



# Easter Ross Community Partnership

equality and opportunities for our communities

## **Core Partners Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Invergordon Community Hospital**

**Present:** Helen Ross (HR), Jackie Ross (JR), Maria Dickson (MD), Shona Street (SS), James Turner (JT), Andy Dick (AD)

**Apologies:** Ricky Dibble, Nigel Brett-Young, Jamie Wilson, Rhona Fraser

## **Points of Discussion**

- **PC Dominic Corcoran Food Poverty Invitation**

Unfortunately, Dominic couldn't make it to this Core Partners meeting, however JT has discussed making alternative arrangements to facilitate a meeting and will be attending the Sutherland Food Sub Group meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

HR raised the question of whether there is a clear picture of food initiatives already present in Easter Ross and suggested that in order to do this, some exploration and mapping should be undertaken to establish an overview. On this note, JR talked about a project which is hoped might be in place at the Mercat Centre in Milton for the summer holidays called 'Food and Activities'. Aimed at 3 to 18 year olds, the project aims to give young people in the village access to food and diversionary activities through the holidays. JR stressed that the project is still in its' infancy though.

- **Alness Survey Update**

Not including any outstanding paper copies, the survey received 98 responses, which is 1.6% of the population.

At a glance, the ratings for the questions were (from lowest to highest):

Feeling connected to local decision makers in the public sector - 2.8  
Public Transport - 3.9  
Buildings and spaces are well maintained - 4.5  
Housing - 4.6  
Facilities to Meet People - 4.8  
Feeling Safe - 5.1

All of the survey data (with the exception of any late submissions in paper format) have been digitised by JT and are ready for more detailed analysis. To enable this HR will discuss funding for a full Survey Monkey subscription with the Highland CPP and MD volunteered to undertake the analysis. JT can assist with this if it would be helpful.

- **Youth Led Focus Group Findings**

JT will circulate the study to Partnership members for them to read in more detail. AD proposed that the study lends more weight to the need to conduct workshops and activities in schools in Easter Ross with an aim to helping to develop solutions in partnership with young people.

- **Meeting in Public on the 15<sup>th</sup> May**

Given the recent conclusion of the Alness Community Survey, it was suggested that the venue for the next meeting be moved to Alness. HR will contact the head of the school to see if the school can be used as the venue. It was agreed that the meeting should run from 6pm until 8pm to see if this earlier time might enable more people to come along and the theme of the meeting should be around exploring the findings from the Alness Survey, perhaps with a short participatory activity.

Once the venue is booked, JT will put together a poster and circulate it so that it can be shared to promote the meeting. JT will also get posters into some of the shops on the High Street. HR will be drafting the press release.

MD added that as previously mentioned via email, Louise McInnes from Project Manager for the NHS Highland Community Hospitals Strategy would like to attend the meeting to discuss the draft strategy that is being developed around the future of community hospitals and to seek local feedback. It was agreed that this should definitely happen and that it could be mentioned on the poster/when promoting the meeting as it could prompt people to attend.

- **Seaboard Plan Update**

The current draft of the plan was reviewed and on the whole the changes were well received. AD and HR felt that the plan is currently very word heavy and this could deter people from reading it. JT highlighted that there is still some work to be done on the plan including a summary so that it is easier to read but that breaking the text up with some pictures of the communities could be helpful and could also provide a better 'tangible community presence' in the Plan. It was agreed that the Partner logos should be moved to the back cover.

MD highlighted that in the Partnership logo, 'opportunities' has been mis-spelled so JT will contact Barry Collard to get this rectified.

- **Child Poverty Action Report**

Inline with the request from Alison Clark that Partnerships consider what activities they are currently undertaking which seek to alleviate, prevent and/or mitigate child poverty there was a brief discussion of what activities are occurring in Easter Ross which meet the above criteria. A number were identified which are based in Easter Ross, however the only Community Partnership activities which are currently focussed on this are those identified in the Seaboard Locality Plan.

- **AOB**

**Highland Public Transport Community Meeting in Lairg 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 –**

JT reported that he had attended this meeting which was run by HUG (Action For Mental Health) The Scottish Poverty Alliance and the Poverty and Inequality Commission and invited people from across Highland to share what is working well, what is not working well and what has to change to improve transport in the Highlands. Each of the organisers will be producing reports on their findings and these may be beneficial for the Partnership.

**Nigel's Email –**

There was considerable discussion around the email sent by Nigel around a possible need to rejuvenate activities and establish a more structured approach to the planning and delivery of meetings and Partnership activities in future with many present feeling that there is a need to integrate Partnership work into the day job rather than layering it on top. In light of this there was further discussion about how this could be done.

JT suggested that it could be beneficial to establish 'Locality Leads' – individuals who would take ownership of a Locality Plan and be responsible for providing updates to the Partnership on actions and activities relevant to that particular Locality Plan. This would also have the benefit of establishing a single point of contact for each plan. It was then discussed how these updates could be delivered and MD suggested using a standardised, simple progress update of 'progress since the last meeting' and 'challenges and issues'. It was agreed that this seemed like a good template to use as it meant that everyone would be providing updates in the same way and would not require an increase in workload to complete.

**The Adult Plan –**

MD gave a brief update on the Adult Plan saying that in it's current iteration it is not user friendly nor is it reflective of the local priorities so it needs to be updated so it is more accessible and is focussed around more than just health. Work on this update is due to commence very shortly and it will look to incorporate the findings/actions from the Seaboard Locality Plan and Alness engagement.

- **Meeting Planning**

Following the above discussions, especially those prompted by NB-Y's email, it was decided that the best use of the remaining meeting time was to capitalise on the energy generated and to look to establish some ideas around how things could be reshaped.

It was decided that the next Core Partners meeting should take place in June and be a half day meeting to enable plenty of room for discussion and progress (a doodle

poll to establish availability will follow shortly). This meeting should be used to work together and plan how future meetings, engagement and work could be done. A guiding principle should be 'not leaving meetings without having the next meeting date agreed'. It was also suggested that there should be more exploration as to whether other organisations should be invited to meetings which was well received by those present.