Linda Templeton will point them in the right direction when the time comes.

The effects of the loss of Shopmobility in the town centre were noted and the fact that less mobile and elderly people using the shops less. The point was also raised that the town needs to promote itself more effectively to attract businesses. Questions were raised as to why the town is not advertising itself better and what the council is doing to ensure that Ayrshire is better connected, notably in relation to the volume of traffic on the A77 and potential customer opportunities missed due to lack of signage and the difficulties experienced in gaining permission for signage.

There was discussion in relation to the decrease in Ryanair services to London and if the council could have any influence in that. Points were also raised in relation to rail transportation and the Ballantrae to Ayr connection which no longer stops in Girvan. There is a need to remember that there are areas of South Ayrshire beyond the actual town of Ayr.

Issues were raised about outlying area bus service cuts and the difficulties in reaching social and educational opportunities because of limited bus schedules. An example was given of Ayr College courses being withdrawn from the Carrick Buildings and the difficulty of accessing these elsewhere. A question was asked about Stagecoach and the council's approach to the under-utilisation of assets. A further question asked as to why the council is not letting out its properties or marketing them more effectively and a statement was made about 'some rent being better than none' for empty premises. The issue of lack of Public convenience facilities due to closures was raised and a point made that tourism is a major asset and as such public toilets should not only be open but also be decent.

In relation to points raised about the High Street and what can be done to improve its appearance it was also asked if the council has any premises to offer at lower rates for new businesses? This linked to a discussion about what pro-active approaches are in place for dealing with empty shopfronts and could they be made available for social enterprises? The group also asked if empty shops receive a rate reduction and it was suggested that a clause could be inserted into any lease stating that it must be kept in decent presentation even when unoccupied? It was also asked if an economic charitable group could take on empty shops and could a Partnership Agreement be developed in relation to this?

There was some debate in relation to rural broadband access and what the council's intentions are in relation to this issue. A question was asked if wind farms could be linked to telecom companies to put antennae there to ensure better connections and could the council place conditions on agreements with suppliers in rural areas.

It was proposed that the Voluntary Sector should be invited to take a greater part in table discussions on tourism as it plays a major part in attracting people to South Ayrshire.

2. Community Health Partnership - Children's Services

Ann Marriot from LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender) Scotland asked the group to support the National Youth Council which has 200 young people from all over Scotland as members and has identified 2 key issues - tackling homophobic bullying within schools and Community Safety. Fiona McQueen, Director of Nursing with NHS Ayrshire & Arran stated she would be happy to be involved in this important area. It was agreed that the impact of homophobia is wide ranging and that addressing it should start at the pre five stage. There is currently no LGBT group in South Ayrshire but young people are currently being contacted.

A question was asked about the current teenage pregnancy and breast feeding rates in South Ayrshire and whether or not they had increased or decreased? Fiona McQueen replied that the teenage pregnancy rate had gone up and that breast feeding rates had remained consistently low. To try to increase rates the Council has corporately signed up to "Breast Feed Happily Here" along with a number of partner organisations. Teenage pregnancy rates are linked to social issues and how the council in partnership with NHS Ayrshire & Arran tackle breastfeeding rates is outlined in our current Single Outcome Agreement and Early Years Framework documents.

The group was informed that a Family Partnership model, successful in the USA, comprises intensive work with teenage mums until the child is 2 years old. Currently the pilot areas in Scotland are NHS Lothian and NHS Tayside with work ongoing within the Scottish Government to support the recent manifesto commitment to rollout this programme across Scotland. Early research shows that children do better at school and have better outcomes from an early age.

Baby immunisation rates are improving and the NHS has considered payment for mothers, as happens in France. Edie Scobie from Stepping Stones for Families in Girvan referred to the funding received from Inspiring Scotland to expand early years support work in Girvan. This includes encouraging and supporting breast feeding, working with parents before birth and supporting them.

S6 facilitators from Prestwick Academy gave details of the Peer Alcohol Project that they are involved in within the school.

The MaidaSAFE Foundation works with schools and uses the Fab Lab digital Fabrication Laboratory to develop ideas around fashion, art, toys etc and turn clever ideas into mini enterprises.

A question was asked as to whether or not any actions from the 'Joining the Dots' report by Professor Susan Deacon are being taken forward? Professor Deacon notes the wealth of

research, evidence and good practice that already exists, and which should be connected up, in short 'to join the dots'. The group was informed that this was an academic report and that there was no requirement for the Local Authority to respond however it should be noted that the Government is giving consideration to the findings.

There was discussion around childhood obesity and the fact that Ruth Campbell (Consultant Dietician) is leading on an Obesity Strategy for Ayrshire and Arran. It is recognised that this is a national problem which should be tackled at a local level and that there are issues in relation to manufacturing and packaging. The group discussed the importance of educating parents and the fact that lack of exercise is a problem for both parents and children. It was suggested that local parks should be improved for parents and children to use and that breakfast clubs should be available in all schools in South Ayrshire to ensure that all children receive healthy food in the morning. There is also a licensing issue with snack vans outside schools and the group was informed that there is currently a test case going through the courts in Glasgow in relation to this. The group then discussed early intervention as most funding goes to the "higher" end of services ie youth justice and children in care, but it was pointed out that we also have services delivered by Children First and Stepping Stones which are early intervention projects.

The group agreed that "more joined up working" and opportunities for young people to move into employment are required. A question was raised as to how the Council is ensuring that the Scottish Government More Choices More Chances Policy is put into practice to ensure young people get "real" jobs? Brian Cameron from Skills Development Scotland stated that all the negative publicity has an impact on young people's aspirations but that there are also positive things happening. Comments were made that money needs to be invested in parenting programmes in order to transfer skills to parents who can then transfer them to their children.

A question was asked as to whether teenage pregnancy and alcohol abuse are connected and yes there is anecdotal evidence to suggest this is the case. The young facilitators informed the group of the Peer Alcohol Project where S6 peer Educators are delivering Alcohol Awareness sessions to S1 pupil in most secondary schools in South Ayrshire. Peer Education is the most effective method to get messages across to young people

Councillor Campbell asked how we resolve issues of teenage pregnancy, obesity and alcoholism as they start with the parents and was informed that a range of activities and groups for parents and children are already in place in South Ayrshire ie Parent and Child Together Groups (PACT), consultations in primary and nursery schools and various pilot projects.

3. *Community Health Partnership – Adult Services*

Phil White gave an overview of the new Change Fund which focuses on re-enablement, where the NHS, community care & housing services and VASA are working together to implement new services. Sub groups have also been formed with partners including adult mental health, learning disability, housing, health improvement group. It was explained that the Change Fund is enabling a new approach which considers older people to be assets for example, due to an ageing population, many older people are carers for family members including childminding for grandchildren. Telecare services are also being piloted in Girvan

A general point made was that this fund needs better co-ordination and the response was that a review was conducted which showed that the wardens service is highly valued. The wardens are now more involved and have been asked where the gaps are in relation to care provision. With the re-shaping of care, service hubs have been developed where key officers and support can be accessed through a single point of contact.

An issue was raised in relation to the lack of co-ordination of systems for different services and the point made that we are all working in different ways with different systems. It has been recognised that a more holistic approach needs to be adopted and an example given is that sheltered housing is currently mainly allocated based on physical need, when housing needs are assessed, and that a move should be made towards assessing all needs including people's mental health.

