



## SUTHERLAND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

### MINUTES OF MEETING

20 APRIL 2018 1000 – 1200 Hours LAIRG COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
LAIRG

|                         |                                   |                                  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Present                 | Iain MacLelland (IM)              | Chair, Police Scotland           |
|                         | Deirdre Mackay (DM)               | Deputy Chair, East Suth & Ed     |
|                         | Peter Allan (PA)                  | Support, Police Scotland         |
|                         | Phil Tomalin (PT)                 | Highland Council Ward<br>Manager |
|                         | Jim McGillivray (JMc)             | Councillor East Suth & Edderton  |
|                         | Jason Gardiner (JG)               | Scottish Fire & Rescue Service   |
|                         | Christine Ross (CR)               | Third Sector Interface VG-ES     |
|                         | Jacqueline Jennett (JJ)           | Care & Learning Manager North    |
|                         | Ian Mitchell (IanM)               | Scottish Natural Heritage        |
|                         | Frances Gunn (FG)                 | Third Sector Interface CVS North |
|                         | Richard Gale (RG)                 | Councillor East Suth & Edderton  |
|                         | Kirsteen Currie (KC)              | Councillor NW & Central Suth     |
|                         | Linda Munro (LM)                  | Councillor NW & Central Suth     |
| Angela Simpson (AS)     | Highlands & Islands Enterprise    |                                  |
| Michelle Johnstone (MJ) | NHS Highland                      |                                  |
| Susan Ainsworth (SA)    | Minute Secretary, Police Scotland |                                  |
| Apologies               | Lorraine Coe (LC)                 | NHS Highland                     |
|                         | David Hannah (DH)                 | Citizens Advice Bureau           |
|                         | Rhionna MacKay (RM)               | East & Central Suth CAB          |
|                         | Fiona Hampton (FH)                | High Life Highland               |
|                         | Tina Stones (TS)                  | Dornoch Academy                  |
|                         | Ronnie Lansley (RL)               | CVS North                        |
| Guest                   | Carolyn Hunter-Rowe               | NHS Highland                     |

Members of the Public – 15

- 1. Welcome** -The Chair (IM) welcomed and thanked all members, guests and members of the public to the April meeting being held at Lairg Community Centre. IM introduced Phil Tomalin who has returned and taken over as Ward Manager from Garry Cameron. IM also welcomed Guest Speaker Carolyn Hunter-Rowe from NHS Highland.

IM stated good work is ongoing, various meetings have been held since the February meeting and added there is to be a review/health check by another Community Partnership to oversee ongoing work with all Plans and what is working well/or not.

IM was delighted to announce that Helen Houston, representing Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust and Myra Clark, representing Tykes, have been invited to the Royal

Wedding in May. He also added that Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust have received a Tourism award for The Falls of Shin project.

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

**3. Actions from Previous Meeting - IM gave feedback on outstanding actions from the February meeting:**

- Safe Place Initiative with Judy Hill and PA - ONGOING
- Fuel Poverty – Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> April which has produced key actions in preparation for the coming winter, very positive meeting - CLOSED
- To invite young people from Assynt to SCP Meeting, this will take place in June which will be held up North for their attendance - ONGOING
- YOYP to be discussed as an Agenda Item - CLOSED

**4. Engagement – Martin Thomsen, KOSDT Engagement Team**

Martin gave a resume of the draft Brora Locality Plan which has now included adjustments to the original Questionnaire. Their aim is for 20% of the population to respond which has nearly been achieved. Both he and James Turner have been canvassing all areas of the community with workshops being held, doing their utmost to include hard to reach people, having a child minder on hand at workshops, posting on social media and advertising locally to reach out to all groups. IM added this is a full and enthusiastic Plan and great efforts have been made to put this together, stating the team have been out pounding the streets to canvass locals. Martin asked for any further ideas and suggestions to add to their draft plan.

