

CAITHNESS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Location: Online
Date: 8th December 2023
Time: 10.00
Chair: Eann Sinclair

Agenda Items

1	Welcome and Apologies	Eann Sinclair (HIE)
2	Notes and actions from last meeting 22 nd September 2023	Eann Sinclair (HIE)
3	Presentation:	
4	Highland CPP	Eann Sinclair (HIE)
5	Caithness Cares/ Here for Caithness	Amanda Snashall (CVG)
6	Caithness Poverty Action Group	Bryan Dods (CVG)
7	Caithness Employability (LEP)	Karen Haden-Homer (EnableWorks)
8	Caithness Child's Plan	
9	Caithness Community Catch Up	Eann Sinclair (HIE)
10	AOCB	Eann Sinclair (HIE)
11	Date of next meeting 2024 Meeting Dates: TBC	Eann Sinclair (HIE)

Attendees: Eann Sinclair (HIE); Kirsteen Campbell (NHWWH); Allan Tait (CVG); Matthew Thain (Police Scotland); Gary Cringles (Scottish Fire & Rescue); MacKenzie Sutherland (Highland Council); 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), Amanda Coghill (Caithness Klicks), Bryan Dodds (CVG); Amanda Snashall (CVG); Nicky & Tasha (Reay Stars); Vicki Clarke (Planet Youth); Fiona Webster (Highland Council); Ron Gunn

(Councillor); Stephen Mezals (Police Scotland); Laura Fisher (Community Engagement); Eilidh Coll (Foundation Scotland); Pauline Pearson (Education North); Michelle Johnstone (NHS); Penny Gunn (TCDT); Katie Matthews (HLH); William Mackay (Councillor); Jan McEwan (Councillor); Linda (Lybster & Tannach Fund); Sadie Kevill (CAB); Heather (CCC); Debbie Simpson (Social Security);

Apologies: Daisy Martin (Kooth); Mike Youatt (CAB); Christian Nicoll (NHS); Dave Snashall (CMHSG);

Eann Sinclair began the meeting with an update from the Highland Community Planning Partnership meeting that he had recently attended with Stuart Black as the Chair. The main items discussed were the launch of the Highland Suicide Prevention Strategy which had been launched in Inverness in November. Eann said that it would be great to have someone at the next CPP meeting in early 2024 to have the strategy explained and discussed. The other main item was the need to review the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan which had been written in 2017 and it was felt needed updating to reflect more of today's reality. Senior positions within the HCPP had started that process and Eann was to part of those discussions. It was felt that this review needed to more than those in senior positions and that Eann had raised the point that communities needed a voice in that process. The Highland Drugs and Alcohol Forum submitted their annual report which had been approved.

Allan Tait raised the point that it was good to see the HOIP improved and that he would like to see a drive for action from that plan, it was a good chance to refresh and move forward.

Laura Fisher reiterated her team's role and that they were going to send out a framework as they were seeing loads of plans but didn't appear to much stringing those plans together at this point. She explained that they were in regular contact with Eann Sinclair and would be in touch, early next year.

Update Here For Caithness – Amanda Snashall

1. Continued partnership working, promoting and supporting other organisations. Caithness Cares Strategy meetings have seen information from CAB Gambling Aware, RASASH, KOOTH, Enable and information about the CPO Development role in the Criminal Justice subgroup within HTSI.
2. The use of vaccination clinics and to promote different services to ensure maximum coverage of information sharing. 'Grab Bags' have also been a feature, offering a canvas bag with several different leaflets signposting to those organisations. Request should any wish to send leaflets for those bags.
3. This ties in with work beginning with the Family & Wellbeing Improvement Team and The Scottish Co-Production Network, working on a project to incorporate a family centre with Wick.
4. Additional work is ongoing with establishing a community hub possibly with in the Carnegie Library in Wick.
5. Mental Health and Health in general, remain a concern within the Highlands and it is thought that the current consultant Psychiatrist contract is not to be renewed, however differing information contradicts this.
6. The Scottish Human Rights Commission came to the Highlands last month to speak with a number of those in both Third Sector and the Statuary Agencies.
7. The Friday Bulletin has increased its readership since being published on Social media. And would welcome other suggestions about how to increase our readership and continue to share as much information as possible to those that really need it.

Kirsteen Campbell reiterated the work of SHRC and that due to those concerns raised Channel 4 had come up to Caithness to conduct interviews and were due back next month.

Bryan Dodds gave an update below regarding the work of the Caithness Poverty Action Group.

