

MINUTE OF THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2015 AT 9.30 AM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, MOTHERWELL

PRESENT

Councillor James McCabe (Leader)	North Lanarkshire Council
Councillor James Smith (Depute Leader)	North Lanarkshire Council
Graham Cowan	North Lanarkshire Council
Stephen Fraser	North Lanarkshire Council
Amanda Gallagher	North Lanarkshire Council
Linda Johnstone	North Lanarkshire Council
Paul Jukes	North Lanarkshire Council
Shirley Linton	North Lanarkshire Council
Leanne Pollock	North Lanarkshire Council
Jonathan Smith	North Lanarkshire Council
Janice Hewitt	Health and Social Care Joint Integration Board
Robert McMillan	New College Lanarkshire
Dot McLaughlin	The Improvement Service
Sharon Milar	NHS Ed. for Scotland
Kenny McDonald	Police Scotland
Lesley Jackson	Scottish Enterprise
Iain McCusker	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Jim Kerr	Scottish Prison Service
Hazel Mathieson	Skills Development Scotland
June Vallance	Voluntary Action, North Lanarkshire (VANL)

APOLOGIES

Calum Campbell	NHS Lanarkshire
John Campbell	North Lanarkshire Council
Pauline Nicholas	North Lanarkshire Council
Stephen Kerr	NHS Lanarkshire
Neena Mahal	NHS Lanarkshire
Joe Hamilton	Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration (SCRA)
Alan McQuade	Scottish Enterprise
Danny Logue	Skills Development Scotland
Bruce Kiloh	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
Francis Fallon	Voluntary Sector

CHAIR

Councillor McCabe presided.

WELCOME AND CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and sought views from the Board on moving the venue for future meetings, and proposed that the meeting become peripatetic in nature. Motherwell College was provided as an example of a possible venue.

1. Minute of Previous Meeting – 21 October 2015

The Minute of the meeting of the Partnership Board held on 21 October 2015 was agreed as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

Reference having been made to paragraph 5 of the meeting of the Partnership Board held on 21 October 2015, the Chair highlighted that the Syrian and Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme was an example of excellent partnership working and thereafter Jonathan Smith provided an update

to the Board on the work which had been undertaken in relation to this matter, and to work that was ongoing. Jonathan Smith also wished to place on record his thanks to all staff from across the Partnership who had been involved and assisted with the Relocation Scheme.

3. **Enabling Collaborative Learning Workshop**

Sharon Milar and Dot McLaughlin of NHS Education for Scotland facilitated a workshop for the Partnership Board.

A presentation was given providing details of the outcome of a consultation with partners in relation to their observations about the Partnership Board and its operation and, thereafter, information was provided, in a second presentation, on the Collaborative Leadership Programme and the approach to be taken. The Board was asked if it was felt that this was something it wished to pursue.

During the workshop, discussion took place on a number of the issues raised in the presentations and Board members undertook consideration of the issues in smaller groups.

Sharon Milar proposed that a two hour workshop be provided to the Board on the subject of inequalities to take place in January 2016.

Following the workshop, the Chair thanked Sharon Milar and Dot McLaughlin for their facilitation and for the interesting discussions which had taken place.

Action: that the report be noted.

4. **Community Justice Transition Plan**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Social Work Services, North Lanarkshire Council, providing an update on the progress of the Community Justice Steering Group in the development and delivery of the redesigned Community Justice processes in North Lanarkshire and, specifically, addressing the requirement that the statutory partners of each Community Planning Partnership were required to submit a transitional plan to the Scottish Government by 31 January 2016 detailing arrangements being developed for the assumption of responsibility for the strategic development and delivery of Community Justice from April 2017 (1) reminding the Board that, at its meeting on 21 October 2015, it had agreed that a Community Justice Steering Group would be established to manage the transition process until 31 March 2016, after which the Group would be known as the Community Justice Partnership reporting directly to the Partnership Board on a six monthly basis; (2) outlining the information which the Scottish Government had specifically requested be included within transitional plans, and (3) providing an update on work ongoing in North Lanarkshire in relation to this matter.

Linda Johnstone spoke to the report following which the Board agreed:-

- (1) that responsibility be delegated to the Community Justice Steering Group to agree the Transitional Plan, and
- (2) that the Chair of the Community Justice Steering Group submit the Transitional Plan to the Scottish Government, on behalf of the Partnership Board, by 31 January 2016.

