



Easter Ross Community Partnership

equality and opportunities for our communities

Core Partners Meeting

9am to 1pm, Wednesday 12th June 2019

Alness Police Station

Notes from Meeting

Present: Helen Ross (HR), Nigel Brett Young (NBY), Shona Street (SS), Jo Thomsen (JTo), Maria Dickson (MD), James Turner (JTU).

Apologies: Andy Dick (AD), Rhona Fraser (RF), Jackie Ross (JR)

Introduction and welcome to Inspector Joanne Thomson

JTu opened the meeting on behalf of AD and thanked everyone for coming. After welcoming JTo, those present provided a short update on 'the story so far' of the Community Partnership, its' purpose and the progress made.

Succession Planning and Locality Teams

It was acknowledged that there is currently no Deputy Chair but that one should be identified, along with 'Locality Leads' as structure would help to provide clarity for the Partnership as well as to maintain momentum on actions and engagement. HR suggested that there had been a 'strong start' for the Partnership in the Seaboard communities with a lot of planning and collaboration between partners which led to the identification of good responses to engagement and the development of an action plan. This approach wasn't taken in Alness though, with not enough partnership working or communication and so there is a need to rethink strategy, meet more regularly and to engage more effectively through existing networks and organisations. JTU suggested that this could be an opportunity to

utilise the 'self-evaluation tool' that has been used by other Community Partnerships so that the learning and knowledge gained so far could be captured and used to develop strategies to move forward – there was general agreement that this would be a good idea and that this process should involve representatives from the Seaboard communities.

HR also suggested that there was a need to carry out a 'stakeholder analysis' prior to engaging in any other communities to identify organisations, individuals and events that the Partnership can link in with.

Concern was expressed at a continued lack of Care and Learning presence at Partnership meetings, as well as worry about the status and content of the Easter Ross Children's Plan and how well it links to the other plans.

Seaboard Plan Update

NBY updated those present on the current status of the Seaboard Locality Plan. NBY, HR and JTu met with community representatives from Balintore recently to discuss feedback on the Locality Plan. The community would like to see some statistics (SIMD/SEP) added as well as the demographics and a summary of the survey and engagement carried out in the Seaboard communities that was used to create the actions which has been picked up by NBY. They would also like to see the actions section updated so that the progress made on the actions can be seen. JTu suggested that updates on the actions taken by both partners and the community be collated so that a full picture of the progress can be created.

The community representatives felt that these changes would create a Locality Plan which they could use to evidence need in the community which could assist with funding applications and the generation of community projects. It was also suggested that the Plan could contain a SWOT analysis of the community. JTu advised that this might be better done by the community themselves rather than the Partnership to alleviate any risk that the analysis could be construed as criticism or stigmatisation by the Partnership – this was met with agreement from all present.

Those present ran through the Action Plan and provided updates to the actions where possible. JR had sent JTu an update via email so this will be incorporated into the updated Action Plan as well.

The next steps then are to add the requested materials and statistics to the Locality Plan (NBY and JTu will do this), to update the Action Plan (which JTu is doing) and to then publish the Plan within the community at the earliest opportunity.

Alness Update

JTu provided an update on the status of things in Alness. Following the public meeting in May, the Councillors who were present had suggested that they would identify some community events at which the Partnership might be able to conduct further engagement. At this time, there had been no update on this from the Councillors. HR telephoned Councillor Munro who confirmed that some events were to be identified and this information would be passed to the Partnership as soon as it was available. JTu also advised that he will be conducting engagement activities in Alness as part of the HAC project.

It was decided that the next steps in Alness need to be to collate all of the data gathered from engagement so far and NBY will send the findings from the focus groups which were held in April 2018 to JTu so that it can be examined for common themes and issues as well as used to identify where further engagement could be carried out with the community but that this could not be done until after the community events over the summer and JTu's engagement had been conducted.

To enable Partnership engagement in Alness to be consistent and effective, it was agreed that an easy to use 'Engagement Toolkit' should be created which could be used by any partner. JTu will develop this ASAP.

Round table Update from Partners

There was nothing specific for this item as all updates had been discussed under other items.

Survey Monkey membership

JTu asked HR if there had been any update on this action from a previous meeting. HR advised that as Nairn Community Partnership were moving to Citizen Space, the Partnership might want to consider this as an alternative. It was agreed that Citizen Space should be looked into so that the two could be compared and a decision taken on what which should be utilised.

Dates in the diary for next meetings

It was agreed that it would be better to set dates, times and venues for Core Partner meetings for the remainder of the year so that momentum could be maintained. JTo volunteered the Alness Police Station as a venue and MD volunteered Invergordon Hospital as an additional venue. It was agreed that meetings should be held the second Wednesday of every month from 9am to 12pm at the Alness Police Station. The dates for the remaining Core Partner meetings in 2019 are as follows:

10th July, 14th August, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November and 11th December.

AOB and Matters Arising

There were no items for AOB or Matters Arising.