

Caithness Community Planning Partnership

Full Meeting

22 September 2023, 10.00-12.00

Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Eann Sinclair (HIE); Karl Rosie (Councillor); Kirsteen Campbell (LGOWIT); Allan Tait (CVG); Matthew Thain (Police Scotland); Paddy Farrell (Scottish Fire & Rescue); MacKenzie Sutherland (Highland Council); Mike Youatt (CAB); Daniel Macleod (Dunbeath & District Centre); Stephen Mezals (Police Scotland); Alexander Glasgow (Thurso Community Café) Katie Matthews (HLH), Joan Lawrie (NHCH) Laura Fisher (HC), Michael Simpson, Fiona Webster (HC employability), Wendy Thain (caithness Klinks), Daniel MacLeod(Dunbeath Centre)

Apologies:

Karen Haden-Homer(Enable) Michelle Johnstone (NHS Highland); Angela Echavarren (Highland Council). Kirsteen Campbell(North Highland Women's Hub) Pat Ramsay(Caithness Food Bank), Nigel Bott(caithness CAB), Bryan Dods(CVG) Amanda & Dave Snashall(CVG & CMHSG), Natasha from Reay Young Stars, Cllr Jan MacEwan, Heather Urquhart(Caithness Community Connections)

Open points from last meeting –

The roll out of charging points being reviewed, noted that new one recently fitting at Dunbeath surgery. Mac Sutherland to investigate and report back.

Question around comparative prices between taxis and Caithness Rural Transport, Allan will report back.

Bus users meeting, Eann will investigate the status of this group.

Eann mentioned that concerns had been raised with him about comments made at the last meeting being raised shortly afterwards on social media. Eann emphasised that meeting was a public meeting but should be a safe space to enable a genuine discussion to take place.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Katie Matthews – Kit for All Highland. Katies gave some background on Community Sports hubs which are looking to use sport as a tool for change.

Caithness Kit for All, a Sports Scotland Initiative, Identified a need in Caithness working with partners in the county. Looking to break down barriers to sport. A number of partnerships in the county have now been developed. Looking to extend the network and promote. Very interesting Video from East End football festival and to hear from the coaches and committee members and how it works for them. Involves recycling sports equipment – football boots, trainers, sports clothing. Helps reduce costs and better for the environment.

Please help us spread the word.

Katie also talked about another project - Rock Up and Ride – Communities - Scottish cycling initiative, community based looking to make accessible pathway into regular cycling activity, promoting cycling for life.

Looking for organisations to have bike hub with support from the project. Any interested potential partners can contact Katie or Bryan Dods at CVG.

Cllr Karl Rosie congratulated Katie on the projects and offered support from the councillors if required.

Highland CPP - Laura Fisher one of the core team with responsibility for Caithness. Nine Community Partnerships in the Highlands being covered by a central team of three managed by Gail Prince. Laura seconded by the police and responsible for Caithness, Mid Ross and Skye & Lochalsh and West Ross. First job was to take stock of the current status of the individual partnerships. Role is to work for the chairs of the partnerships, develop plans, support new people involved in the partnerships, share best practice and hopefully bridge the gap between Highland and local CPP's

Child plan – Michael Simpson asked why no name alongside, Angela Echavarren took over from Helen Ellis but not available.

Highland Board –

Eann confirmed a number of annual reports were considered by the board for comment.

The HTSI custody link project was considered and seen as a big success with some good outcomes, Project nearing the end but there was a determination around the table to ensure the project continues.

Caithness Cares - A report from Amanda Snashall was circulated with the agenda.

Caithness Poverty action Group – Allan Tait provided a verbal report on the work being led by Bryan Dods. Bryan hosted a workshop in the PPP where 35 people attended and discussed what worked last winter and what need to be done in the short medium and long term. Bryan will be following up on this next week. One of the main things was around communication. We have funding from Camster fund for a one day a week Communications officer so that post will be filled from the start of October when Stephanie Remers rejoins us.

We are also hoping to have a volunteer helping to coordinate some actions and more on that will follow.

Training

Bryan continues with a community training programme this includes -

First aid courses of different length including for teenagers and Paediatric First Aid, Personal licencing, PAT training, Food Hygiene, Allergy training.

I think 276 people have taken part in all of the above. In addition there has been Mental Health awareness training taking place this week with another 75 people involved. I did one

of the half day awareness sessions and it was excellent, the trainer was very up to date and well researched and the feedback has been very positive.

Warmlie District Heating -

The Feasibility study is under way and being undertaken by Reheat Ltd and funded by Local Energy Scotland. A community Energy Survey is also running and that includes housing, businesses and the Dunbar Hospital, college and High school.

At this time a hybrid scheme is preferred, e.g. Ground Source Heat Pumps augmented by Biomass Electric water heating for circulation. Using surplus windfarm capacity is now a possibility. Discussions are happening regarding an innovative ESO scheme to encourage local use of renewable energy and minimize the impact of grid constraints.

Feasibility Study Report should be delivered by Christmas, and will offer routes to success including suggested energy sources, business models and technologies.

Mike Youatt - Citizens Advice Scotland

Looking to reduce gambling harm in communities. Considerable harm to gamblers, creating social and financial problems.

Mike is involved with two services - One is speaking to vulnerable clients and other is training local CAB to support people which includes Caithness CAB.

Estimate 300 people with potential issues in Caithness with gambling. Online gambling very hard to control and restrict – companies offshore.

Not just gambler but the wider families are very impacted. Wendy Thain thanked Mike and delighted that there is support in Caithness. Mac asked is there a strategy/intervention to catch people before they develop a problem?. Mike said there is some education and the Gambling Act is also being reviewed. Mike was encouraged to work with Drug and alcohol forum and was very happy to take up that offer. Question why is gambling allowed to advertise on TV, answer was it is allowed by law.

Creates similar harms to substance and alcohol abuse.

Fiona Webster - Local employability team.

Looking at issues preventing people getting into work. Transport and child minding were identified locally. Speaking to UHI about 4:30pm bus to Wick that was stopped. 5:30pm bus to late for ongoing links down the coast. No transport from Bower/Castletown area in the morning. Also issues going to North Sutherland, can cost £50 a week to get to Tongue. Eann mentioned that the Urban Foresight transport review managed by Focus North is underway.

Alexander Glasgow said the running of busses is around financials.

Cllr Rosie mentioned that Cllr Raymond Bremner chairs the Caithness Transport Forum, would welcome further discussions.

Fiona confirmed that they are working with the college looking to train more childminders. 8 funded places, lots of enquiries but only 4 places taken up currently.

Caithness Community Catch -ups - Eann enquired Is it worth doing another one say October? Also face to Face CPP meetings? Suggestion 1 f2f meeting a year seemed to be well received. Online meetings do save travelling time and make things easier for people to attend. Also economic and environmental issues with f2F meetings.

AOCB - Alexander Glasgow – A Caithness App could be produced for busses timetable and general tourism produced free. Alex to email Eann. Mac said printed timetables are good for some sections of the population. Mike mentioned updated Apps don't work on everyone's phone.

Stephen Mezals – Starting to recruit locally. Previously applicants could be sent anywhere in Scotland. Issues in Caithness with a current high turnover of staff with a high number of probationers. Delighted that people can apply for Caithness. Application process can also be partly done in Wick rather than travelling to Aberdeen. Policing is a good opportunity and does not require qualifications. Stephan Looking for support to share opportunities. It was agreed this was a very positive point to end the meeting

Date of next meeting – Friday 1st December.