**5. Presentation – Alcohol and Drugs Profile – Carolyn Hunter-Rowe**

Carolyn gave a power point presentation on Alcohol and Drugs, comparing in detail the Sutherland area in comparison to the Highland region as a whole. Several points of note came out from this presentation

- Over 65 age group are the highest related hospital admissions.
- Re geographical zones, north and west Sutherland is the highest for alcohol and drugs, with mental health and social isolation being a contributing factor.
- More required to be done with alcohol intervention within GP settings, especially with the independent GP practices.

All information is available on the NHS website.

IM summed up saying this is all very relevant to SCP and sharing this information out to communities, with NW Sutherland standing out. Support is also needed when patients come out of treatment and this can be maintained by contacting the Sutherland Drugs and Alcohol Recovery Service.

## **6. Community Partnership Plans**

- **Locality Plans – Next Steps**

IM informed the meeting that all involved with the Golspie Locality Plan met recently resulting in the allocation of tasks. RG added it was robust meeting with a lot of positive outcomes and a willingness by all to push forward, main issues being around employment. The Golspie Locality Plan will link in with the Brora and Helmsdale Locality Plans.

DM stated that the Brora Locality Plan Group met last week to discuss working towards actions raised. Martin added that the draft locality plan contained a lot of information and expressed concern that the other locality plans could be replicated, however this is to be expected. Golspie will follow the Brora format. North Coast 500 is also a main topic for discussion within the locality plans.

### **ACTION – ANGELA SIMPSON TO PROVIDE INPUT RE CLD FOR THE ABOVE LOCALITY PLANS**

- **Children’s Plan – Update**

JJ updated SCP that Yvonne, Cara and Helen have worked with children and young people in gathering information. The plan having been written by the young people has proved to be a success and now further information is required from resources and other agencies to assist in the tasks that have been set. The next step is to populate opinions more widely.

### **ACTION – ALL COMMUNITY COUNCILS TO TAKE THE CHILDREN’S PLAN OUT TO THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR INPUT**

Yvonne Ross added that it is the young people’s plan, they have started the process and it is their views and ownership is very much with them. IM reiterated that it is a long term plan.

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

MJ updated the meeting with the above plan stating they have identified and listed nine outcomes with key points within. They have compiled a comprehensive document which redefines and addresses inequalities, linking in with locality plans with the Sutherland element throughout. CLD is included in these plans.

IM asked the floor for any questions relating to the above plans. LM asked that it is important that feedback is given to the young people re the Children’s Plan and JJ replied that Youth Development Officers and Youth Representatives are attending these meetings and would feed back with regular sessions. All actions and outcomes are achievable with small steps in place to show that changes are happening.

## **7. Other Matters**

- **Year of Young People 2018**

Yvonne Spoke on behalf of Highlife Highland saying a sub group has been formed with a questionnaire going out to all Secondary School pupils for ideas to represent the YOYP. The result was a Sutherland wide festival to include music activities event to be held in Lairg in October this year. KC added that 'BLAST' music event is a Highland wide festival being held in Inverness in September, geared for all young people in the Highlands and for Sutherland to sign up and join in. Yvonne added that funding re transport could be a problem. LM suggested for them to apply to the Ward Discretionary Budget for funding. Ian Mitchell added that Beckie Shaw for SNH could contribute her time towards the YOYP event.

An award ceremony for young volunteers is to take place with support from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

IM stated that Rock Challenge took place in Inverness which proved very successful with Golspie High School taking part, adding there is a lot of young talent out there.

- **Social Prescribing**

IM updated all that work has been done in the North West with challenges getting people out to engage. Walking and talking groups to be established with funding by Highlife Highland. Initiatives are moving forward.

DM added that there is a pilot being run in Brora for social prescribing which could be a model for other communities.

- **Fuel Poverty**

DM stated the sub group has met recently with plans in place on how to cascade information to residents across the large geographical area. Funding is being sought to train more Energy Advisors in Sutherland. DM added there is a shortage of Service Engineers to service boilers. Their next meeting is 31<sup>st</sup> May.

JG expressed concern re carbon monoxide poisoning due to lack of engineers. A solution to this is to be identified and to ask energy suppliers. When home safety visits are carried out alarms could be fitted where required to homes of vulnerable people.

