

## North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

### Compact Reference Group

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 29 September 2009

#### Attendance

Jim Nichols, Manager, CVS Arran  
 Craig Crosthwaite, Development Worker, CVSna  
 Clive Shephard, Representative, North Ayrshire Federation of Community Associations (NAFCA)  
 John McKnight, Principal Officer, Community Learning and Development, North Ayrshire Council (**CHAIR**)  
 Stephen McLaughlin, Manager, The Volunteer Centre North Ayrshire  
 Gordon Jones, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Strathclyde Police

#### In attendance

Justina Murray, Community Planning Co-ordinator, North Ayrshire Council  
 Dianna Whyte, External Funding Officer, North Ayrshire Council

#### Apologies

Carole Blair, NHS Ayrshire and Arran  
 Shirley Caine, CPP Team  
 Billy Davidson, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue  
 Alan Murray/ Sarah Gilmour, SPT  
 Ann Robertson, Community Representative, Neighbourhood Compact

#### 1. Welcome

John McKnight welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed.

#### 2.1 Matters Arising

##### *Support to Compact Reference Group*

John explained 2 new members of staff are joining Jim McHarg's team, one of whom will be supporting the Compact. She is joining the Council from Orkney and has a strong community development background. She will be able to give the same contribution in terms of time.

##### *PP Vote training*

Dates now set for 30 Sept and 21 October. Will be re-run in the future to meet demand.

##### *Funding*

Craig explained in West Dunbartonshire the CVS run the whole community grants system for the Council. The worker has offered to come and share information on this. Craig can provide contact details.

**ACTION: CRAIG**

##### *DDA Works*

Covered in Action Plan update.

*Communications Strategy*  
On agenda

*North Ayrshire Funding Hub*  
Action is still outstanding – Justina/ Dianna will meet shortly.

**ACTION: JUSTINA/ DIANNA**

*Partners' reporting templates*  
Template now updated and circulated.

*Working Together website*  
Item on agenda but now deferred to November meeting

*PPF Update*  
Justina had not provided this information to Carole Blair and committed to do this for the next PPF Update.

**ACTION: JUSTINA**

*AOB*  
John clarified that there is still no date for an inspection by HMIE. The Learning and Taking Part Framework will be reported into the Economic and Learning Partnership, along with a new action plan.

### **3. Compact Action Plan 2009/10**

Progress as at 29 Sept 09:

1.1.

a: Amber – new member of staff will take up this action. One of Craig's Directors has offered assistance.

b. Green – Completed. Clive tabled a paper on the case for broadband for community centres. The first priority is to get email and internet access, and would then expand to become a learning facility. This means the minimum provision needs to be 12 computers. John explained a number of community centres have this provision, but most do not. This is a useful piece of information to feed into this review. Clive said that Cllr McNamara had stated there would be another review of halls. Jim asked that the sector are consulted as part of the review, not at the end once proposals have been drawn up. Dianna added that funding is likely to be available from LEADER for broadband upgrades. It is likely to come with a short timescale. This would apply to rural areas only. Craig suggested using Barrmill as a test case centre, as they have secured Awards for All funding for computers. Jim emphasised the need to share all this information about funding and reviews between services. There may also be options for community ownership/ buyouts. For example in Dalry, the community are seeking funding to take over the Dalry Public Hall. Clive explained NAFCA are preparing a paper for the new Council Chief Executive, on the potential to develop the community centres more as a focus for local communities. John will circulate Clive's paper within the Council. Clive will email Justina an electronic copy to be forwarded to John.

**ACTION: CLIVE/ JOHN**

c. Green – Dianna has given an update (above). John attended Education's meeting with IT, and flagged issue of community centres. Craig asked about the links to the UK's Digital Britain report. John clarified that it is likely to be helpful, but the focus is on more local priorities. Clive explained the Scottish Government have completed their broadband reach

programme, with a report issued last year on the next step. Jim stated that Arran residents who complained have now received improved provision, but not others.

