



# Mid-Ross Community Partnership Public Meeting

31<sup>st</sup> of May 2018

Dingwall Town Hall (Lower Hall) 2-4pm

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Ann Clark welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Chris Arnold, Anne MacDonald, Robbie Bain.

## 2. Updates and Announcements

- The first Mid Ross meeting of the Highland Senior Citizens Network will be held in Dingwall on the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, in the National Hotel. Details from [anne-hscn@outlook.com](mailto:anne-hscn@outlook.com)
- Mid Ross CPP has posted additional items on the webpages. Dingwall Locality Plan and report on community engagement at Dingwall Academy School Fair.

## 3. Future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Ann Clark welcomed Ricky Dibble, Station Manager in Dingwall and Vice Chair of the Partnership who gave a presentation (see separate download) about the planned transformation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Changes are proposed in response to the changing risks that communities face. Risks from fires have significantly reduced but other risks have increased: terrorism, flooding, falls in the community. New, smaller and more effective fire fighting vehicles will be introduced in rural communities and the role of fire service personnel will be expanded to enable them to respond to a wider range of emergencies.

### Questions

- Female Firefighters – yes recruiting. Work to be done on contracts to give more flexibility. Good female firefighters in the system at the moment.
- Recruitment in rural areas is a challenge but as change and smaller pumps are implemented the pressure on the Dingwall pump will reduce as west coast will be more able to meet own needs

- Fire Service engages with the community – on fire safety visits – can identify potential vulnerable people/householder. Fire Service can advise other agencies of concerns following a visit.
- What incentives are there for those with barriers to employment to get into work – are there barriers which can be addressed? Fire Service publicises their role/attracts employees via Safe Highlander, visits to Schools, joint public service pre-employment courses, cadet schemes etc.

See Appendix A for small group discussion points

#### **4. Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership: Mid Ross Community Profile**

Ann Clark introduced Caroline Hunter Rowe from the Highland Drug and Alcohol Partnership, who gave a presentation on alcohol and drug use in Mid Ross. **(Presentation attached separately) Some key points were**

- Scotland has high number of alcohol related deaths compared to other European countries
- Hospital admission for alcohol related issues in Mid Ross are broadly in line with Highland
- Hospital admissions by geography show clear difference between Black Isle ( lowest) and Dingwall ( highest)
- Dingwall is in top 10 geographically in Highland.
- Dingwall has very good uptake on Alcohol brief interventions. Delivered by GP practices.
- Assessments for drug and alcohol services show that more than double for alcohol than drugs. Mid Ross is slightly higher than Highland average

**How as a partnership do we improve engagement and inclusion of people who may not find it easy to engage with formal services?**

- HDAP conference takes place June 1<sup>st</sup> – key is working in partnership to reach wider community rather than traditional alcohol and drug services. Stigma around drug and alcohol service still exists and this needs to be tackled.
- Good work of Catalyst Project identified.
- Effects of substance misuse on families can be considerable. Are anonymous services for help and advice available?
- The ADP website holds all information on services available
- Discussion with Dingwall Academy pupils identified they did not know how to access information on parental substance misuse – new toolkit to support work in schools
- Police would find an opportunity to signpost advantageous
- Could training be available for all emergency services in how to identify drug and alcohol issues and refer on?
- Peer education has been a useful model with young people and with older adults and dementia groups.

**How can Community Partnerships influence allocation of additional funding available from Scottish Government for alternative outreach, children and families, prevention and education?** Information available from Debbie Stewart. Ann Clark agreed to contact her to follow up on interest from the Mid Ross CP.

#### **NEXT MEETING OF PARTNERSHIP**

The next public meeting of the Partnership will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September as activity over the summer will be focused on development of the Dingwall Locality Plan

#### **APPENDIX A (FIRE SERVICE)**

Fire service has ability to respond rapidly – how can this be best targeted? Current issues include:

- Mental health – hoarding
- Community falls (although not high numbers where an ambulance not required)
- Cardiac Arrests – response and confidence training in use of defibrillators
- Drugs and alcohol a key fire risk

Issues with training required for expanded role and what equipment will be available to them – e.g. gas and air, pain medication etc.

Also has a role in awareness raising and prevention:

- Protocols for information sharing with partners, e.g. around child safety concerns
- Fire Service in good place to get access to homes but trust is a major issue – need to go back to people recognising their local police, fire, health workers
- Trust can be built through engagement with schools and community organisations
- Family Centre to be based at Dingwall Fire Station is a good example of preventative approach