A member of a stroke support group drew the group's attention to the fact that they rely on the Red Cross for support for people with mobility problems and that they require to pay for their own transport. The point was made that NHS staff should be going out to where people are in the community and not expect them to go to clinics etc.

It was acknowledged that transport is an issue and it was mentioned that the council and VASA are leading on community transport. The group was informed of a project in Wigtownshire which has 16 buses is self sustaining - older people use their bus pass and the equivalent costs can be reclaimed. It was suggested that the Red Cross could provide drivers and are part of the West of Scotland Transport forum.

A question was asked as to where services we provide fit with the needs of the public as it appears that responses are institutional. The people on the ground feel marginalised and it seems that the NHS is about sickness, not about health. It was pointed out that many people have mental health issues but if you miss 3 appointments you are struck off. As many people are leading very chaotic lives and can't cope with appointments/time keeping, it was suggested that health workers should go out to where the people are. It has been difficult to get community psychiatry services to come out into the community.

The group was informed that the NHS is trying to work with local people and is, for example, engaging with the Carers centres. Health professionals are also starting to recognise community development and asset based approaches to health improvement, ie using the skills that exist in communities

A further point made was that services still don't engage with front line staff who reported that they are never consulted on how services should be designed, for example, people who are self harming have very complex needs and a process of consulting is needed.

Housing and homeless forums also require an analysis of need and should be restructured based on identified need. It was suggested that procurement processes are fine for painting buildings etc but not for dealing with people- packaging people into procurement processes is morally wrong. The Public Partnership Forum is seen as a good approach and members on the core group have a way of influencing services.

A number of issues were also raised in the second session. General comments made were that some people will always require residential care and that it is not always in the best interests of the elderly to remain living at home. Caring for mental health patients in the community can also be very expensive. It was agreed that money needs to be released to help support people's independence but that there will always be a need for hospitals and care homes.

The group considered the fact that the majority of carers are older people and that discussions should take place with Ayr College to look at more positive ways of working with the elderly.

The group discussed the fact that the sector needs to grow and that there are major health issues to deal with. It's not always about the service and that sometimes it's about our approach to each other. It was also suggested that in some cases it should be families providing care and not the government. There is also a need to consider targeting young people as the level of need for older generations in the future is not yet known and we need to consider the problem at a young age.

Girvan Community Garden was given as an example of a project that encourages good healthy eating and works with groups with special needs. It was asked if South Ayrshire CPP could help the project to become more integrated?

It was explained that previously resources were ring fenced but that these have been cut and that services now have to meet objectives and outcomes. The council relies on the voluntary sector and needs to continue to support them and Community Development Workers are there to support groups.

As a question was asked as to why homeless people with behavioural difficulties are being housed next door to older people?

There are a number of reasons for this including a lack of supply of houses and lack of availability of land to build affordable housing. Homeless people tend to have complex needs but legislation is in place which obliges the council to house those with the most extensive needs. There is a need to let properties sensitively and to consider different forms of accommodation with a recognition that permanent tenancies are not always the best solution and that people sometimes need more supportive tenancies. A move away from 'one size fits all' is required and the fact that often 16 year olds are not ready to take on a tenancy which can have a knock on effect on other services, causing more resource issues.

There was further discussion about older people being supported to live in their own homes. It was pointed out that for some people this is the best option but that although some older people living at home receive 4 care visits a day (possibly for an hour each time) this still leaves them on their own for up to 20 hours. Many require and appropriate quality of care but in a number of homes, older people can be put to bed as early as 7pm. There was some disagreement with the private sector being involved in care homes.

There is presently a need to adhere to government policy and to move towards a sustainable model of care. There are issues about what people actually want as well as financial issues but we are currently moving away from intensive care models.

The group also commented that there are not enough residential care homes so there is a need to build new infrastructure. It was suggested that the Change Fund has to include the private sector as per national policy and we should be adhering to national guidelines. It was also suggested that time should not be wasted trying to change something we can't change and that older people don't always want meals on wheels, they prefer to socialise.

It was proposed that the 'personalisation' agenda would address what the individual needs and that support should be self directing, giving individuals ownership of what they want. It was suggested that the Council needs to support groups which provide services for the elderly such as the Ballantrae Development Group which is looking to establish a healthier village for the future. This group has now connected with the Mirrored Theme Groups and has talked to the NHS about issues relating to care priorities. A question was asked as to how the group could connect to the Council.

The response was that the Mirrored Theme Groups are a good way of communicating with the council as a representative from each Mirrored Group will attend the equivalent CPP Theme Group.

It would be important to quantify what is in place and what is needed and develop a local directory so people can self refer. Also make use of Community Events to network effectively.

The over 60's befriending group in Girvan is no longer funded and this was a well used service. The group was informed that a telephone befriending service is being developed.

A final comment made was that adults with special needs are being taken out of community care and given their own house but that they are, in fact, much happier in community care.

4. *Alcohol & Drugs Partnership*

The group was given a brief outline of the work of ADP, emphasising its partnership role and the recent wide consultation resulting in a new strategy. The work of the Lighthouse Foundation with families and children affected by alcohol issues was also explained.

It was suggested that the Lighthouse Foundation should consider linking with the "Licensing Forum" and a question was raised in relation to the 3 Ayrshire's working together and recognising that cross boundary work is essential. The group was informed that North and South Ayrshire are currently working together to establish a baseline of the numbers of children affected by substance misuse.

There was discussion around "Culture Change" and it was agreed that this was essential and a big challenge. There were mixed opinions as to whether "minimum pricing" would impact on culture change and it was agreed that attitudinal changes have to be directed towards children and Young People.

There were some views that Alcohol abuse is considered as a “rite of passage” for some young people and that a number of parents actually buy alcohol for their children as this ensures parental control in some circumstances.

Government initiatives such as the Smoking Ban and Drink Driving legislation have led to improvements and this gives encouragement that change is possible. It was noted that the new strategy demonstrates a shift from treatment only services to a much wider remit focusing on a reduction in alcohol consumption across all members of communities. There was agreement that targeting the purchase of alcohol for and by young people must be seen to be effective. The police have been supportive in this area and some early progress has been made.

The audience agreed that alcohol advertising should be banned. A number of questions were directed to the young facilitators to garner the views of young people, one of which was “What attracts you to Alcohol?” One factor was how very easy it is to access alcohol. It was suggested that invisible ink on bottles locating the source of alcohol would be helpful. There was agreement that education of over 18’s who buy alcohol for the underage should be essential.

When asked about drugs, the facilitators agreed this was not seen as an attractive option for most young people. Alcohol abuse is a much bigger issue than e.g. cannabis use and alcohol is linked to crime and domestic abuse. There was further discussion about the role of the young people as Peer Mentors delivering Alcohol Awareness to S1 students.

A question was raised as to how the safety of young people is assured when drinking. Strathclyde Police reassured the audience that the alcohol issue had a profile at the highest level and resources were constantly being targeted.

