

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS BOARD.

Minutes of a remote meeting of the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships Board held at 10.00am on Thursday 25 August 2022.

Board Members:

Councillor Peter Henderson (Chair); **Councillor Martin Dowey** (SAC); **Lesley Bowie**, Board Chair, NHS Ayrshire and Arran; **Claire Burden**, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran; **Anne Campbell**, Ayrshire College; **Allan Comrie**, Senior Transport Planner, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport; **Brian Connolly**, Scottish Enterprise; **Tim Eltringham**, Director – HSCP (SAC); **Eileen Howat**, Chief Executive (SAC); **Faroque Hussain**, Divisional Commander, Police Scotland; **Ian McMeekin**, Area Manager – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; **Rosie Lambert**, Jobcentre Plus DWP; **Marie Oliver**, Chief Executive Officer, VASA; **Claire Tooze**, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland; **Sian Williams**, NatureScot and **Elaine Young**, Assistant Director – Public Health, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

Officers:

Kevin Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning (SAC); **Jane Bradley**, Assistant Director – People (SAC); **Susan Gallagher**, Director, Scottish Government – Place; **Mark Inglis**, Head of Children’s Services, Health Care and Justice Services; **Lorna Jarvie**, Co-ordinator – Sustainability and Fleet (SAC); **Kevin Lammie**, Chief Inspector, Police Scotland; **Claire Monaghan**, Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities (SAC); **Susan McCardie**, Lead Officer – Community Planning (SAC); **Linda West**, Strategic Lead for Representation, VASA and **Alison Nelson**, Co-ordinator, Democratic Services (SAC).

Apologies:

Councillor Alec Clark (SAC); **Sheila Lynn**, Job Centre Plus, DWP and **Mike Newall**, Assistant Director – People (SAC).

FIRST PART OF THE MEETING – CARING FOR AYRSHIRE

The workshop session, facilitated by Claire Burden, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran provided members of the Community Planning Partnerships Board with an update on Caring for Ayrshire.

SECOND PART OF THE MEETING – BUSINESS

1 Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Peter Henderson (Chair) opened the meeting by welcoming all present to the second part of the proceedings, the Community Planning Partnership Board (the Board) meeting.

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As detailed above.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Board in terms of the Board's Standing Order No.10.

4 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Community Planning Board (the Board) of 31 March 2022 (circulated) were submitted and approved.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5(a) Cost of Living Crisis

The Service Lead - Policy, Performance and Community Planning (SAC) advised that the cost-of-living crisis was now a permanent agenda item on each of the Strategic Delivery Partnerships, he then handed over to the Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities (SAC) to update the meeting.

The Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities (SAC) provided members of the Board with a verbal update on the work currently being undertaken within the Financial Inclusion – Strategic Delivery Partnership relating to the cost-of-living crisis.

The Service Lead highlighted the focus of the group in terms of income maximisation, food poverty and food pantries, fuel poverty, employability, and inclusive growth. She intimated that the cost-of-living crisis would widen the number of people and families that would be affected by poverty. The increased move towards hybrid working, over the winter, would raise concerns around the cost for employees heating their homes and how would the Council create space for them to work in offices. The Service Lead intimated that a mechanism was required to allow partners to come together and share ideas that would help people during this crisis. The Information and Advice Hub (IAAH) and Home Energy Scotland would continue to support local communities through access to fuel poverty grants.

The Assistant Director for Public Health, NHS Ayrshire and Arran intimated that there had been a meeting of the Ayrshire Local Resilience Partnership to discuss the cost-of-living crisis, this partnership gave all agencies the opportunity to share best practice. NHS Ayrshire and Arran were also considering ways in which they could help their own staff who were under considerable pressure and that their staff had the appropriate information signposting them to other services for assistance. The Assistant Director also mentioned that community benefits were now included in contract awards and that it might be an opportunity to ensure that this was aligned to what communities needed to maximise this benefit.

The Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services intimated that in terms of the HSCP, and through the Information and Advice Hub, funds of £1.24m had been claimed by services users. He further advised that the reason most children came onto the Child Protection Register was for neglect in South Ayrshire, families not having access to resources would have an impact on parents meeting the needs of their children, it was therefore vital that families were signposted to the correct help/agencies/funding to prevent an increase in the number of children on the register.

The Chief Executive Officer, VASA intimated that she had been in discussions with Phil Whyte, NHS Ayrshire and Arran regarding a booklet drop to all households in South Ayrshire, for under £15,000 this would provide people with helpful information/tips on a variety of topics relating to the cost-of-living crisis, she further advised that VASA would be hosting an information event on the cost-of-living crisis.

The Chair fully supported this initiative and agreed that people needed to be aware of the help/support that was available to them. He further advised that the Council were considering what venues would be available where people could go during the day, the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland suggested putting on events in these venues so people could avoid the stigma of going to a venue for a heat.

The Vice Principal, Ayrshire Colleges advised that many courses would see a return to face-to-face learning and where there was a blended approach to learning space would be made available on all three campuses for students to join tutorials remotely. Colleges were also ensuring that students knew where to go to obtain help and advice around their funding.

Further discussion ensued, particularly around the funding for the production and distribution of a leaflet, prior to the end of September, and the importance of all partners working collaboratively on this. The Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities also intimated that all social media channels must also be used to provide information and advice i.e., Instagram/Twitter.

After lengthy discussion the Board

Decided:

- (1) to remit the production and distribution of an information leaflet to the Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership; and
- (2) to augment the Terms of Reference for that group to focus on the cost-of-living crisis.

5(b) Ukrainian Refugee Update

The Assistant Director – People (SAC) provided members of the Board with a verbal update on the current situation regarding the Ukrainian refugees currently resident within South Ayrshire. This included statistical information relating to the number of refugees resident in South Ayrshire across all Schemes, their age ranges and where they were currently being accommodated.

The Assistant Director - People further advised that the Visa Scheme had closed and if 60% of those who currently had a Visa decided to come to Scotland that would result in 16,000 refugees arriving. This would cause a housing crisis nationally as housing would require to be found for up to 3 years. The Council had been asked to identify short-term accommodation and to identify empty schools, sports centres, warehouses that could accommodate these refugees should the need arise. Both hotel groups used had been asked to increase the number of rooms available to the Scottish Government therefore the numbers allocated to South Ayrshire could increase should these hotel groups increase their room availability.

Those travelling with a Visa permits a three-year stay, access to benefits and housing, the Assistant Director - People advised that this would create issues around semi-permanent housing availability and this moving to permanent should refugees be granted leave to stay. It was hopeful that an Officer would be appointed to work with Seascope and the private rental market. The number of refugees residents, if increased, within South Ayrshire would have an impact on the education and health systems.

The Assistant Director - People intimated that it had proved difficult to manage refugees' expectations when arriving in Glasgow as many had expected to stay there. The majority are bussed down from Glasgow and were not clear where they were, the options available to them and what employment availability there was, many were subsequently leaving to go back to Glasgow where they perceive their opportunities to be better. The Leader advised that the country needed to think strategically about this issue and plan for the longer term.

The Chair of the Communities Reference Group advised that the Assistant Director – People had updated the Third Sector Provider Forum which was informative. In an effort to diffuse situations that could arise in hotels the Chair encouraged the use of the third sector, and the opportunities it could offer, so that people could use their time productively.

The Divisional Commander asked if there had been an impact on tourism and local businesses, the Assistant Director – People suggested that at the moment the impact was low particularly coming into the winter months. She further advised that the Scottish Government had asked all hotel groups if they wished to be involved, in the provision of accommodation, but not all hotel groups had agreed to participate.

The Assistant Director – People advised of the difficulties being faced in tracking refugees and having accurate data as to where people were. As this was an issue in other local authority areas it has been raised at a national level.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director – People for her informative update.

Decided: to note the Assistant Director – People's verbal update.

6(a) Community Planning Executive Annual Review

There was submitted a report (circulated) dated August 2022 providing Members with an overview of the key discussion points and subsequent actions/decisions agreed at the Community Planning Executive Annual Review meeting held on the 15 June 2022.