## 1.2 Databases

- a. Amber – due to staff changes.
- b. Amber – due to staff changes.

## 1.3 Intelligence

- a. Justina/ Shirley still to meet to take this forward.

**ACTION: JUSTINA/ SHIRLEY**

## 2.1 Funding

- a. Funding hub – amber. Justina/ Dianna still to meet (covered above).
- b. Community grants – amber. To raise with Cllr McNamara

## 2.2 Property

- a. Amber - DDA list – Clive explained that the list is available but can only be released by Lynn Taylor. John agreed to follow this up.

**ACTION: JOHN**

- b. Amber – as per website action above

## 2.3 Equipment

- a. Amber
- b. Amber

## 3.1 Implementation

- a. Green
- b. Partners' compliance – amber. Justina apologised for missing this off the agenda. Not on agenda for this meeting, but will be for next meeting.

**ACTION: JUSTINA**

## 3.2 Communications

- a. Green – on agenda for today.

b. Amber - Schedule of 3 meetings for the community/ voluntary sector. Justina apologised for missing this off the agenda. Jim/ Craig are planning to meet with new CLD worker, Mary Flynn to progress this. She is expected to meet in 2 weeks time.

Clive asked for clarification on 'the community/ voluntary sector' – who are the 3 meetings for? Clive explained one problem is that many people don't want to get involved from the community and voluntary sector – don't understand the relevance of it. Stephen advised we should set up the meeting to 'discuss the community and voluntary sector', focusing on people's contributions and needs, and engaging with the sector. Doesn't matter if start small. We could start with the list used to consult on the Compact document.

**ACTION: MARY/ CRAIG/ JIM**

- c. Amber - Community/ voluntary sector forum – that should be picked up via above meetings.

Jim suggested we could learn from the Orkney model, which is good practice. Craig suggested the PPF could also be a good model.

## 3.3

- a. Green – JUSTINA TO ADD AS STANDING ITEM.

**ACTION: JUSTINA**

b. Green.

### 3.4 Reporting

a. Quarterly reports – Green

b. Annual event: December may be too soon. January possibly better option. ADD TO AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING.

**ACTION: JUSTINA**

## 4. Compact Communication Strategy and Action Plan 2009/10

Justina explained that all previously agreed changes have been made to the Strategy and Action Plan.

Action Plan:

4. Timetable – should be MARCH 2010:

**ACTION JUSTINA**

5. Presentation to CPP Groups – JOHN/ JUSTINA to look at cycle of meetings, and identify dates. Other group members will then be asked to volunteer to assist with these presentations.

6. Completed

7. Committee reporting template: JUSTINA TO EMAIL ROUND INFO ON COMM CONSULTATION.

**ACTION: JUSTINA**

8. 'How to' protocol – Amber. Jim said he wasn't sure that a 'protocol' was the right term – housing, NHS (primary care consultation) and Police (community policing plans) are all good models. Stephen said Stirling have produced good guidance. He will circulate this.

**ACTION: STEPHEN.**

Jim made the point that there is perhaps an overemphasis on the Council's role, not the other community planning partners. It is not clear if other partners are signed up to the Communications Strategy. Also the inclusion of 'members of the public' is perhaps too ambitious and wasn't part of the initial national Compact agreement. Stephen explained though we are still looking for a groundswell of public support for our approach, i.e. encouraging better consultation with the public. John clarified we will use a range of styles.

## 5. Partners' reporting templates

### a. CVSna

Craig spoke to his report. Part of SCVO bid for Future Jobs Fund will pay for 3 'community profilers' to help map the sector. Part of first tranche of adverts to the Jobcentre on 1 October. Village SOS – Barrmill are through to first assessment stage, from 200 initial applications. Clive said Craig should receive some credit for this, as very good application form.

### b. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Noted.

### c. Strathclyde Police

Gordon spoke to his report. Community Policing Plans have been published. Gordon clarified there are 10 separate plans (weblink in report) – and Arran and Cumbrae have separate plans. New recruits are joining community policing teams, supported by Tutor Constables. These CPTs now cover Council wards, rather than neighbourhoods.

