

North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

Community Engagement Network

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 1 September 2009

Attendance

Donna Anderson, Youth Services, North Ayrshire Council
 Joanne Balmer, Healthy North Ayrshire, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
 Carole Blair, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
 Ryan Bowie, Quarriers
 Joe Chan, Chinese Community
 Paul Chow, Ayrshire Minority Ethnic Community Association (AMECA)
 Margaret Craik, North Ayrshire Council
 Pam Crosthwaite, North Ayrshire Council
 Iris Fong, North Ayrshire Council
 Ann Gibb, Children First
 Sarah Gilmour, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
 Barbara Hastings, Unity Enterprises
 Bryce Herbert, Scottish Ambulance Service
 Karen Herbert, Ayrshire Association of Business Women
 Louise Kirk, North Ayrshire Council
 Alison McAllister, North Ayrshire Council
 Duncan McMaster, North Ayrshire Joint Elderly Forum
 Cllr Peter McNamara, North Ayrshire Council
 Justina Murray, Community Planning Co-ordinator (CHAIR)
 Jim Nichols, CVS Arran
 Ann Ronald, Community Horizons
 Elaine Savory, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
 Paul Singh, AMECA
 Clive Shepherd, NAFCA
 Jacqui Stevenson, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
 Bobby Sturgeon, Fullarton Community Health House
 Frances Tate, Quarriers
 Anne Todd, Community Planning Officer

Apologies

Anne Armstrong, North Ayrshire Forum on Disability (NAFOD)
 Brian Cameron, Skills Development Scotland
 Lorne Campbell, KA Leisure
 Craig Crosthwaite, CVSna
 Cllr Margie Currie, North Ayrshire Council
 Mary Flynn, Skills Development Scotland
 Cllr Willie Gibson, North Ayrshire Council
 Diane Graham, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
 Isobel Kelly, North Ayrshire Council
 Karen McGilvery, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
 Stephen McLaughlin, Volunteer Centre North Ayrshire
 Dave Morrison, Scottish Ambulance Service
 Ann Robertson, Neighbourhood Compacts
 Tracey Wilson, North Ayrshire Council

1. Welcome/ Introductions

Anne Todd, Community Planning Officer, welcomed the Network members to the meeting, and everyone was introduced.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were agreed.

2.1 Matters Arising

Update on membership

A brief report was presented updating members on organisations which had been invited to join the Network following discussions at the last meeting, and the responses received.

Evaluation of first meeting

Anne Todd presented the evaluation results of the first meeting of the Network, held on 1 June. These slides will be circulated with the Minutes.

Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)

A new Summary document of the Single Outcome Agreement was handed out to members, and copies of the full SOA (3 documents in a folder) were shared. This is a short A5, full colour leaflet, which explains the SOA's purpose and content. It is aimed at members of the community and staff in all organisations. Members were given the opportunity to order further copies of both from the community planning team.

3. North Ayrshire Council 'Communities' Portfolio

Cllr Peter McNamara introduced the Network members to his role as the Council's Executive portfolio holder for Communities. He explained the Council has been learning to consult more effectively over time. Cllr McNamara outlined his different areas of responsibility and interest, including:

- Youth justice
- Youth work (including as Chair of Youthlink Scotland)
- South West Scotland Community Justice Authority (as Chair)
- Community Learning and Development
- North Ayrshire Leisure Ltd (as Board member)
- Volunteering and the voluntary sector
- Adult learning

Cllr McNamara explained his support for communities who took ownership/ responsibility for improvements in their own area (e.g. Friends of the Plantation; Hayocks community safety issues), and how rewarding this could be for local people.

He described the difficult financial situation facing the Council, with all areas of activity being reviewed, and all areas of the Council being scrutinised. He explained the financial situation means we will need to help support and develop volunteers to support their own communities more.

A question and answer session followed, including voluntary sector representation on the CPP Board; support for Community Centres/ Community Associations; the need to recruit more young people onto voluntary committees; the need for a stronger voluntary sector infrastructure; and the need for more support and encouragement for existing volunteers.

Cllr McNamara proposed attending every Network meeting for an open Question and Answer session, so that members could keep in touch with Council developments in all of these areas. The Network members agreed this would be useful, so this item will be added to all future agendas.

4. People's Panel

Anne Todd, Community Planning Officer, gave a presentation on the North Ayrshire People's Panel, and sought feedback on proposals for the next thematic survey and series of focus groups. It is proposed to focus on 'the response to the economic downturn'. Members were asked to discuss this proposal in small groups, and identify possible questions/ areas to cover in the questionnaire under each of the Community Planning Priorities.

