

Motherwell, 4 February 2019 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the YOUTH, EQUALITIES AND EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Campbell, Convener; Councillor Woods, Vice-Convener; Councillors J. Ashraf, Cameron, Carragher, Douglas, Duffy, Goldsack, Jones, Larson, Linden, MacGregor, Magowan, McManus, McNally, H. McVey, Morgan, Quigley, Stephen and Weir.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Burgess, Kelly, Logue and Roarty attended as substitutes for Councillors Gallacher, Feeney, Shields and Carson respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Campbell (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Communities; Development Officer (Equalities); Community Partnership Managers; Young People and Families Manager; Development Officer (Information and Engagement), and Administrative Officer, North Lanarkshire Council; Chief Superintendent Alan Waddell and Superintendent Rob Hay, Police Scotland, and Local Senior Officer Stephen Wright and Group Manager Martyn Brandrick, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

APOLOGIES

Councillors D. Ashraf, Carson, Feeney, Gallacher and Shields.

CONVENER'S REMARKS

The Convener opened the meeting by welcoming the Members of the Committee, Officers, Christopher Winters and Mairi Brennan, Year of Young People Youth Ambassadors, and Wiktorina Orlicka, Chair of North Lanarkshire Youth Council, to the first meeting of the Committee.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF THE ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

1. The Committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

The Convener exercised her discretion to vary the Order of Business as hereinafter Minuted.

INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE

2. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities proposing (1) that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the North Lanarkshire Youth Council be invited to attend future meetings of the Committee on a non-voting basis, and (2) that other members of the Youth Council be given the opportunity to attend meetings of the Committee along with either the Chair or Vice-Chair of the North Lanarkshire Youth Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the North Lanarkshire Youth Council be invited to attend future meetings of the Committee on a non-voting basis, and
- (2) that other members of the Youth Council be given the opportunity to attend meetings of the Committee along with either the Chair or Vice-Chair of the North Lanarkshire Youth Council.

POLICE SCOTLAND - PERFORMANCE REPORT

3. There was submitted a report by Police Scotland (1) outlining policing performance and activity in North Lanarkshire; (2) focussing upon the priorities contained within the Local Policing Plan, and advising that the priorities had been identified through consultation with partners and communities, and (3) providing statistical information on the performance of various priorities and objectives for the period 1 April to 30 November 2018 compared with the corresponding period from the previous year.

Chief Superintendent Alan Waddell then outlined the key points of note from each of the policing priorities and provided further detail on various aspects of the operational performance of Police Scotland in North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - PERFORMANCE REPORT

4. There was submitted a report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on service delivery performance for the period 1 April to 31 December 2018 which provided statistical information on the various actions to be undertaken in terms of the SFRS Annual Operating Plan.

Local Senior Officer, Stephen Wright was then heard on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in North Lanarkshire, during which he highlighted the improvements made in relation to certain actions and emphasised the effectiveness of partnership working undertaken to tackle issues that had impacted on performance during the reporting period.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

IS SCOTLAND FAIRER? - THE STATE OF EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS 2018 - COUNCIL RESPONSE

5. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) informing that the Equality Act 2006 had given the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) the statutory duty to report regularly to the UK Parliament on the extent to which equality and human rights had improved in Britain; (2) providing a high level summary of the Equality and Human Rights Commissions' Scottish-specific supplementary report to the Is Britain Fairer? 2018 review, namely, "Is Scotland Fairer? - The state of equality and human rights 2018"; (3) advising that the Is Scotland Fairer? report (a) centred around six themes (education, work, living standards, health, justice, and personal security and participation) which reflected the areas of life that were important to people and enabled them to flourish, and (b) provided a clear, evidence based assessment of where Scotland had made progress, where things had not changed or had gotten worse and any emerging concerns since the last review in 2015, and recognised that there were evidence gaps which required to be addressed; (4) outlining the work the Council had undertaken to address the recommendations identified within the review which were pertinent to the Council, and (5) intimating (a) that the publication of the Council's Mainstreaming Equality Report in 2019, as required by the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duties, would set out the progress the Council had made towards meeting its equality outcomes and its plans for the

subsequent two year period, and (b) that the Performance Management Framework, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, also detailed how the Council would continue to work to ensure progress against the equality outcome.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and accompanying Appendix be noted;
- (2) that the work already undertaken by the Council to address the recommendations, pertinent to the Council, identified within the report, be noted, and
- (3) that further analysis and details as to the ways in which advancing equality were integral to the Council's day-to-day business would be provided within the Council's Mainstreaming Equality Report, to be published in April 2019, be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD - SUPPORTING DELIVERY OF THE AMBITION

6. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) outlining the background to the adoption of the North Lanarkshire Partnership Board Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) in 2017, in line with guidance from the Scottish Government and in accordance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015; (2) intimating that, throughout 2018, North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP) had been engaged in self assessment activity that had highlighted the need for improvement in key areas; (3) informing that, at the NLP Board Meeting held on 21 November 2018, Community Planning Partners had agreed to support the work that the Council had been leading in developing the Ambition for North Lanarkshire as the shared strategic delivery mechanism to replace the existing LOIP; (4) detailing, within Appendix 1 to the report, a key actions timeline that had been produced, following high level feedback from senior partners, to support alignment of partnership and organisational delivery to agreed priorities and ambition statements, and (5) advising that it was anticipated that the adoption of the North Lanarkshire Plan would enable (a) a more streamlined approach to resourcing and delivering shared priorities; (b) more effective shared leadership for the delivery of Community Planning in North Lanarkshire; (c) greater impact on reducing inequalities, and (d) opportunities to simplify and align community engagement and participation approaches to meet local need, whilst also meeting the legislative requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 regarding the delivery of Local Outcome Improvement Plans.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in reaching agreement with Community Planning Partners to adopt the North Lanarkshire Plan to serve the purpose of the previously agreed Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) be noted;
- (2) that further regular updates be submitted to future meetings of this Committee on progress on the development and implementation of approaches to ensure partnership delivery of the Plan in line with the partnership's statutory obligations in delivering Community Planning, and
- (3) that the timeline of key actions to support alignment of partnership processes to deliver the North Lanarkshire Plan, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

SYRIAN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME - PROGRESS UPDATE

7. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) providing an update on progress with the resettlement of 133 Syrian refugees through the Syrian Resettlement Programme in North Lanarkshire, as measured through the indicators of integration approach which included the key indicators of (a) housing; (b) education; (c) health, and (d) employment and social connections; (2) advising that, due to difficulties experienced in dealing with the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees (UNHCR) and a lack of progress, the former Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 27 September 2018, had agreed to move away from attempting to receive the fourth and final arrivals group of refugee families through the Family Reunification approach and revert to taking nominations from the UNHCR priority list; (3) informing (a) that due to the Tower Re provisioning Programme causing additional pressure to housing waiting lists in other areas, it had been agreed that suitable accommodation be identified in the Bellshill and Cumbernauld areas; (b) that local housing associations had again been offered the opportunity to contribute suitable properties to the Programme, and (c) that the first of the Home Office approved families matched to the accommodation provided were anticipated to arrive in North Lanarkshire in March 2019, and (4) intimating that, in view of the UK Syrian Resettlement Programme closing in April 2020, COSLA had established a new Strategic Migration Partnership involving senior individuals from key bodies such as the UK and Scottish Governments, the Home Office, SOLACE and the Scottish Refugee Council, to discuss the future of refugee resettlement after April 2020.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that further update reports be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

NATIONAL YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018 - PROGRESS REPORT

8. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of the former Youth, Communities and Equalities Sub-Committee, there was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) providing an update on progress made in a number of areas of the North Lanarkshire Year of the Young People Programme 2018, and (2) outlining (a) in Appendix 1 to the report, examples of youth participation events during the period November to December 2018, and (b) in Appendix 2 to the report, progress in relation to a range of measures that had been developed and used to determine the success of the Programme.

Thereon, (1) Christopher Winters and Mairi Brennan, Year of Young People Youth Ambassadors, presented a summary of the Year of Young People activities, and outlined the work underway to develop thematic actions to ensure a lasting legacy from the Year of Young People, and (2) Wiktorja Orlicka, Chair of North Lanarkshire Youth Council (NLYC), presented an update on NLYC activity and how it was working to develop the legacy of the Year of Young People.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress to date in relation to the Year of Young People activity, as outlined within the report, be noted, and
- (2) that the work underway to develop thematic actions to ensure the lasting legacy of the Year of Young People, be noted.