There was discussion around how families could be referred into CPAG for those crisis vouchers and Bryan asked for contact direct to him. There was also discussion and shared details around free sanitary products to support families. [hey girls | Award Winning Period Product Social Enterprise](#) and period.products@highland.gov.uk

CPAG Groups activities

- Organisation – matrix of services; flyers & posters – to all areas, focus on remote/ rural
- Supermarket surplus collections – improving uptake
- Working with foodbanks to improve coverage & accessibility
- Sharing facilities – Reay added, Castletown still in progress, encouraging other areas per social hubs development
- Breakfast bars for schools – 2 per kid/ year: 1068 packs to distribute, >150 packs already handed out
- Social hubs – increase numbers, remote areas
- Food & energy vouchers – crisis cases
- Energy saving measures – Energy Action Scotland conference
- Winter warm packs & misc. crisis interventions/ organisation assistance
- Toiletries & sanitary goods – Thurso Christian Church niche
- Youth voices heard – youth activities Castletown, Place-Based Demonstrator
- Training courses – 36 events, >300 people trained; First Aid, Food Safety, PAT, SIA Doors, Licensing, Mental Health Support
- Employment support training – family-based courses, with e.g. PPP, OCA
- Assisting groups with grant applications - £60k+ this year
- District Heating – Wick scheme, Warmlie: Feasibility, links/ fact-finding, community engagement
- Supporting Place-Based Demonstrator project – lessons learned re use of funds, work with consultants, local resources
- Direct assistance to e.g. Castletown Drill Hall, Wick YC, CMHSG for energy improvements, grants etc.
- Youth group activities – Holiday periods (with food)

Eann commented that there was a lot of content and an amazing amount of work done there.

Fiona Webster spoke about the two main issues being transport and childminding. Transport is ongoing and not yet sorted for those college students attending Thurso from Wick having to leave early in order to travel home. She is hoping to work with those Dounreay Buses.

They have had an ongoing campaign for Childminding over the last 18 months but have had only 4 new people in Caithness and Sutherland. She mentioned that folk did not seem willing or able to make that leap, so they have now re-branded and refreshed the campaign and have 28 new enquiries.

She spoke about the Highlife Worklife were currently re-branding to all come under the 1 umbrella. And she also mentioned that she is working with employees and employers to support those getting back into work or higher paid work. They offer paid placements and are always looking for employers, including third sector with meaningful work experience that they could work with to offer these paid placements.

Fiona also spoke about the following weeks family event, wreath making being held at Castletown Drill Hall and how to message to families and those that may already be employed what they are entitled to as many think they aren't. She asked for feedback around this event as there was lots of potential to go other areas.

Penny Gunn offered to spread the word as far and wide as possible and Mac Sutherland spoke about a leaflet drop within the Castletown area ensuring that they reached those community groups that seem to be the hardest to reach. He stated that this event was a real opportunity for multi-generational conversation.

There was no one present to update on the Caithness Childs plan. Mac Sutherland stated there would be a good reason why they could not attend that day and he would request that another person come in her place in future.

Amanda Coghill stated that there was a real need for a push with this plan moving forward.

Eann Sinclair asked if there was still a need for a Caithness Community Catch Up. Since Gail Prince left, he has no one who is available to arrange this, however he has not received any complaints or requests around re-instating something. Allan Tait mentioned with CPAG, Caithness Cares and this CPP meeting it might be better to just keep a few rather than more meetings – quality over quantity. No one disagreed and it was felt that the catch up meeting was not required at this stage.

Stephen Mezals had a plea for help in spreading the SPA initiative in Wick and those things that had come out as a result of the feedback from this. He spoke about the Coffee with a Cop meetings that were being held and the Newsletter being rolled out. If anyone had anything they would like added to the Newsletter to speak to PC Matthew Thain. SPA was to push out the next survey over the following month and he again asked if we could all share to our networks for maximum coverage.

Matthew Thain thanked Mac Sutherland for use of rooms at Caithness House for the Coffee with a Cop and said that with the natural footfall there had been a good uptake to chat with him in general and about some specific issues. Matthew also mentioned about the alert system within the neighbourhood watch in order to put messages out quickly and shared the link members.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/AlertMessage/Attachment/6D0D179323791FE4AC7C97326F797B13

Alexander Glasgow reminded all of the caution needed when sharing good news on social media and that if things had no official stamp to rethink sharing.

Allan Tait spoke about a couple of new groups starting up within Caithness. Opportunity Makers Caithness who would speak with parents and discreetly make a payment to whichever group their child wanted to belong to but had been restricted because of finances. The Caithness Family Support Group, set up to support the families of those affected by the impact of a family member using alcohol or other substances. There is also a new family support group for families with autistic children who maybe having difficulties accessing services.

Mac Sutherland mentioned that we were quick to say or relay negative stories but not so when getting things right. He reiterated that all were doing good work but it wasn't getting shared or spoken about and we needed to work out the best way how we articulated those stories to really get the message out there.

11.20 Meeting Finish