Members then gave detailed feedback on their ideas. Detailed feedback had been written down by each group, however general points included the following:

- It is important to also ask about support received by agencies, and use the survey as a way to advertise what's available
- The wider, non-economic impact is also important, e.g. on health, community safety etc.
- We could also ask how people could play a more active part in supporting their own communities.
- There is a risk that the survey is too negative, and it's important to also focus on the positives – what can be done, what opportunities there are etc.

Anne explained this feedback will be used, along with ideas from other CPP groups, to inform the survey questionnaire and focus groups.

ACTION: ANNE TODD

5. North Ayrshire Compact

Jim Nichols, Manager, Arran CVS, gave a presentation about the North Ayrshire Compact on behalf of the Compact Reference Group. Network members had received an electronic copy of the Compact agreement with the agenda, and hard colour copies of the agreement and annual action plan were circulated at the meeting.

Jim explained that the original Scottish Compact was signed in 2006 by the statutory community planning partners at government level and national voluntary intermediary organisations (e.g. Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, Volunteer Development Scotland, Voluntary Health Scotland). This was a protocol agreement which outlined how the voluntary sector and Scottish government would relate to each other and work together.

Councils for Voluntary Service (CVSs) were then charged by the then Scottish Executive to lobby councils and Community Planning Partnerships to ensure local Compact agreements were developed.

Alastair Osborne, Policy Officer, North Ayrshire Council called an initial meeting at the Michael Lynch Centre in 2007 to drive this forward, with around 30 organisations attending this. A Steering Group of 5-6 organisations was then formed to develop the Agreement with the statutory community planning partners in North Ayrshire.

Jim explained that the North Ayrshire Compact agreement that was developed is similar to the Scottish Executive one, although there was lots of debate about the words, to ensure the same language was used in both 'sides' of the agreement.

The North Ayrshire Compact was launched as part of the Volunteer Awards in June 2008. However a lot of organisations still don't know about it, and we need to relaunch it. It is the shared responsibility of the CPP's Compact Reference Group to disseminate the Compact. One of the challenges is that consultation and engagement mechanisms between some partners and the voluntary sector have moved on, e.g. NHS arrangements via Public Partnership Forums (PPFs) and other consultation structures.

Jim outlined the content of the Compact agreement (as previously circulated), and some of the challenges still to be overcome to ensure clear, open and accessible consultation for all of North Ayrshire and Arran. Jim explained that we can use the Compact to challenge each other and question decisions. He noted that statutory organisations need to recognise the costs of volunteering and costs for voluntary organisations, including indirect costs (i.e. full cost recovery). He also suggested that the voluntary sector had to be able to represent itself, not just through elected members being on community planning groups.

Jim praised Housing Services for developing a very effective method of consulting various groups and interests, such as the twice yearly Housing Forums, and use of the National Standards for Community Engagement. He also suggested that the Arran Access Trust experience is that Council officers can also represent voluntary sector interests in other forums, e.g. the Council's Access Officer reports into the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum (along with other voluntary sector members).

Due to lack of time remaining on the agenda, Jim agreed to circulate some questions for further discussion to the Network members by email.

ACTION: CPP TEAM/ JIM NICHOLS

6. National Standards for Community Engagement

Justina Murray, Community Planning Coordinator, explained that Tracey Wilson, Tenant Participation Manager, had planned to provide an input on Housing Services' use of the National Standards for Community Engagement (the Standards had been circulated with the Agenda). As Tracey had had to submit apologies for today, this item would be carried forward to the next meeting.

ACTION: CPP TEAM/ TRACEY WILSON

7. Evaluation and Future agenda items

All Network members were given the opportunity to complete evaluation forms. The results will be fed back at the next meeting.

Future agenda items were agreed as:

- Question and answer session with Cllr McNamara
- National Standards for Community Engagement
- Engaging hard to reach groups
- What is everyone planning this year? (for 2010!)

8. Any Other Business

Alison McAllister, Library Services, shared information on a new project called 'North Ayrshire's Yesterdays', using the Flickr website for community groups to upload photographs. Inter-generational work is also planned with young people and older people. The project will be completed by March 2010, with a longer legacy remaining. Alison agreed to email the Network members with further information on this.

ACTION: CPP TEAM/ ALISON MCALLISTER

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8 December, 2009, 10am-12noon at Greenwood