

MINUTE OF THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Wednesday, 17 July 2013

Present:	Cllr Jim McCabe – Chair	North Lanarkshire Council	
	Cllr Jim Smith	North Lanarkshire Council	
	Gavin Whitefield	North Lanarkshire Council	
	Ian Ross	NHS Lanarkshire	
	Neena Mahal	NHS Lanarkshire	
	Stephen Kerr	NHS Lanarkshire	
	Val McGrory	Jobcentre Plus	
	Francis Fallan	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire	
	June Vallance	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire	
	John Miller	Scottish Fire & Rescue	
	Brian Hughes	Scottish Fire & Rescue	
	Chief Inspector Findlay	Police Scotland	
	Marlene Crawford	Skills Development Scotland	
	Allan McQuade	Scottish Enterprise	
	Shirley Linton	North Lanarkshire Council	
	Jonathan Smith	North Lanarkshire Council	
	Linda Johnston	North Lanarkshire Council	
	John Campbell	Housing & Social Work Services/NLC	
	Apologies:	Pauline Nicholas	North Lanarkshire Council
		Colin Sloey	NHS Lanarkshire
Martin McGuire		Motherwell College	
Nelson Telfer		Police Scotland	
Catriona Lindsay		Jobcentre Plus	
Laura Mackay		Police Scotland/NLC	
Andrew Scott		Scottish Government	
Alison Loveday		Scottish Enterprise	
Allan Comrie/Bruce Kiloh		SPT	

1. **Apologies** – noted above
2. **Minute of previous meeting (8 May)** - agreed
3. **Matters arising** – discussed as part of the main Agenda
4. **Local Community Planning – Local Area Team Action Plans**

Presentation by Jonathan Smith. During 2011, action plans were developed for the 6 Local Area Teams to translate strategic priorities of the SOA/Community Plan to local actions which impact on communities. From this, quarterly monitoring reports are produced and updates are provided to the NLP Board and the six Local Area Partnerships. The presentation highlights the extensive progress which has been made in 2012/2013 across the 6 localities and also the key priorities to be taken forward in 2013/2014. Progress will be shown via –

- o Quarterly updates from Local Area Teams
- o 6-monthly reports to the NLP Board
- o 6-monthly reports to Local Area Partnerships
- o Reporting on community planning indicators through Perform NL
- o Input to themed working group action plan updates, and
- o Annual review of Local Area Team action plans and updates with partners and community representatives

Questions and answers followed with Depute Chair Smith requesting clarification on why the Shawhead area of Coatbridge has been targeted as a 2013/2014 action plan priority in relation to alcohol, youth work and youth unemployment. Jonathan will raise this enquiry with the Local Regeneration Manager for the Coatbridge area to clarify this point.

The Chair thanked Jonathan for this informative presentation

Action: Jonathan Smith

5. SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) – Craigneuk area

The Board previously heard that the (2012) Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) identified the Craigneuk area of Wishaw as the ninth most deprived area in Scotland. Staff within the Community Regeneration and Partnership team were asked to analyse this situation and assess what is required to address the decline in the area in relation to high crime rates, antisocial behaviour, poor health and high unemployment.

A number of actions have been agreed by both the Motherwell Local Area Team and community organisations. Full details of these actions are highlighted in the Board report and include –

- support Craigneuk and Wishawhill Positive Action Group to address areas of concern and increase awareness of community issues
- increase the uptake of a range of learning programmes (through Community Learning & Development, Craigneuk Lifelong Learning Association and library services)
- increase awareness of the Well Connected programme

An analysis of information will be carried out by the partnership in an effort to develop an action plan to address the problems experienced by the Craigneuk community. It was also suggested that contact could be made with local schools in an effort to gather support from parents in relation to joining any potential or current action group to assist in resolving the current issues in the area.

- (i) *The Board noted the content of the report and approved the proposal to carry out an analysis of the deprivation data relating to Craigneuk and the development of key actions resulting from that; and*
- (ii) Agreed to a further report to a future NLP Board meeting.

Action: Michele Battersby/Jonathan Smith

- **Provide regular reports to the Board on progress**
- **map current services available**
- **Arrange a meeting with relevant Partners (in conjunction with existing Craigneuk Action Group) to commit to an action plan to address the issues. Gavin Whitefield will Chair the first meeting with Partners (will be scheduled for the end of August 2013).**

6. Early Years Collaborative

Jane Liddell, Head of Education Quality & Development, produced a detailed report which updated the Board regarding progress on NL's Early Years Collaborative. The Early Years Collaborative was launched in 2012 which builds on the work relating to early years and childcare.

The Early Years Collaborative will be led by the Community Planning Partnership whose progress will be reported in the Single Outcome Agreement and involves three age-related work streams (Workstream 1: 9 months – 1 yr; Workstream 2: 1 year – 3 yrs; Workstream 3: 3 years – 5 years). Full details of the issues which should be improved and how these will be achieved are contained in Appendix 1 which was circulated at the meeting.

