

MINUTE OF THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**Wednesday, 4 December 2013**

Present:	Cllr Jim McCabe	North Lanarkshire Council
	Cllr Jim Smith	North Lanarkshire Council
	Gavin Whitefield	North Lanarkshire Council
	Neena Mahal	NHS Lanarkshire
	Dr Harpreet Kholi	NHS Lanarkshire
	Stephen Kerr	NHS Lanarkshire
	Stewart Marshall	NHS Lanarkshire
	Colin Sloey	NHS Lanarkshire
	Francis Fallan	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
	June Vallance	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
	John Miller	Scottish Fire & Rescue
	Brian Hughes	Scottish Fire & Rescue
	Nelson Telfer	Police Scotland
	Martin McGuire	New College Lanarkshire
	Val McGrory	Jobcentre Plus
	Robert Gemmell	Skills Development Scotland
	Mary Fegan	North Lanarkshire Council
	Shirley Linton	North Lanarkshire Council
	Pauline Nicholas	North Lanarkshire Council
	Jonathan Smith	North Lanarkshire Council
	Susan Cloke	North Lanarkshire Council
	John Campbell	North Lanarkshire Council
	Stephen Fraser	North Lanarkshire Council
	Michele Battersby	North Lanarkshire Council
Apologies:	Eleanor Craig	Scottish Fire & Rescue
	Laura Mackay	Police Scotland/NLC
	Alison Findlater	Jobcentre Plus
	Catrina Lindsay	Jobcentre Plus
	Ian Ross	NHS Lanarkshire
	Linda Johnston	North Lanarkshire Council
	Bruce Kiloh	SPT
	Andrew Scott	Scottish Government
	Alison Loveday	Scottish Enterprise
	Allan McQuade	Scottish Enterprise

Welcome

The Chair started the meeting by thanking the representatives from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service for their organisations' efforts following the recent helicopter accident in Glasgow on Friday, 29 November.

1. **Apologies** – noted above
2. **Minute of previous meeting (11 September)** - agreed
3. **Matters arising** – none

4. Lanarkshire Alcohol & Drug Partnership (ADP) Annual Report (Stewart Marshall)

Stewart outlined the seven core outcomes which the Scottish Government has identified for Alcohol Drug Partnerships to perform against i.e.

- Health
- Prevalence
- Recovery
- Children, Young People and families
- Community Safety
- Health Promotion and
- Services

The detailed report contains the financial framework, progress and achievements made in 2012-2013 which include –

- Reduction in alcohol related mortality
- Delivery of a service to support young people who have complex needs
- Alcohol and drug treatment services leading the way nationally for waiting times performance

Priority areas for the coming year include –

- Development of an alcohol and drug partnership quality assurance strategy
- Additional work around drug related deaths and outcome measures
- Continuing investment in workforce development

The meeting also heard that Lanarkshire's funding allocation for 2012-2013 totalled £6,592,338 broken down as follows –

- Drug services and support - £2,215,438
- Alcohol prevention, treatment and support - £3,647,367
- Cam/Glen and Northern Corridor - £729,533

The Board noted the content of the report and thanked Stewart for his informative presentation

5. Public Health 2012/2013 Annual Report by the Director of Public Health (DPH) (Dr Harpreet Kholi)

The annual report by the Director of Public Health was circulated to the group and identifies key issues for prevention, protecting and improving the health of people in Lanarkshire.

The Board paper summaries some key issues contained in the annual report i.e.

- The health of people in Lanarkshire
- Life expectancy in Lanarkshire
- Health Protection
- Health improvement
- Health Services

It was suggested that a future NLP Board meeting would focus on health inequalities in Lanarkshire and that the Board report would be taken to the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Group. Feedback from that group will be brought to the next Board meeting (February 2014)

The Board noted the content of the report and agreed to hold a future discussion on health inequalities.

