



CAITHNESS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Location: Online
Date: 13th December 2024
Time: 10.00 - 12.00
Chair: Eann Sinclair

Agenda Items

1	Welcome and Apologies	Eann Sinclair (HIE)
2	Notes and actions from last meeting 27 th September 2024	Eann Sinclair (HIE)
3	Presentations: MHOR Collective Planet Youth Update	Shona Vicki Clark (NHS)
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)	
8	Caithness Child's Plan	
10	AOCB	Eann Sinclair (HIE)
11	Date of next meetings <i>2025 Meeting Dates:</i> Friday 14/03/2025 Friday 13/06/2025 Friday 19/09/2025 Friday 12/12/2025	Eann Sinclair (HIE)

Attendees: Eann Sinclair (HIE); Amanda Snashall (CVG); Alistair Jack (CVG); Catherine Sapalski (Befrienders Highland); Jane MacIntosh (CAB); Vicki Clark (NHS); Laura Fisher (Highland Council); Kay Macrae (Police Scotland); Siobhan Leen (NHS); Daniel Macleod (D&DC); Angus Mcinnes (CVG); Michael Simpson (CPAG); Shona Munroe (MHOR Collective); Bryan Dods (CVG); C Nicholson (NHS); Fiona Richardson (Highland Council); Paul Castle (HLH); Reay Young Stars; Kayleigh Nicolson (HIE); Luci Ireland (HiClimate Hub); Ruan Peat (HLH); Liam Clancy (Highland Council)

Apologies: J Baughan (Highland Council); B Duggan (SDF); M Hume (Highland Council); R Bremner (Councillor); P Gibson (Sensory Centre); L Broomfield (NHS); Catherine Graham (SS); Davie Snashall (Listening Ear); Caroline Green (Education North); Anya Matus

(MHOR); M Youatt (CAB); Marlene McDonald; Hannah Cameron Ross (Highland Council); Gillian Unger (SDS); Helen Allan (TCDT); Hazel Curran (Advocacy); Roy Gunn (Councillor); Kirsteen Campbell (NHWWH); Anne Gillies (Highland Council)

ES – welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave time for any comments on the minutes from the previous meeting held on 27th September 2024. Minutes approved. Apologies will be added to minutes of this meeting. (See above) A couple of actions – concerns within the voluntary sector for support and communication around some the challenges that sector is facing – ES believes that this is a constant issue and he and Alistair Jack from CVG have had conversations around it. ES asked for this to remain an ongoing action as there are a couple of irons in the fire that the other side of Christmas maybe worth updating on at our February meeting.

Presentation from MHOR Collective – Shona Munroe explained that they are a single-issue organisation that take a human rights approach to minimising the impact of digital inequality. There are 9 members of staff across the Highlands with Shona based in Thurso and this includes some across the central belt. They have been set up for 8 years since the previous organisation, citizens online pulled out of Scotland, and Shona and a colleague set up Mhor Collective to fill that gap. They tend to look at working in partnership with that organisation, in the position that they are in and really value lived experience to dig into the challenges that people are facing. And try to arrange all their work in a co design way working alongside the experts and those people living with experience. And everything they then try is to support those organisations with are resources and apps that are research informed and free at point of access.

Shona went onto say that more and more of their work is health and digital health based and Anya who was unable to attend this meeting due to being on holiday is based in Inverness at Eastgate Centre with the Discovery College and this is a project that they set up with Centred who specialise in mental health and wellbeing.

Although Mhor have done some work with both public and private sector they fit more comfortably with third sector. Mhor have trained staff to act as digital champions to ensure that people get the right access to health tools. They are rolling that digital champion training across Scotland. It was initially part of the Governments response to COVID and since that time they have trained over 4000 staff to better support the people that they are there to support and get access to digital.

Anyas project is particular to Inverness working in partnership with Centred, but they also have a discovery college in Caithness, and she has been working with the peer support workers to improve their literacy skills. Anya can also provide devices to those that don't have them from the lending library and there is free Wifi for people to take home and build up their skills. She also provides some 1 to 1 support – primarily in Inverness but can also be done remotely so not just with in the discovery centre.

Mhor will look at the challenges and what's going on with the different organisations and then work with them around what the opportunities are and how they can help the people that they are supporting. Shona gave some examples of the research and resources that they have worked on, and links are provided below for further information. **

What they can offer – happy to work alongside any that feel that they need digital support – the connected programme is still running so offering free training on how to become a digital champion. Anything else please just get in touch.

FR asked about being really interested to get some more information around what the digital need is. Although it comes up a lot it would be really good to get some meat on the bones about what that looks like.

AS asked about whether Anya would potentially work in Caithness if Discovery have a base in Wick. SM replied that it came down to funding and if Centred wanted to work in partnership further with that than they would be happy to do so.