It was agreed that the availability and ‘glamorisation’ of alcohol, along with advertising are big factors influencing young people who ‘drink to get drunk’. The group was informed that Girvan Youth Trust works with young people aged 12 – 18 years and that there is a good uptake of youth activities which has still to impact on anti social behaviour. It was felt that bottles and colours are targeted towards young people – females in particular. This project works at early intervention and has long term plans to make a difference but that funding and council support is required.

Discussion took place in relation to the parental role and how parental expectations and responsibilities impact on young people and drinking. It was pointed out that many communities do not have an alcohol free cafe for young people so no alternative exists. It was also stated that the normalisation of alcohol abuse is a key factor and in addition it was noted that alcohol is a crucial part of Scotland’s Economy and the Scottish Culture is proud of linking with Alcohol

The focus of the second discussion was mainly on drugs.

Darren Fullerton gave a brief overview of the NHS role in managing treatment and services for Alcohol/Drug users as well as supporting related mental health issues in addiction. He referred to Detox and alternative medication services and emphasised the important links with Social Work & Voluntary Sector.

The Lighthouse Foundation supports families in Ayrshire with several services including

Family Support, Children's Therapy, Secondary School Education Project and a Medication Project (Supporting those in recovery)

A question was raised in relation to neighbourhood support as there has been an increase in theft in some localities. The Lighthouse Foundation is supporting and focusing on children and families in order to provide a type of neighbourhood support and stated that families can also be victims.

There are also Housing support services in place and it was noted that "users" may have tenancy problems which can be addressed via this agency and that this has a positive impact on the communities. The group was informed that some recent work has been piloted to identify strengths and assets within local communities and to build on these as an alternative to focusing on negatives.

Some discussion followed in relation to methadone. It was recognised that people are prescribed methadone which is dispensed via chemists and that the public may feel intimidated going into a chemists shop. A discussion followed with mixed opinion as to whether the public felt intimidated or not. The group was informed that if people were not on a methadone programme but still using heroin, that this would have an even bigger impact on communities.

Young Carers were recognised as being a major issue for "user" families and it was stated that children within these families may not engage fully in education. There are known cases of grandparents bringing up children.

Some discussion took place around treatment services e.g. substitute prescription and evidence based work has shown this to be most effective when other support is available e.g. employment training. There was discussion around the issue of users being "demonised" and this was not seen to be helpful to communities.

A question was raised in relation to work in prisons with people who have alcohol & drug issues . It was recognised that support was essential when they leave prison and the group was informed that the NHS has taken on a role to improve the links between treatment started in prison and ongoing support on returning to the community. The Naloxone Programme has been widely acknowledged as effective in buying time for overdose patients. It was noted that weekend closure of services presented problems for prisoners being released on a Friday but that packages of support are in place and some agencies do provide services over weekends.

A question was raised as to what society could do to address this problem. It was suggested that communities working together to include addicts and provide support to families would be seen to be helpful as an alternative to the marginalisation of families. It was agreed that there should be a greater community focus on looked after children and was recognised that Alcohol Misuse was more pervasive and had a bigger impact on families and communities.

A final question was raised about what would help in schools and the young facilitators spoke again about the positive aspects of the Peer Education project.

5. Sustainability Partnership

Ayrshire Housing suggested that they would like to be more involved in the Community Partnership process as they are key players in ensuring the sustainability of rural areas. Ayr North Community Forum stated that meeting every six months is not frequent enough to be of value.

Lorna Jarvie, Sustainability Policy Officer, answered that this is where the mirrored theme groups, which have recently been established, will be invaluable. Each group comprises between 10 and 12 voluntary and community sector groups.

Some discussion took place about the additional smaller wind farm areas in the rural areas being created. Cllr Convery stated that the Scottish Government has the aspiration of the country using 50% of renewable energy by 2020. The situation is that South Ayrshire Council's most rural areas are also the areas of Scotland which have an "average" or constant wind flow. Members of the workshop however, expressed concern that the increasing number of wind farms will have a detrimental impact on the tourist industry.

Cllr Convery stated that the growth of wind farms may also have to be measured against aspirations of Unesco's "Dark Skies" area within the Galloway basin.

One member of the workshop was of the opinion that larger wind farms are better than a number of smaller ones for the environment. The question was also asked if wind farms are as efficient in the creation of energy as made out. It was pointed out by Cllr Convery that the Forestry Commission is also identifying areas where they could have wind-farms with little impact on rural populated areas. He added that there are proposals for larger individual turbines, up to 120 - 125m but that this creates new problems regarding the huge amount of concrete which would be required for their bases.

The question was asked if there were any long term plans for increasing the use of solar energy rather than the emphasis being on wind-farms. Anne McGonigle of The Energy Agency informed the Group of the Renewable Loans Scheme for insulation. For Community Group led projects there is the Climate Challenge Fund. There is also the Ayrshire Renewables Fund which could be used for example to fund feasibility studies. One member of the workshop suggested that a grant of £75,000 would be better than the current £2,000a and another asked if a group of people in the same street could become a constituted group in order to access funding.

A representative of the Girvan Community Garden asked if there was any help from the Council for the development of Green Spaces. A workshop leader explained that the Council had held a recent survey to inform the Council's Strategy for Green Spaces. To date there had been about 500 responses and it was hoped that the Strategy would be approved by the Council before the end of the year with results should be posted on the website. Thereafter there would be consultations with groups having the opportunity to make further comment.

It was pointed out by a representative of Newton Community Council that not everyone has access to the web and that perhaps formal notification could be given to Community Councils when surveys are being conducted and that adequate notice should be given. It was also raised

from the floor that if green spaces were not properly used there was a danger that they could be put to other uses, such as housing.

The recent survey on open spaces showed a very low desire for spaces dedicated to sporting activities. It was suggested that perhaps not many young people had taken part or known about the survey. Perhaps other ways of reaching out to them could be tried, for example via the Active School Co-coordinators, should be considered.

There were also some issues raised regarding the use of open spaces by travelling people. A question was asked as to about whether it would be beneficial to South Ayrshire to have more trees planted. A representative from the council informed the workshop that a pan Ayrshire woodland Strategy was due to be rolled out. The Council also has to have due regard to areas of peat land.

A spokesperson from Girvan Community Garden Unit suggested that the Council would have to make a more concerted effort to contact young people if they wished to include their opinions. On a different tack they pointed out that there was always scope for alternative usage of spare land e.g. allotments. Cllr Convery mentioned that a Central Scotland Green Network now exists to co-ordinate the work of such areas.

A couple of other points were made at this juncture; firstly the Ayrshire Football League could be usefully included in any survey of green spaces and secondly, there should also be a page established on the Council website dedicated to opinion surveys.

A question was then raised regarding what is being done about sustainable transport? It could be quite challenging in rural areas where there are significant gaps. A spokesman from the Council stated that there is a Rural Transport Network Group considering these issues.

A number of concerns were also raised about the future of the Ayr to Stranraer railway line with the transfer of the ferry terminal to Cairnryan. A member of the workshop informed the group of the existence of the remains of a former branch line to Cairnryan. The development of the port at Cairnryan could be a golden opportunity to develop tourism in South Ayrshire.

A number of other points were made ranging from the precedent of private investment building a new railway station e.g. Prestwick Airport. The value in electrifying the line down to Stranraer was also discussed.