Action: Note

6. Local Community Planning

Full details of key local community planning developments for the period April – September 2013 are included in the Board report which shows the breadth of activities being carried out across the six localities. Some developments in the previous 6 months include -

Airdrie

- The draft Whinhall Action Plan is currently being finalised. Sub Groups have been developed to address priority actions which include the development of a newsletter, consultation on development of a play park and; the delivery of a summer programme for senior citizens.
- *Home fire safety* – Representatives from Scottish Fire & Rescue have commenced attending meetings of Social Work which identify potentially vulnerable clients. A fire safety leaflet has been developed and is currently being consulted on and the finalised document will be included in Housing's new tenant packs. This will be included across all 6 localities.

Bellshill

- *Jewel Scheme* – community based events have taken place during the previous 6 months which focused on providing information to local people on employability, health, money advice, community safety and learning opportunities. The outcome/feedback from these events will be used to update the action plan for the area and the Local Area Team Action Plan.
- Local community groups are being supported to develop and deliver a number of engagement opportunities to ensure that the community need is represented in local community planning. This includes welfare events planned for January/February 2014 and Carers Information Sessions.

Coatbridge

- *Shawhead* – Dedicated police patrols have been established in the area mainly to address antisocial behaviour in tower blocks where police and housing staff have visited specific addresses.
- *Tenancy Retention Initiative (under 25s)* – a list of "at risk" young tenants has been compiled, with a partner session planned to progress future delivery for those identified as being at risk.

Motherwell

- *Craigneuk* – An estate team has been established to progress a partnership plan for the area. To date, 240 homes have been surveyed relating to service impact and financial inclusion
- *Forgewood private lets* – private landlords who are not registered or not complying with registration have been identified. An Empty Property Task Group has been established which will tackle issues relating to derelict properties or properties in a state of disrepair

North

- *Town Centre Action Plan and Framework* – Public consultations on the draft Cumbernauld Action Plan and the draft Kilsyth Town Centre Action Plan will take place early 2014.
- *Alcohol misuse* – A protocol has now been agreed which will allow Partners to refer clients to appropriate support services.

Wishaw

- *Town Centre Action Plan* – Clyde Valley and St Aidan's High schools have been involved in discussions around town centre action planning. Draft Action Plans are being developed following Partnership Workshops which were held in August and October. It is intended that the action plans will be available in January 2014.

The Board noted the content of the report.

7. Craigneuk update

Further developments on this project continue and include –

- *The Estate Team* – which represents all members of the partnership and has met on a number of occasions and agreed to contribute to a series of actions including –
 - Participation at a meeting with representatives of local community groups (on 7 October) which proved positive. Views were obtained from the group on health, learning, regeneration, employability and community safety.
 - A survey of 240 addresses in the area was carried out with the assistance of Motherwell and Wishaw Citizens' Advice Bureau (Appendix 1 of the report provides full details of the survey's findings).

A series of actions have been agreed in the following areas –

Employment – a new project "*Action: Lone Parents*" begins in the area in April 2014 aimed at lone parents living in complex circumstances. It is intended that the project will assist them by improving their employability prospects through access to personal development programmes and training/education. The project will be funded through the Big Lottery.

Environmental Improvements - £90,000 has been allocated from the Motherwell and District Local Development Programme for environmental projects in the area which will be determined by the residents via Participatory Budget scheme.

Action Plan – the findings from the aforementioned survey, together with analysis of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data, will assist the development of an Action Plan for the area, a draft of which will be brought to the next NLP Board for consideration. The Action Plan will include short, medium and long term goals linked to 5/6 indicators which will monitor progress.

The Chair of the meeting acknowledged the extensive work and progress which has taken place in the area in what has been a relatively short period of time.

The Board noted the content of the report.

8. Third Sector update

Voluntary Sector Locality Networks – the 6 voluntary sector localities delivered their regular events during August – September 2013. These events continue to prove popular with voluntary sector organisations, volunteers and key partners. The events provide a platform for information sharing, communication and networking across the voluntary sector.

North Lanarkshire Council volunteers for Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games – To date, 102 volunteers have expressed interested to Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire in supporting two events taking place in North Lanarkshire – Triathlon (24-26 July) and Cycling Time -Trial (31 July). Details of the volunteers have been passed to North Lanarkshire Council to progress.

North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Strategy 2013-2018 – This document was launched at the annual Voluntary Sector Conference in June. The North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group (VSPG) has devised a reporting template for monitoring progress against the key objectives outlined in the Strategy. Progress will be brought to future NLP Board meetings as well as to the bi-monthly VSPG.