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Audit Scotland Report: <https://audit.scot/publications/tackling-digital-exclusion>

Digital Inclusion, Online violence against women and girls insights report:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGFN1hyWpg/wmw5fIRbNB--84w26s3wfA/view?utm_content=DAGFN1hyWpg&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor#1

Digital Inclusion and Mental Health: <https://tec.scot/sites/default/files/2024-02/Digital%20Inclusion%20in%20Mental%20Health%20Stakeholder%20engagement%20summary%20Nov%2023.pdf>

Digital Inclusion and impacts on Young People with Care

Experience https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bhe2IV_AGq2cXjVd_QRqHclDhT6Tha6h/view

Digital Inclusion on the Brink: <https://www.mhorcollective.com/research/>

We are hosting a follow up discussion on Digital Inclusion landscape across Scotland, any working in the field would be welcome to come along - you can book on here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe88dHvQzRSImGILG1iisuGaUq0On0a7rr3xXXaWQ6lw_QzAQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

For anyone working in a youth session, we are hosting a co-design session around Misogyny and Incel culture, we'd love to hear for you, you can book in the session here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWlIVqCHwvuYWWiOcyqRSTaLi3YCn-6t0joCma-d1uG_rc2A/viewform

And finally, if anyone wants more info you can email shona@mhorcollective.com

ES spoke about this being an ongoing concern and certainly the start of discussions moving forward.

ES welcomed a couple of new members, Kay Macrae (Police Scotland) and Kay Nicholson (HIE) community development worker

Presentation from PY – VC spoke about the action plans based on the survey results for both towns and subsequent progress. Here is the sharing link for the presentation from last week's presentation and other related links:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGYggoaDDg/5MqCNRcTRUISkIjIIX-Lng/view?utm_content=DAGYggoaDDg&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniqueLinks&utlId=h25f0f40c6b

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGU2_xBA3U/bceqFmCOhoIqFG9hwdhFWA/view?utm_content=DAGU2_xBA3U&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor Bullying Report 2023

<https://vimeo.com/1027341872>

Short surveys asking about health and wellbeing resources for children and young people.

For parents and carers: <https://forms.office.com/e/wMDQrPrcFL> For professionals/ those working with young people: <https://forms.office.com/e/Vyczhngb8L> - asking them what their main concern about young people is at present and what format for any resources would be the most useful.

VC also mentioned Fearless campaign around sextortion which is known to be on the increase in rural areas and is something that we all need to be concerned about.

ES mentioned that there was real synergy with this presentation and Mhor's presentation previously and VC confirmed that there were plans to tie in together.

Paul Castle spoke about working with Jill Innes – speaking as a ranger there seems to be a heavy focus on sport but that doesn't engage with all young people and he plugged the ranger service and what they can offer. VC agreed and invited PC to the action groups to collaborate more fully.

ES spoke about the Planning Partnership which only met last week. We now have our 2024 – 2027 HOIP. It is all about tackling inequalities which is something we have spoken about here and hopefully by the end of January he will be able to share more about what those detailed measures are which gives us our bench mark in how the partnership is working and what its achieving and also what it's not achieving. Which in the previous HOIP was really difficult to measure as we hadn't started out with those in the first place. The revised 2024 -2027 HOIP is available to download [here](#).

Further information on the HCPP can be found on the [About HCPP](#) page.

[Home Page](#) | [Highland Community Planning Partnership](#)

Brief discussion as no one present from Education North re child's plan. FR mentioned that partnerships were now working towards a single plan and were Caithness keeping the two. ES mentioned that we had had no communication to that effect as yet. FR reiterated that other partnerships she is involved in do not have separate child and adult plans. ES to speak to partnership to establish this.

Caithness Cares update last meeting was held in November, during which we had presentations from The Charity Gift Shop Card vouchers and Oral Health Improvement NHS Highland.

HUG/Spirit Advocacy have now recruited their project worker for the lived experience matters project, Dave Snashall

Met with Gillian Jackson of the Salvation Army building in Thurso to see what if anything is happening with the building. They are keen for the space to be used and are currently looking at how this can be arranged. Several community groups have approached them, and they are seeking legal advice about whether they can sublet or need to employ someone to have a number of groups that come in and use the building.

The last Community Pop Up Hub occurred last month. Due to an error we had to move from the Legion to the library and it was the best move as we had quite a number of people through the door that engaged with those information stalls. The Encompass Caithness One Stop Information Shop was a really well attended day also at Mackays in Wick and some valuable connections were made. There is a link and QR code to H4 C website for collation of those organisations.