Discussion then moved on to new arrangements for wheelie bin collections. Councillor Convery gave a full and detailed description of the new arrangements for the collection of kerbside refuse which then led to some discussion around the theme of litter and dirty streets. Some people felt that Ayr town Centre is one of the dirtiest in Britain and that there are a lot of problems caused by seagulls and perhaps better bins could be used.

The question was raised as to how people could take more ownership of the problem of litter in the streets. Two suggestions put forward from the Group were - more on-the-spot fines and more litter wardens. A spokesman from the Council pointed out that independent assessment of the Council's performance in relation to street cleanliness is actually very good. A representative from

the workshop suggested that perhaps street cleaning could be better planned. For example the streets should be swept after bins are emptied and not the other way round as at present and perhaps even during the night should be considered. A spokesman from the Council informed the workshop that there are constraints around Council workers' overtime costs.

A further suggestion was that shopkeepers should be encouraged to wash and keep tidy areas around their own shop frontage and one of the group facilitators informed the group of the successful litter picking campaign around Marr College led by their Campus Cop.

Returning to the topic of renewable energy, the question was asked about the support the government gives to community groups such as schools and Community Centres to develop renewable energy or for energy conservation projects. A spokesperson answered that assistance is mainly targeted towards householders to install cavity wall and loft insulation, however it was hoped that in the near future efforts will be directed towards solid wall insulation schemes.

A final suggestion was that Community groups should be able to work together to access funding.

6. Community Safety Partnership

A question was asked as to why is there no activities being offered which is specific to adults. There are in fact several initiatives including fire safety, intergenerational work, criminal justice projects and the Police will attend calls from the elderly and can link with other partners if safety issues related to older people are noted.

A question was asked as to how a 30% reduction in youth crime had been achieved – this has been through successful joint working and additional diversionary activities and initiatives such as Campus Cops in schools. Clubs such as Troon Petanque Club were particularly willing to support young people. Activities are publicised via posters, TV's in schools, local workers, word of mouth and social media

A member of the group asked why the number of Community Safety Officers had been reduced to only 4? The main answer is budget constraints and the fact that the team is more targeted on certain issues and unable to deliver the same level of work as before.

An update on dog fouling was requested and the group was informed that there are community safety patrols and fixed penalty notices in place. Community Safety Officers are trained to issue tickets for dog fouling and litter, and regular joint patrols are carried out. If information is passed on to Community Safety/Environmental teams with the time and other details then specific areas can be targeted. To issue a ticket the perpetrator needs to be caught in act

The second session discussed the Safe Ayr Shore initiative and a question was asked about other areas with beaches. The group was informed that the areas were prioritised to those with the most complaints and that statistics show that Ayr had a higher number of serious incidents of violence but that Safe Ayr does to other areas.

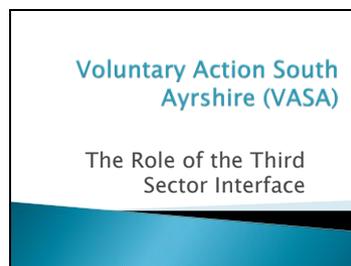
The group asked if there are any initiatives for reporting hate crime – particularly online to police. People were told they could report issues to the Community Safety Team or Victim Support as well as the police.

It was felt that Community groups such as Community Council/Tenants and Residents etc had previously had strong links with Community Police Officers but that this was no longer the case. The group was told that where 'on duty' staff are available, they would attend meetings although 'incidents' take priority and that Community Police officers could be e-mailed directly.

A final question asked was why there are there less Community Safety Officers in Ayr North? The service is now targeted to areas of highest priority and other partners often take over the areas of work such as youth clubs which are now run by Community Learning & Development and not Community Safety.

3. Our Mirrored Theme Groups

Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) has launched new Theme Groups which 'mirror' the Community Planning Theme Groups and membership is open to all third sector and community groups operating in South Ayrshire with an interest in one or more of these topics. A presentation was made by Betty Hill, Louise Christie, Julia Whitaker, Tracy Baird and Kathleen Bryson. The presentation slides are inserted below – please double click on the icon to open the presentation



4. Our Topic Based Networking Rooms

Two hours were set aside over the lunchtime period to allow people to network informally with other individuals and groups. Five topic based networking rooms were also available where groups with a particular interest could chat informally to officers and other community groups with experience in relation to that topic.

The networking rooms were:

- Funding
- Training, Skills Development and Capacity Building
- Community Asset Transfer
- Community Transport
- Navigating Websites

5. Community Planning Update

Claire Monaghan gave a progress report in relation to the Single Outcome Agreement and other community planning related issues. The presentation slides are inserted below – please double click on the icon to open the presentation



The Real Stories

We fund a number of services from the Community Planning Programme which are designed to help people improve their quality of life. Here are a few of their stories:

Substance Misuse

‘Alan’ had a history of substance abuse but is now stable on Methadone. He had spent some time in prison for various offences, including theft and drug offences and is currently on a probation order.

He had previously worked in the construction industry and felt that this was an area he would be comfortable returning to but needed to gain CSCS accreditation which is now necessary for this line of work started attending weekly training sessions. His IT Skills were also initially very poor but he received one to one support and now wants to progress to the ECDL.

‘Alan’ passed his CSCS in June this year to his great delight and began a 16 week “Step into Learning” course at Ayr College in August of this year. We wish him well on his recovery journey.

Employability

Paul is a single parent who undertook a qualification in Childcare with our Access to Employment project. He then successfully completed his Modern Apprenticeship (MA) in Childcare. He was very popular with all the Children and always willing to get involved in all aspects of childcare so he could learn new skills. Paul has now gained employment with the Alphabet Yard Childcare Centre.

Children and Families

Sarah is a former drug user and dealer and has been on a stable methadone programme for around a year. She came along to Care & Share every so often for a meal didn’t engage with services.

Sarah has started to attend Care & Share more regularly as her confidence and relationships have improved - she has been engaging in arts activities and has been more comfortable when talking to professionals. After meeting with a representative of Call West, Sarah enrolled on a 13 hour a week taster course at Ayr College. She is now thinking about what subjects to progress with. Her daughter's attendance at school has improved from 65% to 100% as Sarah's increased self-confidence has helped her become more assertive in making decisions for herself and her daughter.

Young People

One young woman had been disruptive at school and had been suspended on a number of occasions. She was eventually excluded from school after 2 weeks in S5 and she did not return. She started a job in a cafe and left after one week.

She continued to engage in the youth work programme and in February this year she completed a Silver Duke of Edinburgh's award through the Domain Youth centre, where she learned about her community and gained a feeling of belonging and purpose, learned to take responsibility for her own actions and persevered with the Change Makers Programme. Her confidence, self esteem and resilience increased and she has been working in a local hotel for the past 3 months and attributes a large part of this to the experiences she has had, and the skills she has learned, through undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme.

6. Feedback from our Community Engagement Events

Claire also gave the conference some feedback in relation to the three community engagement events which took place in Troon, Maybole and Girvan.

It is intended to follow up these events in Spring 2012. The presentation slides are inserted below – please double click on the icon to open the presentation.