*d. VCNA*

Huge increase in numbers coming forward to volunteer. May be related to work with Department of Work and Pensions, to encourage volunteering, or own publicity. Three sub-offices are being established, run by volunteers (Irvine, Largs, Kilbirnie). Youth work also developing well. MV Awards ceremony will be held on Monday 2 November at Gales Hotel, attended by First Minister.

*e. NAFCA*

John McKnight attended a NAFCA meeting to outline changes in CLD structure – grateful for this input. NAFCA now represented on public reference group for new community hospital in Irvine – one of 20 organisations represented. An introductory meeting has been held. Aiming to start on site Spring 2011, but the business case still has to be made to the Government. NAFCA also involved in consultation with NHS on efficiency savings, via Public Partnership Forum (PPF) – PPF group are formulating a response to this.

*f. SPT*

Noted.

*g. Community Learning and Development*

John spoke to his report. CLD are working in partnership with Scotland's Learning Partnership (previously SALP) to run a new programme over the winter, targeted on older people.

*h. Arran CVS*

Jim gave a verbal report.

SOA Outcome 11a: Now re-established an Arran Elderly Forum, with support from CLD.  
SOA Outcome 11b: Developed an informal approach, while interface developments ongoing, e.g. joint events with VCNA and NAC/ SNH/ SCVO on Scottish Rural Development Programme applications. Interface discussions ongoing with VCNA and CVSna – developing a protocol, and this will be discussed with the Local Social Economy Partnership too. Still lacking data from Department of Work and Pensions on whether is a client group on Arran who need support. Andy Lee is identifying some information.

**6. South Ayrshire 'Working Together' Website**

Deferred to next meeting.

**ACTION: JUSTINA/ MICHELLE**

**7. North Ayrshire Council – Communities Portfolio**

Deferred to next meeting.

**ACTION: JUSTINA/ CLLR McNAMARA**

**8. Compact Reference Group's report to CPP Management Group, 21 October 09**

John explained that his last report was well received by members of the Group, although others were not aware of the Compact or the work of the Group. This was in part due to changes in the Group since the Compact was launched. The next report is due on 21 October 2009.

Jim queried how much new information can be reported at this point. The Group agreed, although it is not long since the last report and there has only been some progress, its important to flag progress and future plans, although not to repeat information from the last report. Stephen emphasised it is important to keep emphasising the role of the Compact, the

importance of engaging the sector, and the impact of the national developments on involvement, procurement etc. The role of this Group continues to grow. John agreed his report would cover both strategic and operational developments.

## **9. AOB**

### *CP Officer Secondment*

Justina updated the Group on the secondment of Anne Todd, CP Officer, to Educational Services until December 2010. The replacement secondment opportunity is open to all CPP groups, and information is being circulated on this.

### *Alcohol and Drugs Partnership*

The new Alcohol and Drugs Partnership are keen to engage with the Compact – John has proposed Ruth Shepherd comes to the next meeting to outline what they are looking for. Jim proposed that the CHP Forum should have this role, as this is part of its function. John will meet with Ruth and invite her to attend a future meeting.

**ACTION: JOHN**

### *Joint statement on the role of the third sector*

Justina circulated this recent (24 September) press release and statement.

Stephen explained this was produced by Task Force – is part of emphasising the role of the third sector and emphasising the value of the third sector in supporting and helping service delivery. The third sector are being invited to attend roadshows on procurement to build up their knowledge and skills. Craig added there is to be a 'Love me tender' roadshow (Ayrshire –wide) on tendering – assisted by Opp2mise and three Ayrshire councils procurement teams. John concluded this role is likely to increase significantly in the next few years. Craig noted the links between the statement and the spirit of the Compact. John stated this is part of the strategic context to set the scene for the Management Group report.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

Agreed as Tuesday 17 November 2009, 10am, Michael Lynch Centre.