JMcG added that gas engineering training is expensive and courses at UHI should be encouraged. It was felt energy suppliers should assist with this training however gas and oil in Sutherland is only covered by three main private suppliers. It was suggested to build a partnership with these companies and for SSE to sit on the Fuel Poverty Group. DM added that the new representative for SSE will attend at the next meeting.

Margaret Brown added that referrals from hospitals are being made and there is a national online portal for referrals. RG raised the issue that boiler maintenance can be a requirement as part of a house insurance policy.

- **Employment Sub Group**

DM informed all that they have held their first meeting, completing a Driver Diagram and actions have been raised. The next meeting will be held in a months' time with a Youth Development Officer present. DYW also hope to attend the next meeting.

- **Funding Opportunities**

IM showed partners a leaflet available for circulation detailing finance available. IM asked CR (VGES) if she could produce a leaflet relevant to Sutherland. FG added there could be monies available from Leader Funding.

**ACTION – TO CIRCULATE LEAFLET AND LOOK INTO FUNDING AVAILABILITY – PA**

JMcG added that with Leader Funding this can be used to take on a lease of asset transfer, however difficulties arise re maintenance and insurance. IM suggested a short input from a representative re asset transfer would be beneficial to communities within Sutherland.

Yvonne Ross asked about Participatory Budget Funding available for every community group and there is a Community Development Company taking on this funding from Scottish Government. DM added that 1% of this funding will be down to local communities as to how it is spent.

**ACTION – TO REPORT BACK ON PARTICIPATORY FUNDING FOR SUTHERLAND AND COMMUNITY GROUPS – PT**

- **Midas Minibus Driver Training**

PA updated the meeting that five people have successfully gone through the training. Further funding from KOSDT will allow another seven to be trained at the end of May. Thanks to Highland Council for providing the mini bus for training.

**8. Community Matters Raised**

- **Closure of Public Toilets**

Concerns have been raised by Police Scotland and a letter to this effect will be sent on to the Highland Council. A letter will also be sent on behalf of SCP. J McG added that keeping toilets open is not a statutory responsibility for the local authority and added it is a Scottish Government responsibility. LM said ongoing discussions with community buy-in is in the early stages. She explained the budget has now gone which supported keeping toilets open. Graham Wild on behalf of Kinlochbervie Community Council strongly objected to these closures and stated they have set up an on-line petition to Highland Council. He added that all cleaners will be paid off and there has been no consultation from HC with any Community Councils. An increase in traffic and tourists due to the NC500 would therefore force persons to go behind closed buildings and this would not give a good impression to holiday makers. Michael Simpson on behalf of Tongue CC added his grievances stating that with no consultation or communications, all toilets will close on 31<sup>st</sup> August unless CC's are willing to take them over.

Yvonne Ross added that Dornoch Beach toilets have been closed already and there is a matter of disposal of waste from motor homes being emptied on to

the ground.

After a full discussion it was asked if funding could be made available from Inverness City Region Deal/Tourism Infrastructure Fund/NC500. A public Meeting is to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> April at Shin Falls with invitations to all Community Councils to attend this meeting. There is also an active petition to keep the toilets open for NC500 on-line.

FG asked if NC500 could take more responsibility for build-up of cars on the single track roads in the north and for NC500 to engage more with HC. She added that people have to live in the area and speeding of cars, livestock on the roads are cause for concern.

- **Forthcoming Events**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Senior Safe and Well Highlander Event, Rogart Hall     | 20/06/2018 |
| NHS Health and Inequalities Training, Migdale Hospital | 18/06/2018 |
| Social Prescribing 'The Deep End', Glasgow             | 14/05/2018 |
| Highland Senior Citizens Network, Golspie Inn          | 01/05/2018 |
| Sutherland Care Forum, Red Cross Centre, Golspie       | 24/04/2018 |

Yvonne Ross added that there is an Employability Award taking place where a range of local employers will be represented. Ian Mitchell added that SNH are willing to assist with this. This will be rolled out to every Secondary school in the area.

**9. Date and Location of Next Meeting – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Location to be Finalised.**

The meeting was brought to a close at 1135 hours with network session following.