7. Question and Answer Panel Session

This year our panel included

- Claire Monaghan, Head of Policy, Performance & Communication
South Ayrshire Council
- Graham Dunn of SPT
- Amanda Coulthard of NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- Marie Clark of Voluntary Action South Ayrshire
- David Kiltie and Joe Lafferty, Community Representatives on the CP Board
- Chief Inspector Neil Kerr of Strathclyde Police
- Sally Hamill of Skills Development Scotland
- Joy Love of Scottish Enterprise
- Cllr Nan McFarlane

Does Strathclyde Fire and Rescue have an Evacuation Plan for the high rise flats in Ayr in relation to fire/ bomb hoaxes etc as many residents are elderly?

Unfortunately the representative from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue was called away from the conference but a reply in relation to the question was received retrospectively:

The fire related activity at the high flats are as follows.

Since 1st April 2000 there have been 4 incidents at Scott Court - 2 Primary fires within the block, both very small fires and both extinguished via sprinklers before the arrival of the fire service. One person was taken to hospital for a precautionary check following smoke inhalation and 2 False Alarms, 1 incident at Burns Court which was a False alarm and 1 incident at Stevenston Court, also a False alarm.

The high flats in Ayr some time ago underwent a full retrofit of domestic sprinkler systems into each domestic flat within the three blocks. This was a huge investment by SAC as it recognised the dangers associated with fire in high rise flats along with the large costs of re-housing and rebuilding parts of the building should a serious flat fire occur.

High rise flats by their very nature are difficult to undertake fire-fighting operations within, this is why when they are being built, strict fire safety protection measures are built into the flats from the beginning. These include, each block of flats has at least one fully protected staircase offering a minimum of one hour fire resistance from ground floor to the top. The doors on to these stairs are fire resistant doors giving one hour fire resistance. Dependent upon the internal corridor layout there can be two fire resisting doors to pass through before entering the protected stairway.

All corridors and separating walls between flats along with the floors and ceilings are all made of concrete giving at least two hours fire protection as these form the elements of structure of the

building. Individual flat doors must be 30 minutes fire resistance doors which are self closing thus giving protection to the corridors and other residents within the same floor.

Further information in relation to fire safety in high rise flats is contained in Appendix IV

How does the Community feed into Theme Groups? Theme Groups do not always seem to reflect Community priorities. (Paul Torrance, Ayrshire Housing)

Community groups are able to join any of the new Mirrored Theme Groups and they will elect a representative to sit on the actual Theme Group.

Paul referred to issues highlighted in Girvan in relation to transport and affordable housing and commented that the Theme Groups reflect the partner's priorities and asked how the communities' priorities could be reflected before 2013 when new priorities will be in place.

Community Planning structures can focus on priorities but can also address particular issues such as transport as and when they arise. It is not possible to keep changing the structures and most themes are sufficiently broad based to include local priorities.

Graham Dunn from SPT referred to a meeting which was due to take place in Girvan the following week with Stagecoach to try to address the transport issues raised. He commented that Community Transport can also play a large part in addressing these issues and that SPT would be keen to help develop this.

David Kiltie commented that the issues were quite specifically in relation to bus timetables and routes and that transport runs across several themes. He asked if we in fact have the right themes and also made a plea to community representatives present to give more feedback in relation to issues that arise by giving their e-mail address to the CP Co-ordinator.

Paul stated that he wished to give credit to the Community Planning Partnership for its efforts in engaging with communities as in days gone by things often descended into a 'slagging match!'.

Statement: 'There was not much mention of what the 'elderly' are able to do (in all ways), the amount of general knowledge, abilities learned from life's experiences was not discussed and there is a wealth of practical experiences which could be utilised for the benefit of the next generation' Are we using the wisdom of older people?

A B Williamson, Belmont and Kincaidston Community Council

Amanda Coulthard from NHS Ayrshire and Arran referred to the reshaping care agenda and that they are asking community and voluntary sector groups how partners can do things differently. There is recognition that we have a fit and active older population with a lot to give with a lot to give back to society.

Cllr McFarlane referred to a number of inter generational projects such as the allotments in Prestwick where older people are teaching young people. Older people are also improving their IT skills and learning how to shop on line.

Mrs Williamson, who submitted the comments, told the conference of her life growing up in deprivation and poverty but that she now reads widely and that all her family are well educated.

David Kiltie referred to work in Maybole at the time of the Homecoming when children were taught about Robert Burns by older members of the community.

Les Anderson of South Ayrshire Seniors Forum stated that she was pleased this issue had been raised as older people were often pushed to one side. She stated that of the 50-70 older people who attended a weekly event in Girvan, only one knew about the Reshaping Care Strategy and that people now needed to come out from behind their desks and speak to people about practical issues.

Amanda stated that it is now about getting continuous views and that engagement on the reshaping care agenda is ongoing.

Douglas Bader said ' Rules are for fools and the guidance of wisemen? Does the spirit and passion of the maverick have any place in South Ayrshire Council / Community Planning Partnership? (Jim Walsham, Ayrshire Pregnancy Crisis Centre)

Cllr McFarlane stated that the Council was full of 'mavericks' where members were part of a very vibrant organisation which has worked with the administration to put the Council back on track financially and to make services more efficient.

Joe Lafferty admitted that he was indeed a maverick but that this hadn't helped when he requested funding for IT classes for elderly people only to be told that the priority for funding was to help people get into employment. He stated that the SOA is not effective at dealing with concerns and hoped that all people attending the conference would help service providers put in place indicators you could believe in.

Social Return on Investment

Joe outlined that he was speaking as a member of the community for this question. He commented that his project and others were making achievements on behalf of the partnership. He asked if a decision had been made on the allocations to project for year 2012/13.

Claire stated that previous monies had been ringfenced which had resulted in short term initiatives but that the funding was now decided via the CP Board and Council's budget process. A new Community Plan and SOA would state priorities and provide an opportunity to review current projects. Some family support services had already been mainstreamed.

There were no further specific questions so partners were asked for any final comments:

Graham Dunn from SPT commented on how good the young facilitators had been and that he looked forward to working with partners and the community to take forward community transport.

Neil Kerr from Strathclyde Police said it had been a privilege to be invited to meet with colleagues and the community and stated that the Communities priorities were also those of Strathclyde Police.

Marie Clark from VASA said that it had been an excellent opportunity for networking but especially for enabling VASA to 'plug' their new Mirrored Theme Groups.

Amanda Coulthard from NHS Ayrshire & Arran said that this was the second community conference she had attended and that this had been a more positive experience, especially the theme group sessions which had given her new ideas as to how to engage with services.

Joy Love from Scottish Enterprise said that although they are a national organisation, the CPP structures gives them the opportunity to see what is really needed.

Sally Hamill from Skills Development Scotland stated that they are now more involved with partners via the CPP and know more about what people want and need – she would be taking points raised back to her service.

David Kiltie commented that things are improving year on year but suggested that the Kyle area could do with another representative to serve urban and rural areas. He expressed disappointment that more people had not come to the community event in Maybole and that he would try to ensure that the community plays its full part.

Cllr McIntosh summed up the event by saying how encouraged he was by the importance of community. He reiterated that voices need to be heard, perhaps via the Seniors Forum 'if we don't hear from you we can't work with you' He referred to all the 'mavericks' in the room, saying that they had done things differently and that we need to engage with them. He hoped that the message was getting out that we are 'listening'

He then brought the session to close and thanked everyone for attending the conference. Delegates were invited to stay for a cup of tea or coffee and the chance to network with friends and colleagues.