Third Sector representation at Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) – Representation from the third sector at the LAP meetings commenced in July 2013 and since then, each of the 6 representatives has attended two LAP meetings. Feedback from the representatives has been very positive.

9. Economic update

Employment – Between June 2012 and July 2013, 168,500 North Lanarkshire residents are considered to be “economically active” which represents 79% of the population (16-24 years). 150,800 of the working age population are in employment (an employment rate of 70%)

Unemployment – Jobseekers Allowance count has fallen to 9,418 (in October 2013) from almost 12,000 (in February). The JSA claimant rate in North Lanarkshire is 4.3% compared to the Scottish figure of 3.2%. JSA claimants in the 18-24 year age group have fallen by 16.3%, over the 3 year period to October 2013.

Employment - the Ascensos Group will create up to 600 call centre jobs over the next three years at the former Lloyds Banking Group site in Motherwell

Citizens' Panel consultation (Autumn 2013) – The latest Citizens' Panel consultation showed more positive findings than the previous consultation in relation to the impact of the economic downturn. The most common causes of concern for panel members include - the cost of domestic energy bills, vehicle fuel prices, the cost of food and rent/mortgage payments.

The Board noted the content of the report.

10. Agreement on joint working on community planning and resourcing

The Agreement is seen as a key supporting document in the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement and recognises that the delivery of the SOA requires joint use of assets and resources from public, private and third party sectors as well as local communities. Community Planning Partnerships have been requested by the National Community Planning Group to provide details of actions being taken to implement the Agreement. North Lanarkshire's actions will be made available following the Board meeting today (4 December).

The Board agreed to hold a separate discussion at the end of January 2014 with finance reps from NLC, police, fire and colleges to look at financial planning for 2014/15 and beyond.

Action: Susan Cloke, Service Improvement Team

11. Welfare Reform, Employment and the jobs market update

Welfare Reform Conference – this conference is planned for 12 February 2014 hosted by the Welfare Reform Group and North Lanarkshire Information & Advice Forum. Invitations and further details will be issued by John Campbell to relevant North Lanarkshire Council staff, NHS, Forum members and elected members.

Benefit Cap – a revised list of 78 households has been provided by DWP of which 32 families are exempt.

Under Occupancy Rule – As at October 2013, 3,060 home visits have been carried out to those affected by the 25% and 15% reduction in benefit.

Rent Arrears – Since March 2013, rent arrears have increased by 67%.

First Stop Shops – Due to the changes within the welfare reform programme, customer contact at first stop shops has seen an increase of 20% (April – July 2013). The main enquiries relate to housing allocation, benefits, council tax and rent.

Health – North and South Lanarkshire Councils, together with NHS Lanarkshire, are finalising the information pack on welfare benefits for GPs and health care staff. The pack will provide guidance on the input required by GPs/health care staff on the assessment and appeals process for Employment and Support Allowance/Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment. The finalised document will be brought to a future meeting of the NLP Board, for information.

Welfare Reform Audit – North Lanarkshire Council's internal audit team has carried out a second review of its management arrangements in respect of welfare reform within North Lanarkshire and has assessed the management arrangements as offering “*substantial assurance*”.

Attached to the report are details on the new “Claimant Commitment” - This was launched on 11 November. New Jobseekers Allowance claimants will have to account more clearly for the efforts they are making to find employment in order to receive benefits. The Commitment will be renewed on a regular basis. The Commitment has been rolled out in the Bellshill and Motherwell areas with a further roll out in Airdrie and Cumbernauld in January 2014.

Commonwealth Games 2014 employment opportunities – Val McGrory advised that Jobcentre Plus will link with suitable employers in an attempt to secure approximately 11,000 part time jobs for the unemployed for the duration of the Games. Further details on this will be provided at the next NLP Board meeting.

Action – Val McGrory

The Board noted the content of the report

12. Scottish Fire and Rescue (SF&R) Service – PSIF process update (Public Service Improvement Framework)

John Miller expressed thanks to partners for their participation in the SF&R Public Service Improvement Framework exercise. A number of areas for improvement have been identified, which apply equally to the Community Planning Partnership and to the SF&R, and include –

Performance information – there is a need to establish a level of consistency on formats of information from partners.