The Service Lead – Policy Performance and Community Planning advised that the report reflected on the previous year, highlighted achievements and what community planning should look like over the next 5/10 years. Discussion arose around what a locality-based model for community planning would look like and the impact that would have. He further advised that work would be undertaken on a locality-based proposal from a community planning perspective and would be presented to the next meeting of the Board in October.

The Chair intimated that he was in favour of locality planning as issues experienced in the more rural parts of South Ayrshire were not the same as those in the more urban areas. He thanked Officers involved for the production of an informative report.

After discussion the Board

Decided:

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to note the agreement given by the Community Planning Executive to consider working towards a locality-based model of delivering community planning; and
- (3) to agree that initial proposals on how a locality model would be taken forward by Community Planning Partner be submitted to the Board in October.

6(b) Strategic Delivery Partnerships Update

There was submitted reports (circulated) dated August 2022 providing Members with an update to the Board and Officers highlighting the work currently being undertaken within the partnerships since the last meeting of the Board.

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| 1. Children's Services | (circulated) |
| 2. Community Safety | (circulated) |
| 3. Financial Inclusion | (circulated) |
| 4. Communities and Population Health | (circulated) |
| 5. Wallacetown | (circulated) |

After discussion the Board:

Decided: to note the contents of each report.

6c Update from Communities Reference Group

There was submitted a report (circulated) dated August 2022 by the Chair of the Communities Reference Group (CRG), informing on the process of widening community engagement within a community planning setting through representation of communities of interest within the community planning structure and forums that sit within Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) as well as community and third sector organisation. The Communities Reference Group would be used as a formal engagement process to discuss the development of CPP strategic plans.

The Chair of the CRG intimated that a review had taken place to determine the future direction of the Group, it had been identified that there was a need to have locality and community-based engagement. It was proposed that the CRG change name to become a Community Engagement Co-ordination Group (CECG) that would act as the main locus for the co-ordination of collective engagement activity across the Community Planning Partnership, this would comprise representation from locality/community-based engagement and wider thematic engagement allowing for a more structured approach to engaging with communities. Key actions were to finalise the Terms of Reference for the CECG; the development of a CPP based Engagement Strategy that would be supported by CPP partners and to finalise the programme for the Annual Community Planning Webinar Series event.

After discussion the Board:

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

6d Update from Sustainability Partnership

The Co-ordinator – Sustainability and Fleet (SAC) provided a verbal update to the Board on the progress made since the last meeting of the Community Planning Partnerships Board held on 31 March 2022.

The Co-ordinator advised that the partnership had not met since the last meeting of the Board but intimated that work had been progressing and that actions focussed on sustainable transport, energy efficiency and food were particularly important considering the cost-of-living crisis. The Energy Agency had provided their annual statistics and the Co-ordinator highlighted key successes. Overall annual fuel bill savings equated to £370,528 and 3078 tonnes of carbon with over 12,682 householders receiving advice. The Hydro Scheme on the River Ayr is now operational but low summer water levels have meant the turbine has temporarily had to be switched off to prioritise the fish in the water. A film had been made regarding the project which would be available to view in September.

There were several pan Ayrshire issues which partners would like referred to the Ayrshire Officers Network, however there is still an outstanding request with the Board for resourcing to allow the ongoing work of this network to be supported.

The Co-ordinator further advised that in relation to the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, a place and wellbeing assessment would be undertaken to support the refresh of the strategy currently underway.

After discussion the Board

Decided: to note the Co-ordinator's verbal update.

7 Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Annual Report

There was submitted a report (circulated) dated August 2022 by the Manager, Community Justice Partnership for information. The report provided Members of the Board with information on the Draft Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Annual Report for 2021/22.

After discussion the Board:

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

8 Any Other Competent Business

The Chair thanked all Officers for their contribution to the reports submitted and input into the meeting.

The Operational Manager, NatureScot thanked the Council teams who had been out clearing up birds who had died because of Avian Influenza.

9 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Planning Partnerships Board would take place on 27 October 2022 at 10am.

The meeting concluded at 12:33

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