5. **Third Sector Update**

There was submitted a report by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group providing information on projects and initiatives and work ongoing by the Third Sector as at December 2015.

June Vallance spoke to the report following which the Board agreed that the report be noted.

Action: that the report be noted.

6. Economic Update

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Information and Research Team, Chief Executive's Office, North Lanarkshire Council providing the latest available economic and labour market performance information, both at local and national levels, as hereinafter noted:-

JSA Claimant Counts

The Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) Claimant count stood at 4,694 in North Lanarkshire in October 2015, representing a drop of 32% over the previous 12 months and a decrease of 8.3% on the previous month.

Claimant Count Age and Duration

Claimants in the 18-24 years age group continued to improve having dropped by 50% to 830 claimants over the year with an improvement, also, in the long term JSA claimant levels over the year to a current figure of 1,540.

Claimant Rates at a Local Level

JSA unemployment rates varied from a low of 0.8% in Cumbernauld North to a high of 3.4% in Airdrie Central. Nineteen of twenty Wards showed a decrease in claimant numbers over the month to October.

Economic Activity

From research conducted between July 2014 and June 2015 an estimated 77.3% of the population aged 16-64 years in North Lanarkshire were considered to be economically active which was close to the national average of 77.6%. The latest employment rate for North Lanarkshire stood at 71.3%, marginally below the national rate of 72.9%.

Economic Inactivity

Of the estimated 49,700 people who were economically inactive, the largest proportion (just over 34%) were considered to be long term sick which was 8% higher than the national figure of 26%, although this figure had reduced significantly over the corresponding figures from the previous year when the gap had been 13%.

Inflation

The 12 month headline rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index was -0.1% in October 2015 and was consistent with the rate in September 2015.

Economic Outlook

The Chief Economic Adviser's monthly economic brief for October 2015 had noted that the annual rate of GDP growth in Scotland for 2015 was likely to be around 2.4% and it was further forecast that this would fall back marginally in 2016 to 2.3%, reflecting the continued impact of the downturn in the oil industry on the Scottish economy.

Local Business News

- (a) Ascensos had announced plans to increase its workforce by 200 at its Call Centre base in Motherwell, to be phased in over the next six months;
- (b) Fishers Group had announced plans to open a "Super Laundry" in Coatbridge with a £5 million facility to serve the hotels and restaurant sector and expected to open in December 2015 with the creation of 150 jobs;
- (c) Viridor had been appointed as preferred bidder for a 25 year £700m contract to manage residual waste on behalf of five partner authorities led by North Lanarkshire Council;

- (d) Potential significant job losses at North Lanarkshire Council over the next two financial years, together with potential loss of 270 jobs at the TATA Steel Plant in Dalziel and Clyde Bridge as reported to the previous Board. Work to find a buyer for the mothballed plants was underway through a Task Force set up by the Scottish Government in October 2015.

Action: that the report be noted.

7. **Welfare Reform Update**

There was submitted a report by the Service Manager, Financial Inclusion, North Lanarkshire Council updating on action taken to mitigate the impact of welfare reform within North Lanarkshire (1) detailing work underway in relation to Universal Credit; (2) detailing the expected funding to be received from the Scottish Government in relation to under occupancy rule/discretionary housing payments; outlining the demand made to the Council in relation to the Scottish Welfare Fund, and (4) detailing activity in relation to "Welfare Right Clinics" which, to date, 455 people had attended.

Amanda Gallacher spoke to the report, following which discussion took place in relation to food banks in North Lanarkshire and the demand being placed upon them.

Action: that the report be noted.

8. **Budget Statement**

Jonathan Smith provided a narrative to the Board on the recent Budget Statement and its likely impact upon the Board.

Action: that the oral update be noted.

9. **AOCB**

There was none.

10. **Timetable of Meetings 2016**

There was submitted a proposed timetable for meetings of the Partnership Board for 2016.

Action: that the schedule of meeting dates for 2016 be approved.

Following the commencement of business, the Chair advised the Board that this was Kenny McDonald's last meeting and, on behalf of the Board, presented him with a gift and offered congratulations on his promotion.

Thereafter, the Chair wished everyone in attendance a happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.