

February 26th 2026, 1000 - 1200
MS Teams

Attendees	
Karen Kenmure	NHS Highland
Jamie Kellas	Highland Community Planning Partnership
Graham Nutt	CCAST
Councillor Sinclair Coghill	Highland Council
Councillor John Edmondson	Highland Council
Councillor Tamala Collier	Highland Council
Councillor Connie Ramsay	Highland Council
Luci Ireland	Highland Council
Melissa MacDonald	Highland Council
Calum Goskirk	Highland Council
Ian MacKinnon	Highland Council
Morvern McAndrew	Invergordon Academy
Nina Semple	Highland Drug & Alcohol Partnership
Aisling Phillips	Highlands and Islands Climate Hub
Stephanie Andrew	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Chloe Saunders	Home Energy Scotland
Karen Mackay	NHS Highland
Christopher Arnold	NHS Highland
Chris MacInnes	Partners In Advocacy
Jackie Daverson	We Are With You
Lesley Bremner	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (note taker)

No	Item	Lead
1.	Welcome and Apologies The Vice Chair welcomed partners and introduced the theme of Drugs & Alcohol. Partners will hear from organisations working in the space and consider whether to establish a Drug & Alcohol Forum for Easter Ross. Apologies: Jamie Thrower Douglas McAulay	KK
2.	Previous Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2026 were approved.	KK
3.	Highland Alcohol & Drug Partnership Nina Semple introduced herself as the new Development Manager for HADP and delivered a presentation on HADP's 2025/26 – 2029/30 strategic priorities for Easter Ross and the wider Highlands as well as discussing possible models for engagement in Easter Ross. You can view the strategic priorities at www.highland-adp.org.uk/publications.	

	A discussion followed where: - Graham Nutt, CCAST expressed his frustration that, in his opinion, HADP had not previously supported local initiatives working to provide addiction support. CCAST is currently running six different programmes and delivering a wide variety of support each week. CCAST has applied for funding HADP and been turned down every time. - Melissa??? Advised that she is aware of funding from HADP being awarded locally as well as funds from Highland Third Sector Interface and Planet Youth but noted that it would be helpful to understand the process for applying for funding from HADP. - In response Nina advised that she would investigate funding for the third sector.	
4..	Introduction to Partners in Advocacy Chris MacInnes, Services Manager (Highland) delivered a presentation on the substance use advocacy service offered by Partners in Advocacy. Chris also shared information on the carers advocacy service and the 'Voice & Choice' children's advocacy service. Partners in Advocacy substance use advocacy: - is available to anyone aged 16+ who have experienced substance dependency/recovery either personally or via a close relative/significant other. - is delivered Highland wide - provides support on a variety of issues such as housing, debt, benefits - empowers advocacy partners to know their rights, assists in the communication with professionals and helps partners to prepare for and attend appointments. - Receives referrals from NHS, Adult Social Work and self-referrals from people who have previously used the service or word of mouth - Offers signposting to other services who can support advocacy partners In response to a question from Ian MacKinnon regarding the new 'Voice & Choice' children's advocacy service, Chris advised: - Recruitment for V&C staff is currently taking place - Awareness raising campaign will take place once staff appointed - The first part of the three year project will be to design the service in consultation with young people Chris invited the ERCP and partners to visit the Partners in Advocacy Facebook page and share information from there.	VC
5.	Introduction to Highland Anywhere Jackie Daverson, Team Leader for Highland Anywhere introduced partners to 'WithYou', a new, fully virtual service that supports anyone in the Highlands experiencing issues with drugs and alcohol, including people impacted by others use.	JT



	The service is delivered by telephone, video and text-based information and evening and weekend appointments are available. WithYou accepts referrals from anyone however they are aware that the service is particularly attractive to women, neurodivergent people and unpaid carers. The service is designed to complement existing services, and Jackie hopes to connect and work in partnership with as many people as possible. www.wearewithyou.org.uk/local-hubs/highland It was agreed that coordination among services was needed to ensure people living with drug and alcohol issues can access the service best suited to them. Nina advised that HADP keep a directory of all services and would share this with partners via the minutes. It was further agreed that the community partnership could help people living in Easter Ross to find earlier intervention. KC took an action to arrange a meeting with interested partners to scope out available drug and alcohol services and report back to the next meeting.	
6.	Subgroup Updates People Co-chaired by Kate Cochrane and Ian MacKinnon. Ian has recently taken up post as Locality Coordinator for the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme (WFWP). There is funding of £100,000 available to the partnership via WFWP. Ian is keen to engage with people from education and social work, and to understand the current need and appetite for what the partnership wants to achieve – not just in populous areas like Tain but in the seaboard areas too. An overview of WFWP can be found on the Highland Community Planning Partnership website: highlandcpp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Whole-Family-Wellbeing-Programme-Funding-Activity-Overview-and-Analysis-Report.pdf Kate advised that NHS Adult Services has started a Scottish Government funded pilot to look at discharging people from hospital sooner and assessing their support needs within their own home. Pilot started in January and has already supported 25 people to come home from hospital early. Kate further advised that Alness & Invergordon Medical Group (GP Practice) has secured funding to extend their opening hours and offer an emergency same-day walk-in service until 8pm and on weekends. This will come into effect in May. Prosperity Sinclair Coghill advised that Scott Smart, Highland Council was leading a project to build on success of November's job fair in Alness – looking to deliver careers fair pilot in Invergordon Academy. Skills Development Scotland are looking at skills gaps in Easter Ross. Wind farm funding is available for communities.	All



	Place John Edmonson advised that he had begun to develop local place plans with community councils. It was noted that community councils are also developing resilience plans and some partners felt this was a big ask for small councils that are only supported by a few people. Jamie Kellas added that Highland Council and SSEN are offering resources to communities develop resilience plans.	
7.	Transport Forum Update Jamie Kellas advised that he was providing support to the Transport Forum Chaired by Fiona Richardson. The forum has identified themes in relation to reliable and affordable public transport such as rail service improvements, accessible and safe infrastructure, active travel and sustainable choices. The forum is keen to develop community transport for outlying rural areas and is exploring interesting ideas such as sharing school buses. There are online meetings scheduled for April and June. Jamie invited interested partners to contact him for further details.	
8.	AOCB Meeting Venues Graeme Nutt suggested that the next meeting could take place in Tain Community Campus.	
9.	Date of Next Meeting 26th May 2026, 1500 - 1700 Theme: Employability Location: Tain Campus	

Email: HighlandCPP@highland.gov.uk

Web: [Easter Ross CP - Highland Community Planning Partnership \(highlandcpp.org.uk\)](http://highlandcpp.org.uk)

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