



## SUTHERLAND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

### MINUTES OF MEETING

16 FEBRUARY 2018 1000 – 1200 Hours BRORA GOLF CLUB, BRORA

Present	<p>Iain MacLelland (IM)            Deirdre Mackay (DM)            Peter Allan (PA)            Garry Cameron (GC)            Jim McGillivray (JMc)            Jason Gardiner (JG)            Christine Ross (CR)            Jacqueline Jennett (JJ)            Ian Mitchell (IanM)            Frances Gunn (FG)            Fiona Hampton (FH)            Richard Gale (RG)            Kirsteen Currie (KC)            Lorraine Coe (LC)            Debbie Gray (DG)            Angela Simpson (AS)            Michelle Johnstone (MJ)            Susan Ainsworth (SA)</p>	<p>Chair, Police Scotland            Deputy Chair, East Suth &amp; Ed            Support, Police Scotland            Highland Council Ward Manager            Councillor East Suth &amp; Edderton            Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue Service            Third Sector Interface VG-ES            Care &amp; Learning Manager North            Scottish Natural Heritage            Third Sector Interface CVS North            High Life Highland            Councillor East Sutherland &amp; Edderton            Councillor NW &amp; Central Suth            NHS Highland            North Highland College            Highlands &amp; Islands Enterprise            NHS Highland            Minute Secretary, Police Scotland</p>
Apologies	<p>Linda Munro (LM)            Steve Gorman (SG)            Alistair Ferrier (AF)            David Hannah (DH)            Michael Baird (MB)            Janet Durban (JD)            Valerie Gale (VG)            Myra Clark (MC)            Melvich Community Council</p>	<p>Councillor NW &amp; Central Suth            Scottish Ambulance Service            Skills Development Officer            Ardgay            Bonar Bridge            Chair, Brighter Brora            Sutherland Care Forum            Tykes</p>
Guests	<p>Steve Barron            Claire Morrison</p>	<p>Chief Executive, Highland Council            NHS Highland</p>

Members of the Public – 18

- Welcome** -The Chair (IM) opened the meeting by welcoming all members, guests and members of the public to the February meeting held in Brora. IM wished both JC and FH very Happy Birthdays. IM introduced Steve Barron, Chief Executive, Highland Council and welcomed him to the meeting. IM informed all that GC is leaving as Highland Council Ward Manager, thanking him for all his hard work and support which was always above and beyond his duties, adding it was recognised that GC had a huge heart for Sutherland.

IM thanked Brora Golf Club for hosting the meeting in this stunning location.

He informed all present that developments were moving forward and now it was up to the communities to do their part in asking questions, assisting in resolving issues, in particular with fuel poverty and employment.

IM asked all partners not to rush off at the end of this meeting to encourage talk afterwards amongst each other.

**2. Present and Apologies – As above.**

**3. Actions from Previous Meeting - IM gave feedback on tasks allocated**

- Midas Training – PA, to be included in the Transport Group - ONGOING
- IM in discussion with Stuart Black, Highland Council, re Highland City Region Deal, plans and initiatives to tie in with Sutherland - CLOSED
- Keep Safe Initiative, Golspie – Judy Hill – dates received for meetings - ONGOING
- North West Reform – LC will give verbal update at Meeting - CLOSED

**4. Engagement –KOSDT Team**

Martin Thomsen, Community Officer, Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust gave an update of their work. The online questionnaire was updated at the end of January, this has been promoted through Social Media. The team have been working on Brora Locality Plan which will be available for input by Brora community at the end of March. The team have visited employers, gone to Brora Rangers FC where they handed out leaflets and attended at Stepping Stones Nursery for parents, to promote employment and workshops are being held -

Youth Workshop Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March

General Open Workshop 12<sup>th</sup> March

in the Brora Community Centre to also include elderly people especially those with disabilities and dementia.

The team will then proceed with the locality plans for Helmsdale, Bonar Bridge and Kinlochbervie, with further towns in Sutherland to follow. James Turner added that results are coming back from their Questionnaires both through on-line social media and face-to-face.

The closing date for Brora is 5<sup>th</sup> March. 95% of the responses is from the on-line survey.

IM added he appreciated all the team's time, expertise and resource they have put in. There is now a KOSDT Facebook page. DM stated that KOSDT have shown great effort in reaching residents in isolated areas and added that local communities are keen to hear of events taking place. LC also thanked the team and is delighted with their input, the Brora Sub Group has benefited hugely from their help.

Shira Drain, Chair of Brora Primary School PTA asked for the on-line link for the survey so this can be forwarded on to parents to increase returns from age group 20 – mid 30's. Martin added that at the outset confusion was raised as the areas they were covering however the team have promoted the fact they are covering all areas of Sutherland. DM added there is still a need to define small areas of deprivation and not just the towns in Sutherland. This was recognised by all.

## 5. Community Partnership Plans

- **Locality Plans – Update**

PA stated with the Golspie Locality Plan, all data has been gathered and is now awaiting feedback from the community. The next meeting is arranged for 1<sup>st</sup> March.