8. Evaluation

Thirty four evaluation forms were completed and overall the event evaluated very positively with the majority of people rating the organisation, venue and catering excellent or very good. Twenty seven people found the conference had been excellent or very good in terms of the opportunity to network with a further seven citing good.

Again the majority of people (thirty two) thought that the 'Over to You' sessions were a useful way to find out more about the Theme Groups and felt that they had had plenty of opportunities to raise relevant issues and ask questions. Twenty seven people stated that they had attended the networking rooms and found this informal approach a useful way of finding out more about specific topics.

General comments about the event indicated that the informal lunchtime networking session, although welcome, had been too long and that many people had left the conference at this point. It was suggested that a shorter lunch break would be a better option with a finish time of 2.30pm or even a morning session with a lunchtime finish. Others suggested that the 'Over to You' sessions should be longer and there was one proposal for a 'Transport' only event to discuss the issues. All comments will be taken on board in the development of the programme for 2012.

Overall people liked the new more relaxed format of the Community Conference and there was widespread praise for the way in which our young people facilitated the theme group sessions.

Breakdown of the Evaluation Returns

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Very Good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Poor</u>
1 How would you rate the organisation of the conference overall?	9	20	5	
2 How would you rate the venue?	12	15	6	
3 How would you rate the catering?	16	13	4	
4 How would you rate the conference in terms of the opportunity to network with other community/voluntary/public sector organisations?	15	12	7	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		
5 Did you find the 'Over to You' Sessions a useful way of finding out what the Theme Groups are doing?	32	2		
6 Did you feel you had plenty of opportunities to ask questions, give your opinions and raise relevant issues with our Theme Groups	32	2		

- 7 If no then please tell us why
- Sessions could have been longer to allow greater debate and questioning as the two I was involved in had to be cut with more debate and questioning apparent.
 - Some have problems to stop once they start
- 8 Did you attend any of the topic specific Networking Rooms during the Lunchtime period? 27 5
- 9 Did you find this informal approach a useful way of finding out more about theme topics? 26 1
- 10 If no then please tell us why
- (Yes) Positive contacts made with well informed individuals /groups in a relaxed setting.
 - (Yes) Perhaps too long may be ½ hr Lunch and ¾ hr Networking would have been better.
 - (No) Limited number of topics which did not really interest me.
- 11 Please tell us at least two new things you have learned today:
- About Mirrored theme Groups
 - Good to see School Children facilitating groups
 - More info about Council Funding and a great opportunity to talk to funders such as BBC Children in Need
 - Great to hear young people's views through the facilitators at the 'Over to You' groups
 - Learned all about VASA
 - General Information regarding individual organisations being able to identify current issues
 - Good opportunity to meet a range of individuals and network
 - More of the forum aims
 - From whom to obtain information
 - Funding possibilities
 - Useful networking with LGTB
 - How services and standards can be incorporated in South Ayrshire
 - There is a community representative for Kyle
 - Alcohol awareness lessons in school delivered by older pupils
 - Timetable for draft document and Greenspace Strategy
 - The vast number of people, groups, time and reports involved in trying to address community needs
 - The question on whether or not the situation has grown too complex and remote to achieve simple objectives
 - Funding for personal CL/change and activity
 - How good young people are at facilitating groups
 - The drink and drug issue I didn't know
 - Organisations I didn't know existed
 - To learn about other organisations

- Meeting people from other groups
- The Council – I hope they have listened to group outside the council
- Funding and Transport
- The roles of all the theme groups and all mirrored theme groups
- Grant search facility on SAC Website
- External Funding potential
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse and help
- Community Policing
- That the Council is listening
- 2 new funding sources
- Back ground to logical forum thinking
- More problems thrown up by lonely senior people
- Community transport – how it works
- Recognition of how serious the impact of the economic crisis is within the area – also solutions are available- all is not doom and gloom
- Source of funding information
- Importance of developing co-ordinated and sustainable Community Transport links
- CPP are beginning to understand reliance of community engagement
- About how we can connect with Community Safety
- About adult health issues
- About asset transfer
- About plans for community transport in Carrick
- Issues with economic development
- Steps the council are now taking to tackle waste management/increasing recycling
- Accessing some grants
- Networking
- Tackling of drink and drugs. I was amazed how many groups involved also more about Community Safety
- How to get funding from other sources than South Ayrshire Council
- How keen people are to help in their community
- The interest in intergenerational work
- Met lots of new people
- Peer education as a tool

12 Please list any suggestions you have for future Community Planning events (eg topics of interest, activities)

- The Networking Lunch was too long
- Perhaps to stop the mass exodus at noon the conference could end at 2:30
- Finish conference at 1pm then have lunch. You lost ½ at lunchtime
- Maybe each community of interest group having a sector for engagement
- Would like to see more young persons input
- Don't get bogged down on one subject
- Intergenerational work

- Voluntary sector promotion
- Structure about rents for houses for a couple in a house that is too large for them
- Toilets should be available upstairs for people with walking difficulties and water carafe's as very hot
- The format is good
- None at this stage – thanks
- Longer 'Over to You' sessions
- Copy of Powerpoint Presentations
- Is it worth having a 'Transport Day' but not to provoke fights or blame - but to address wider issues of connections etc
- Attendance of senior (or any officers) from SAC key departments. i.e. Education, Health, Housing
- What is capacity building
- How do you plan and fund a project
- Longer Workshops
- Same topics one year on
- More information on Community/SAC Partnerships
- Same as this year please
- Either longer duration of workshops or more opportunity to have an informal discussion with participants following workshops
- Fantastic having young people facilitating. Great idea and they did a wonderful job. Well done to them all!
- It seems that the forum theme topics are designed to slot in with the council set-up but have little relevance to the public at large
- Concrete examples – case studies under each section to make the work of each easier to assimilate
- Start at 10am. It is difficult to get in by public transport unless you leave very early.
- Theme Group rooms need loud speaker systems
- Stalls very limited and some away before the end of lunch hour
- Claire Monaghan (Instead of David Anderson) – far too long 30 minutes (Max 10 mins)
- All speakers must use loud speaker system, especially at Q & A sessions
- Some Theme Groups cover far too many aspects in one group
- More roving microphones needed
- Disappointing number who left at lunchtime
- More thought needs to go into Community Engagement
- Needs to be more meaningful e.g. topic specific and go out to where people are. Don't wait for them to come to you
- Role of Community Council's is being marginalised. Invest more time, training and effort to develop.
- Skill up people so that we have more David Kilties!!!!