We have been given an excellent opportunity to receive funding from The Adult (16+) Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund to the sum of £20,000 to enable us to deliver a Mental Health & Wellbeing programme within Castletown. We have until February to put forward a plan for the money to be released by March/April. A survey went out for a month finishing on Sunday 8th December and I am currently looking at those results to see what the people of Castletown would like to see and how best we can achieve that long term.

Vulcan Information Sharing Day to reach a different audience

Recovery Consortium held at The Park Hotel – a number of organisations as well as those in recovery attended to discuss what is already in Caithness, what would be wanted and how we could do this together.

The SHRC report came out last week and is a heavy read. FYI Third Sector Human Rights and Equalities is a nationwide project working with Scotland's TSI's to develop resources, training and networks to support third sector organisations towards taking a human rights and equalities first approach to their organisational development and delivery. Some really useful resources and courses for 3rd Sector which are mainly free.

ACTIONS:

1. Volunteer Review of support and advertising campaign – liaised with HTSI, however there is still work to do to promote and obtain volunteers.

CS asked do they continue to use Milo ? at HTSI as that's the only thing that works – arrange AS & CS to meet.

CPAG Update

CPAG Activity

- Reconfiguring – Steering & Action functions
- Updated (non-seasonal) assistance leaflet distributed
- Grant applications – Vouchers, warm pack items
- Attended events – CPAG stand
- CDAF – Reconfiguring with HDAP
- Training – 6 First Aid courses (60 people) scheduled January
- PAT delivery with unemployed trainees
- Warmlie – Stage 3 report awaited - Leadership training with H&I Climate Hub
- Working with CAB to improve coverage
- Sharing sheds support
- Castletown community greenhouse - complete
- Energy – EAS Conference...



Headlines from the Energy Conference

EAS Headlines 1

- Fuel poverty adds to the other poverties & complicates – need to get 'upstream'
- Too many surveys, too much evidence, not enough meaningful action
- In Scotland 1M people in relative poverty (20% of children) – Half are in Deep Poverty
- Financial support interventions work – buy time, save lives
- Climate change conversations are valid but push focus away from poverty
- Scotland Fuel Poverty definition; >10% of household income on heating so...
- ... 32% of Scot population in Fuel Poverty (Shetland = 96%!)
- Health cost of cold homes is ~£1.4bn every year
- Many retrofit schemes in place – Uptake is poor
- Massive shortfall in skills for retrofit & renewables
- If unable to afford storage heating, won't be able to afford ASHP
- Retrofit spend £40k, house value doesn't rise



EAS Headlines 2

- Retrofit Funding streams are available – uptake is poor
- Just Transition is vital – need quality jobs and benefits from drive to carbon neutral
- Social Security is a trap – safety net is full of holes (Rowntree Foundation)
- Crises are feasting on the underlying issues
- 'Enough Piloting and Pathfinders; Bulldozers are needed'
- £3.8BN of UK energy debt!
- Every Scottish metric is worse than UK – colder, damper
- LNG prices now lower than before Ukraine invasion!
- Energy companies have made £1,000BN in profits since crisis began!!
- Radio Teleswitch system turned off in JUNE!!!
- Smart Meter rollout has failed! (Need 86,000 installs per day before switchoff!)
- Homes with storage heating...



Some definite concerns raised around fuel poverty and what we can do moving forward. Any questions or further information please contact bryan@cvg.org.uk

ES Commented that without the actions of the CPAG where would be as these are huge global issues that we cannot change. We can only do what's in front of us.

AJ commented that all energy suppliers were rolling out smart meters and if you cannot have a standard smart meter there is a special smart meter which doesn't need to connect to WAM.

MJ asking about the progress and lack of communication with CPAG members and their involvement – ES advised this could be discussed outside of this meeting.

RYS – praised the work that BD has done on his own and that he has done amazing job with the resources he has.

No one present to speak about Employability on the meeting.

MS – questioned about participatory budgeting which the Highland Council introduced some time ago, however, seems to have disappeared and he was wondering if anyone had any information about it. FR stated that she would find out and feedback at the next meeting.

SL shared the [NHS Highland Draft Equality Outcomes 2025-2029 | NHS Highland Engagement Hub \(engagementhq.com\)](#) and asked for all to share where possible.

ES reminded people that meetings for 2025 are in the agenda.

Actions Raised:

1. Eann Sinclair to speak with partnership regarding a Caithness child plan, whether it's still something Caithness are working towards and if so, who will attend to update the meetings.
2. Eann Sinclair to contact Highland Council re update around employability within the County.
3. Angus McInnes and Bryan Dods to speak with Michael Simpson outside the meeting with discussions around CPAG moving forward.
4. Fiona Richardson to make enquiries around participatory budgeting within Highland Council and feedback at next meeting.
5. To remain an ongoing action - are the concerns within the voluntary sector for support and communication around some the challenges the sector is facing.