LC updated the meeting that Brora Locality Plan is progressing well and running alongside Health Improvement Plans organised by Margaret Brown, NHS Highland.

- **Children's Plan – Update**

JJ informed the meeting that Care and Learning have populated the plan. Day to day issues highlighted are alcohol abuse, transport a huge issue, mental health, housing, lack of social activities and lack of organised clubs. This is running with Employability meetings, next being 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The young have raised issues, discussed them and now moving forward with the emphasis on keeping issues local. DM suggested to JJ this could be put on to social media. JJ added that Shirley McLean is a new addition with the project "Support and Mind" aiming for 18 – 25 year olds and very interested in the Children's Plan.

- **Adult Health and Social Care Plan – Update**

LC is awaiting feedback from NHS. The Adult Plan Sub Group meeting is being held in two weeks, then it will be ready to go out for further engagement. IM added there is a higher ratio of alcohol related health problems in the Highlands, in particular the north west.

LC stated the Sub Group for Social Prescribing is linking in with the Brora GP practice and there has been positive discussions with GP's for support around social prescribing. FH added that GP's have assisted with identifying isolated patients who are being referred to Highlife Highland and FH added that their staff are being trained with initially walking groups to be set up. IM added that funding has been given by Police Scotland and that the Adult Plan must incorporate engaging with people from hard to reach areas.

DM stated that within both HC and NHS Highland, finances are tight and there is a need for culture change with less dependency on medicine and pills. Brora Hub has secured funding for a Neighbourhood Development Officer.

LC explained that a cluster lead for East Sutherland, led by Dr Mary Claydon, has been formed which includes all GPs in the area and this gets information on 'Health and Wellbeing' out to all patients. Staff are also being trained for areas outside Brora. LC said that actions around alcohol, transport and housing actions are in place.

Steve Barron raised the point of feedback so as to quantify what was working and what was not working in local communities and to work with GPs alongside a cost neutral approach. MJ added that GPs could audit pre and post initiatives with regards to reduction in medication.

DM also added that GPs were concerned with obesity in children. LC suggested that Ian Mitchell for Scottish Natural Heritage could be helpful in suggestions for events to help towards reducing this.

## **6. Presentation – Given after 11am**

## **7. Other Matters**

- Fuel Poverty Sub Group – DM stated the project in hospitals is rolling out well. LC informed members that both Lawson and Migdale Hospitals were incorporating Home Energy Advice to patients who were leaving hospital. KOSDT is assisting with this initiative. Community Teams are passing on referrals to Home Energy Group and this is to be rolled out to the whole of Sutherland. Irene Anderson is the single point of contact for referrals.

RG added that Health Grants are available through the Agriculture and Crofting Grant of £300 to assist with fuel poverty.

DM said that steps are required to reach the most vulnerable through NHS.

### **ACTION – MARKET COMMUNITY TEAMS AND ADVERTISE THE PHONE NUMBER FOR HOME ENERGY ADVICE – ALL PARTNERS**

- Employment Sub Group – DM informed members that the Dornoch Jobs Event took place recently which was well received. DM added that having spoken with employers at this event, transport was the main stumbling block with one employer who used to assist with taxi/bus fares through Highland Council have now ceased.

Michael Simpson speaking on behalf of the north west, asked for the aforementioned initiatives to be brought up to his area, especially funeral poverty and assistance with Citizen Advice Bureau. Is this being addressed?

DM replied that to develop the north and west that start has to be made somewhere, issues identified, CAB to be involved. This will then expand to the north and west.

- Funeral Poverty – IM stated a ‘Dying to Know’ event was held and further events are to be promoted. CAB to liaise with KOSDT on fuel poverty. RG added that funding is also available through the Agriculture and Crofting Grant for assistance towards funeral costs.

*SHORT BREAK*

## 6. Presentation – ‘Near Me’ Initiative – Claire Morrison, NHS

A power point presentation followed by a short video explained the new project “Near Me” to address travel problems, especially those patients attending Raigmore Hospital. Claire explained that Caithness Hospital has set up a video conferencing surgery with three consulting rooms specifically designed for one to one with a Doctor. There has been a strong positive response from patients using this facility. This pilot is being run from February to May in Caithness only, then rolled out to other locations after May. IM stated this would be of huge benefit for Sutherland. Claire added consultations would also be made available in people’s homes although lack of computer confidence and internet connectivity could be a problem. National funding is being sought for IT technology. LC said this that GPs involved would be holding a meeting after the 3 month evaluation to ensure the package is right. They are hopeful that all GPs in the north west of Sutherland will engage.

KC questioned if schools could be included to have a ‘consulting’ room however Claire stated there may be issues with this going out with NHS premises.

Yvonne Ross stated that Mental Health services were in discussion with “Near Me” as waiting times for assessments were unacceptable with pupils having to take a full day off school to attend Raigmore and by the time appointments were given the young person could be assessed from a Tier 1 to Tier 3.