Statistical information – some disparity of information provided by the partnership and SF&R.

SF&R personnel – frequent changes of staffing can impact on performance management arrangements as there may be a lack of ownership or accountability.

Internal protocols – a lack of understanding of partner organisations' information sharing.

The Board noted the content of the report.

Action: Actions which affect the partnership will be extracted and will form an action plan to be delivered by the Community Safety Partnership. An update will be brought to a future meeting of the NLP Board

13. North Lanarkshire Child Protection Annual Report and Business Plan

Mary Fegan, Housing & Social Work Services, advised the meeting of the publication of the 2012/13 Child Protection Committee Annual Report and the 2013/14 business Plan.

Some key achievements include –

Motherwell Football Community Trust – work continues with the Trust to promote the protection of children through the football club's community coaching programmes

Child Exploitation Online (CEOP) - training has been delivered to a range of staff to raise awareness of keeping children safe online. This was in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council's Learning & Leisure Services and Police Scotland.

North Lanarkshire Youth Council – continue to support their work with young people including awareness raising of issues around child protection.

Some priorities for 2013/14 identified in the Business Plan include –

GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) – continue to promote this across all children's services

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2010) – when this is revised, address any changes to the review

The report summarises both documents but a full copy of each document can be obtained from Fiona McCaskill at McCaskillf@northlan.gov.uk or (01698) 452859.

The Board noted the content of the report

14. Lanarkshire MAPPA (multi agency public protection arrangements) Annual Report 2011-2012

The report updates the Board on the annual report of MAPPA for 2012/13 within the Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority area and highlights key areas of activity / future planning which include -

Registered Sex Offenders – the total numbers who continue to be managed have increased year on year since 2009/10.

Victim Strategy – a priority for Lanarkshire MAPPA is the impact on victims of managing offenders and will continue to make best use of available resources to manage this.

Communications Strategy – Lanarkshire MAPPA will develop a strategy to increase public awareness of the management of offenders

The full report can be accessed at -
http://www.lanarkshirecja.org.uk/?pages_id=86 and

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00433890.pdf>

The Board noted the content of the report

15. North Lanarkshire Community Plan (SOA) Development Areas – update

The Board was reminded that at the June 2013 Quality Assurance meeting for the North Lanarkshire SOA, a number of key strengths and development areas were identified, i.e.

- Five development areas would be incorporated into the work of Developing the Partnership Group.
Update: The Developing the Partnership Working Group has reviewed its action plan to take forward the work on the five development areas with key actions in place for 2013/14 and with target activities for 2014/15 being identified in 2014.
- Development of third year targets across the Community Plan (SOA) would be taken forward by the themed Partnership groups.
Update: The themed partnership working groups are currently identifying third year targets for each of the indicators and these will be incorporated into an updated Community Plan (SOA) supporting document. These targets will be available early 2014.
- The Community Plan (SOA) supporting document would be updated to reflect the ongoing work.
Update: this will be available early 2014

16. Budget Statement

Noted, as at 8th Nov 2013 (Period 8) – Unallocated resources of £16,187

17. AOCB

- *NL Industries* – North Lanarkshire Council has formed NL Industries which will take over and run the former Remploy premises in an expansion of their existing furniture and refurbishing service, Beltane Products. The new company was launched on 3 December and will be based at Netherton Industrial Estate, Wishaw. Further details will be brought to the next meeting of the Board
- *New College Lanarkshire* – 1 November 2013 saw the merger of the former Motherwell and Coatbridge Colleges. From 1 April 2014, the current Coatbridge College will join the merger. The Principal, Martin McGuire, advised the meeting of a recent success for the college. At the 2 day WorldSkills UK competition, 11 students from the college were presented with Best Skills awards – 4 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals.
- *School Leaver Positive Destinations* – New figures released show that 90% of North Lanarkshire school leavers achieved positive destinations (further education, training or employment) - a rise of 2.6% from the previous year.

Date of next meeting - Wednesday, 12 February 2014 (9.30am) Civic Centre, Motherwell