Appendices

Appendix I Programme

Appendix II Evaluation Form

Appendix III Registration List

Appendix IV Further information in relation to fire safety in high rise flats

Community Conference - Friday 28th October 2011

County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr

Programme

- 9.00 – 9.25am** **Registration, Tea and Coffee**
- 9.30 – 9.40am** **Welcome**
Cllr Bill McIntosh, Chair of the Community Planning Partnership Board
- 9.40 – 9.50am** **Meet the Partners**
Our partners and young facilitators will be formally introduced to the conference delegates.
- 9.50 – 11.40am** **Community Planning Theme Groups – ‘Over to You’**
The sessions will be facilitated by young people from our local secondary schools
- Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
 - Economic Development Partnership
 - Community Health Partnership – Adult Services
 - Community Health Partnership – Children’s Services
 - Community Safety Partnership
 - Sustainability Partnership
- 11.40 – 12.00pm** **Mirrored Theme Groups**
- Background and purpose of the groups
 - Input from members of the groups
- 12.00 - 2.00pm** **Lunch, Stalls and Extended Networking**
2 hours have been set aside for lunch and informal networking
- Visit our Networking Rooms and find out more about:
- Funding
 - Training, Skills Development and Capacity Building
 - Community Asset Transfer
 - Community Transport
 - Navigating Websites
- 2.00 – 2.20pm** **Community Planning Update**
David Anderson, Chief Executive, South Ayrshire Council

PTO

- 2.20 – 2.45pm** **Feedback from Community Engagement Events**
Claire Monaghan, South Ayrshire Council
- 2.45 – 3.30pm** **Question & Answer Panel Session**
David Anderson – South Ayrshire Council
Amanda Coulthard – NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Tom Little – Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
Neil Kerr – Strathclyde Police
Graham Dunn – SPT
Marie Oliver – Voluntary Action South Ayrshire
Joy Love – Scottish Enterprise
Brian Cameron – Skills Development Scotland
David Kiltie – Community Representative (Carrick)
Joe Lafferty – Community Representative (Kyle)
Ross Johnston – Scottish Natural Heritage
- 3.30pm** **Closing Remarks and suggestions for the next conference**
- 3.30 – 4.00pm** **Tea / Coffee and further networking**

Please remember to complete your evaluation form before you leave as this will help us to develop programmes for future events.

Community Conference 2011

Evaluation

Thank you for participating in our conference. Please take a few minutes to complete this evaluation form and tell us what you thought of the event

1. How would you rate the organisation of the conference overall

Excellent Very Good Good Poor

2. How would you rate the venue?

Excellent Very Good Good Poor

3. How would you rate the catering?

Excellent Very Good Good Poor

4. How would you rate the conference in terms of the opportunity to network with other community/voluntary/public sector organisations?

Excellent Very Good Good Poor

5. Did you find the 'Over to You' Sessions a useful way of finding out what the Theme Groups are doing?

Yes No

6. Did you feel you had plenty of opportunities to ask questions, give your opinions and raise relevant issues with our Theme Groups?

Yes No

7. If no then please tell us why

.....

8. Did you attend any of the topic specific Networking Rooms during the Lunchtime period?

Yes

No

9. Did you find this informal approach a useful way of finding out more about these topics?

Yes

No

10. If no then please tell us why

.....
.....
.....

11. Please tell us at least two new things you have learned today:

.....
.....
.....
.....

12. Please list any suggestions you have for future Community Planning events (eg topics of interest, activities)

.....
.....
.....
.....

Thank you for your time. Please drop this into the box on the way out or hand to a member of staff

South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

Community conference 2011 – Registration List

Name	Surname	Organisation
Lizzie	Adrain	Care and Share
John	Allan	Elected Member
David	Anderson	South Ayrshire Council
Gillian	Anderson	Aspire2gether
Heather	Anderson	South Ayrshire Council
Les	Anderson	South Ayrshire Seniors Forum
Heather	Arbutnot	South Ayrshire Seniors Forum
Tracy	Baird	The Ark
Sarah	Baird	South Ayrshire Council
Jessica	Bairstow	Facilitator
Diane	Barclay	Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland
Tom	Black	Scottish Development Trust
Alison	Blair	South Ayrshire Council
Lesley	Bloomer	South Ayrshire Council
David	Bone	Ailsa Horizons
David	Bowman	Opportunities in Retirement
Dylan	Brown	Facilitator
Pat	Brown	Local Resident
Jacqueline	Brown	South Ayrshire Council
Susan	Brownlie	VASA
Kathleen	Bryson	Alcohol and Drug Partnership
Paul	Burnside	Scottish Marriage Care
Janis	Byrne	RAMH Org
John	Cairns	Strathclyde Police
Elaine	Caldow	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Brian	Cameron	Skills Development Scotland
Anne	Cameron	Treetops T & R
Cllr Douglas	Campbell	Elected Member
Cllr Andy	Campbell	Elected Member
Wullie	Campbell	Make It Happen
Louise	Christie	Aspire2gether
Gus	Collins	South Ayrshire Council
Alan	Comrie	SPT
Cllr Brian	Connelly	Elected Member
Cllr Peter	Convery	Elected Member

Lorraine	Cord	South Ayrshire Council
Carole	Coull	South Ayrshire Council
Amanda	Coulthard	NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Fiona	Cowan	Facilitator
Freddie	Cuthbert	Ayr North Community Forum
Kate	Dalzell	Facilitator
Gail	Donahey	Facilitator
Cllr Ian	Douglas	Elected Member
Graham	Dunn	SPT
Olive	Dwyer	WEA Scotland
Joan	Elliot	CLD
John	Farrell	VASA
Elsie	Ferguson	Enable Scotland
James	Forsyth	CLD
Kathleen	Frew	Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland
Darren	Fullarton	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Ian	Gall	Care and Share
Robin	Gardiner	Troon Petanque Club
Janet	Gemmel	West Drive T & R
Carol	George	Dialogue Youth
Rachel	Gilchrist	Facilitator
Cllr Sandra	Goldie	Elected Member
Moira	Gorman	Troon Senior Citizens
Liz	Gourley	Opportunities in Retirement
Cllr Bill	Grant	Elected Member
Margaret	Grogan	Newton & Heathfield CC
Sally	Hamill	Skills Development Scotland
Shirley	Harris	Prestwick North CC
Derek	Hart	South Ayrshire Seniors Forum
Douglas	Hashagen	South Ayrshire Council
Mark	Hastings	Planning & Development
Catriona	Haston	Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund
Karen	Herbert	Real Work Skills
Heather	Higgins	Aspire2gether
Betty	Hill	VASA
Linda	Hill	South Ayrshire Council
Hugh	Hill	Scottish Humanists
Mary	Hill	Secular Fellowship
Michael	Hitchon	Fort Seafield & Wallacetoun CC
Diane	Hodge	SSFF

Bea	Holden	Crosshill, Straiton & Kirkmichael CC
Colin G	Hope	Ayr Yacht & Cruising Club
Cllr Hugh	Hunter	Elected Member
Sandra	Innes	CLD
Andrew	Irvine	Facilitator
Lorna	Jarvie	Sustainability Partnership
Ross	Johnstone	Scottish Natural Heritage
Alexander	Kelly	Carrick Crime Prevention Panel
Neil	Kerr	Strathclyde Police
Robert	Kilmurry	Facilitator
David	Kiltie	Carrick Representative
Joe	Lafferty	Kyle Representative
Jackie	Lennon	WNRf
Olive	Lindsay	Ayrshire Hospice
Stuart	Lindsay	Ailsa Horizons
Peter	Linton	South Ayrshire Council
Thomas	Little	Strathclyde Fire & Rescue
Cllr Elaine	Little	Elected Member
Bill	Logan	Girvan Youth Trust
Louise	Long	South Ayrshire Council
Louise	Long	South Ayrshire Council
Joy	Love	Scottish Enterprise
Mari	Low	Elected Member
Archie	Lusk	Mossblown & St Quivox CC
Geraldine	MacDonald	VASA
Pauline	Mackie	North Wallacetoun T & R
Ann	Marriot	LGBT Youth Scotland
Stacy	Martin	Ailsa Horizons
Peter	Mason	Carrick Community Councils Forum
Andy	McAlpine	Ballantrae Development Grp
Kathleen	McBride	River Ayr Tenants Association
Fiona	McBride	Children 1 st
Helen	McCallum	Troon Senior Citizens
Denise	McClung	SISG (Ayrshire Hearing Support)
Jack	McClymont	Facilitator
Russel	McCreath	Facilitator
Catherine	McCulloch	Monkton Senior Citizens
Cllr John	McDowall	Elected Member
Craig	McDuff	Facilitator
Cllr Nan	McFarlane	Elected Member