Key developments are also highlighted in the report (Sections 5.4 – 5.12 refers) and include

- Establishing links with VANL which will ensure voluntary sector representation for each work stream
- Training for front line staff which will be supported by the Scottish Govt and NHS
- Base line data for all work streams will be developed
- NLC will develop a web page to support communication across NLP

The Board noted the content of the report and the Chair thanked Jane for attendance at the meeting. The Chair also wished Jane well in her retirement which will take place in the coming weeks and thanked her for her service to NLC.

7. Performance reports – Partnership Working Groups (Environment, Regeneration, Lifelong Learning, Community Safety, Health & Wellbeing)

Linda Johnston spoke to all five Partnership Working Group reports which contain full details of key achievements made during 2012/2013 together with areas where improvement is needed.

Since the issue of these reports to the Board, new information has been gathered and updated reports will be provided to the Board with this Minute. **Action – Linda Johnston**

8. Single Outcome Agreement Quality Assurance

The meeting was advised that as part of the Quality Assurance process to agree North Lanarkshire's Community Plan/SOA 2013-2018, a video conference took place on 18 June with the CoSLA review panel. Representation on the panel came from - North Ayrshire Council, NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government. Representation from the community planning partnership were Gavin Whitefield (NLC), Divisional Commander Nelson Telfer (Police Scotland), Gabe Docherty, Health Promotion Manager (NHS Lanarkshire) and Pauline Nicholas, Senior Local Regeneration Manager (NLC)

The following areas were discussed

- key strengths of the SOA
- agreement of joint priorities
- voluntary and third sector involvement
- evidence of change and prevention
- joint resource planning and budget alignment.

Full details of the video conference meeting is attached as Appendix 1 to the Board report, together with correspondence issued to the Chair confirming the strengths and development areas of the Plan (Appendix 2 of the report). The Chair of the review panel will confirm the next steps in the process in due course.

The Board noted the content of the report.

9. Voluntary Sector update

Voluntary Sector Conference – this took place on 4 June attended by approximately 100 delegates representing 120 organisations. A full report and evaluation of the conference will be made available to the board in due course. The conference also saw the launch of the 2013-2018 North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Strategy which was compiled following extensive consultation with volunteers, voluntary sector groups and key organisations.

Volunteers Week – took place 1-7 June and recognises and rewards volunteers in local communities.

Local Community Planning – an Induction session is being arranged by VANL for the new individuals who will represent the voluntary sector at future Local Area Partnership meetings. The induction intends to outline their role and explain processes and protocols.

Children and Families Voluntary Sector Network – this Network has been established to allow the voluntary sector to contribute to the Children and Families agenda. The group will be supported by VANL and chaired by Bellshill and Mossend YMCA. The NLP Board will be updated as the new Network develops.

10. Welfare Reform update

John Campbell, Housing and Social Work Services, updated the Board on current issues across North Lanarkshire arising from the impact of Welfare Reform –

- *Rent arrears* – have increased significantly due to the benefit changes
- *Benefit Cap* – Since its introduction on 15 July 2013, 78 service users have been affected by the benefit cap across the 6 localities
- *Under Occupancy Rule* – more than 6,000 people have been affected with more than 2,000 tenants being visited.
- *Digital Inclusion* – it is recognised that a number of claimants/tenants do not have access to IT to allow them to claim benefits on-line. For this reason, a working group has been set up to develop a North Lanarkshire digital inclusion policy to look at what support is needed by these claimants and what support can be given
- *Medical evidence* – it was previously noted that some GPs are refusing to provide patients with written medical evidence to support their benefit application. For this reason, officers from the Council and NHS are meeting to discuss this further, ahead of a meeting scheduled with GPs on 8 August. It was previously suggested that the NLP Board contact the Scottish Government requesting that they resource requests for further medical evidence or resource a service from GPs to deliver a service to provide further medical evidence.

The Board noted the content of the report and agreed that correspondence will be issued to Alex Neil MSP, Health Minister, requesting the possibility of the Scottish Government providing resources to GPs to deliver additional medical evidence.

Action: Jonathan Smith will agree with John Campbell relevant text for inclusion in correspondence, on behalf of the Partnership, to the Health Minister

11. Financial Outlook

Verbal update - The meeting previously heard that the 3 years savings package is currently being implemented for Year 1. Further reductions are needed for 2016/17 and beyond. NHS confirmed that for this year, their savings target is £24m with 2014/2015 looking to save £19-£20m.

12. Budget Statement

Noted, as at Period 3 (21 June 2013). Unallocated resources of £16,187.

13. AOCB

- *Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2013-2016* – details of the Plan were circulated at the meeting. Comments from Partners (by end September) will be welcomed and should be sent direct to strategicplan@firescotland.gov.uk. The full Plan can be accessed at www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/planning-performance.aspx

14. Date of next meeting - Wednesday, 11 September 2013 (9.30am) Civic Centre, Motherwell