IM thanked Claire for her informative presentation and members jointed in with a vote of thanks.

## 7. Other Matters Cont.

- **Transport Sub Group** – IM stated the Community Transport Association has appointed a Transport Co-ordinator post. The group is making progress and this item will be kept on the Agenda.

Stagecoach consultation which is on-line closes on 19<sup>th</sup> February and all members are encouraged to comment with regards to timetable changes.

- **Tykes**– DM updated SCP that Christmas activities had taken place for young carers. Moray Firth Cash for Kids had funded coal and logs for those families living in fuel poverty. Reduced transport costs are being discussed with Stagecoach for young carers.
- **Year of the Young Person 2018** –DM explained this is to support and recognise the value of our young people. The Sutherland ambassador, Kaitlyn Campbell attended the SCP meeting and gave an insight into her role. She will be attending schools and working all over Sutherland to encourage young people to become involved with their communities. FH added that Highlife Highland is involved with Rock Challenge and ‘Sutherlands Got Talent’ and that Highlife Highland are very keen to get involved with YOYP. IM also stated that the Assynt area should be included in this. IM thanked Kaitlyn for her talk.

**ACTION – TO INVITE ASSYNT TO NEXT SCP MEET AND HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM YOYP PRESENT – PA**

## **ACTION – WORKING GROUP TO BE SET UP FOR YOYP AND TO HOLD A DAY EVENT - FH**

- **Community Planning Partnership Board** –Steve Barron, Chair, gave a short delivery on how the SCP's approach and relationships with the wider community which has been an outstanding example of partners working together. SCP is leading in their locality plans and community engagement. This is all down to leadership, with Police Scotland led partnerships showing exceptional energy and open mindedness in engaging with the community. IM has shown true commitment and resource in leading SCP. Steve Barron summed up with a quote used by Margaret Davidson "Power is for the Taking".

IM thanked Steve Barron for his kind words and added that he has been well supported from the various communities in Sutherland and for community attendance.

- **Midas Training** – PA is sourcing funding for Midas Training for mini bus drivers which will assist communities and Youth Groups. Names to be forwarded to PA.
- **Sutherland Volunteering Awards** – CR informed the meeting that as part of YOYP, Volunteer Event is taking place in June for youngsters who have gone through the 'Saltire' process. JG said that SFRS have put funding towards this event. CR wishes a certificate to be given on behalf of SCP.
- **SFRS Transformation – Public Consultation** – JG said this is available through their website [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk) "Have your Say" which involves answering six questions. The consultation period commenced 12th February for 90 days. He stated that house fires and incidents where the fire brigade attend car cut outs have been greatly reduced. Emphasis for the Highlands is using 'Rapid Response Units' based in Lochinver and Bonar Bridge. These units now have new equipment and technology with defibrillators being carried. Recruitment is ongoing for retained Fire Fighters, 4 vacancies in Sutherland. Firefighters are now doing a lot more and this has been recognised with an additional financial package.
- **Safer Highlander** –Phone in commencing 21<sup>st</sup> February.

### **8. Community Matters Raised**

KC informed SCP that she is the representative for a new group starting up a Highland wide 'Environment Forum' with their first meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

North Coast Redesign – LC is having a meeting with GPs and SAS re the out of hours service, confirming that GPs will continue with cover through the week and locums at weekends. This will continue beyond April. There is ongoing recruitment for GPs for Sutherland. The North Coast Redesign will be finalised by end of March.

RG stated that Brora and Golspie have funding for a community bus to integrate with local transport.

MS asked if the next SCP meeting could be held in Assynt and for representatives from Community Councils to attend. He personally thanked GC for all his hard work over the years.

Kaitlyn, YOYP, stated that Twitter and Facebook pages for YOYP will go live today, 16<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **PA TO MARKET YOYP**

Yvonne Ross, on behalf of Dornoch Community Council, has applied for funding for Broadband/wireless internet connection. IM asked if a learning document could be put together to improve connectivity.

Calendar of Events for Year of the Young Person for Sutherland is to be published and added into locality plans.

#### **ACTION – DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR SUTHERLAND – WHAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE**

Rhionna MacKay, CAB, informed members that funding has been secured for CAB staff to attend twice a week to attend at outreach centres. Three years funding has been granted.

Margaret Brown, NHS Highland stated two events are taking place  
20<sup>th</sup> February Drugs and Alcohol Forum, Ferrycroft, Lairg  
18<sup>th</sup> June 'Health Inequalities: Why Bother?' Migdale Hospital, Bonar Bridge

Lynda Thomson, NHS Highland holding Poverty Event on 6<sup>th</sup> April, a publication is to follow shortly with further details.

MT - KOSDT always looking for information on projects and plans for their workshops.

Alcohol Counselling Service – Website has been updated.

#### **9. Date and Location of Next Meeting – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Location to be Finalised.**

IM brought the meeting to a close by thanking all for attending.

Meeting closed 12.15 hours.