Colette	McGarva	South Ayrshire Council
Anne	McGonigle	Energy Agency
Anne	McIlvain	VASA
Cllr Bill	McIntosh	Leader of Council
Sheena	McIver	River Ayr Tenants Association
Mhairi	McKenna	Ballantrae CC
Catherine	McKinnon	Turning Point Scotland
Pat	McLellan	Opportunities in Retirement
Lorraine	McNally Jones	MaidSafe Foundation
Fiona	McQueen	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Jim	McVey	Mossblown & St Quivox CC
Shirley	Middleditch	Unity Enterprise
Elizabeth	Mill	Troon Elderly Forum
Kenny	Miller	VASA
James	Miller	All Scotland Pensioners Party
Bill	Miller	Carrick Centre
Claire	Monaghan	South Ayrshire Council
Cllr Helen	Moonie	Elected Member
John	Mulholland	Symington CC
Barbara	Mulligan	SAFD and PHAB
May	Murdoch	Girvan Elderly Forum
Faye	Murfet	Alcohol and Drug Partnership
Ashley	Murphy	Carrick Community Councils Forum
Alan	Murray	Carrick Centre
Diana	Mutimer	Girvan Community Garden
Margaret	Nixon	River Ayr Tenants Association
Robert	Noble	British Red Cross
Joan	O'Donnel	Prestwick CC
Stephen	Ogston	Ballantrae Development Group
Marie	Oliver	VASA
Colin	Park	RAMH Org
Ged	Quirk	South Ayrshire Council
Rosalind	Ramsay	Turning Point Scotland
Pauline	Rattray	PT Guidance
Jennifer	Reid	Facilitator
John	Reid	Access to Employment
May	Reilley	Troon Elderly Forum
May	Reilley	River Ayr Tenants Association
Steven	Robertson	North Wallacetoun T & R
Jill	Rodgers	NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Lesleyann	Russell	BBC Children in Need
Cllr Philip	Saxton	Elected Member
Edith	Scobie	Stepping Stones for Families
Joan	Sinclair	Ayr North Womens Forum
Bob	Smillie	Opportunities in Retirement
Abigail	Smillie	Facilitator
Jim	Smith	New Life
Valerie	Stewart	South Ayrshire CPP
Willie	Stewart	New Life
Allan	Swan	STEP Project
Jay	Taylor	Facilitator
Linda	Templeton	Job Centre Plus Work for You
Jim	Thomson	South Ayrshire Council
Gordon	Tilley	Ayrshire Advanced Drivers
Paul	Torrance	Carrick Community Council Forum
Anne	Tosh	Ayrshire Housing
Amanda	Tracey	Unity Enterprise
Christine	Tweed	Monkton Senior Citizens
Stephen	Vallance	Live at Troon
Melanie	Van De Velde	MaidSafe Foundation
Pauline	Vause	CLD
Jim	Walsham	Ayrshire Pregnancy Crisis Centre
Marie	Welsh	South Ayrshire CPP
Jim	Whiston	Ayrshire Housing
Julia	Whitaker	Ailsa Horizons
Phil	White	NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Anne	Wilkie	WNRF
Agnes	Williamson	Belmont & Kincaidston CC
Corri	Wilson	Forehill, Masonhill & Holmston CC
Margaret	Woods	Ayrshire Housing
Marion	Young	South Ayrshire CPP

Appendix IV

Further information in relation to fire safety in high rise flats (Strathclyde Fire & Rescue)

These blocks of flats are greater than 18m high but less than 60m and thus are fitted with dry riser fire outlets at each floor level to allow water to be piped to each floor in case of fire. These dry risers are for sole use by the fire service for extinguishing fires in the building.

Each block is also fitted with a lift which serves each floor and can be utilised solely for the use of emergency services in the event of a fire. These lifts are all located within the protected staircases to provide protection from fire.

Dry risers, protected staircases, protected doors onto the staircases and fire-fighting lifts are all checked annually by the fire service with a report going to the local authority where any repairs can be undertaken with some degree of urgency.

Access for emergency vehicles up to the building is also considered and this must be maintained at all times so that water can quickly be delivered to the required part of the building via the dry risers.

In essence with all these protections built in and them being properly maintained it means that any fire within an individual flat should be contained to that flat and that occupants within each floor outside the flat of fire origin and the others throughout the building have protected areas to enter and walk to safety outside, i.e. down the stairs.

This means that fire should be contained to one room or flat and thus with the introduction of sprinklers there is the likelihood that any small fire will be extinguished before it becomes a large fire affecting a whole flat or number of flats, allowing the occupants time to escape.

Automatic smoke detection systems within the flats gives early warning in the event of fire and these are recommended within all domestic homes.

In terms of the question regarding evacuation, protection is such that it allows each individual occupant to escape under their own steam. Problems can arise where residents are elderly and infirm and thus properly assessed fire safety measures within each flat where residents are more at risk could be considered and with what is currently installed and in place at these flats I can only suggest domestic smoke detector systems linked to external monitoring stations whereby upon actuation of the alarm the fire service are automatically sent to the address. A good personal standard of fire safety in the home is essential.

Consideration could be given to disabled occupants being housed within the ground and lower levels although this can also be problematic.

With proper occupant and contractor care the chances of fire occurring are reduced and properly maintained fire safety protection measures should protect occupants until the arrival of the fire service.

Lately we have seen areas of concern which in some instances jeopardises the protection afforded by the fire safety measures and should fire occur has the potential to affect many people, e.g. bringing mobility scooters into the corridors and protected staircases and charging them up via electrical extension leads from flats. This not only can block and restrict egress from residents in the flat/level/block but can also compromise the entire staircase stopping egress for all above the fire. It also introduces a fire source into an area where no fire sources are meant to be.

These scooters can also be kept in flat hallways thus restricting access and egress at the flat concerned.

Flat private owners sometimes change their front door to a nice double glazed type door and if this is not a fire resistant door then the whole level can be compromised from smoke and fire.

Some people have cut a corner off the bottom of the door to allow charging of scooters outside their flat door but within the corridors, this also compromises fire safety within the level and introduces a fire source to a protected area.

Contractors undertaking work (e.g. pipework or cables) which passes through separating walls and floors, if these are not properly fire stopped then fire can pass through compromising areas of the building which would normally not be involved.