

North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership
Economic & Learning Partnership
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 15th August 2011



Attendance

Carol Kirk, Corporate Director (Education and Skills) (**Chair**) North Ayrshire Council
 Angus O'Henley, Economic Development Officer, Economic Development
 Stephen McLaughlin, Manager, The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT)
 Joy Love, Partnership & Stakeholder Manager, Scottish Enterprise
 Mary Docherty, Head of Service, Education and Skills, North Ayrshire Council
 Annique Armstrong, Regional Director, Visit Scotland
 Margaret Watt, James Watt College
 Audrey Sutton, Manager, Information and Culture, North Ayrshire Council
 Brian Cameron, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland
 Isobel Kelly, Operational Manager, Money Matters, Social Services, North Ayrshire Council
 Jim Burns, External Relations Manager, Job Centre Plus
 Colin McKee, Cunninghame Housing Association
 Councillor Anthony Gurney, North Ayrshire Council
 James Ledgerwood, Irvine Bay URC
 Morag McDonald, Arran CVS

Also in Attendance

Morna Rae, Community Planning Officer (Chief Executive's), North Ayrshire Council
 Andy Lee, Labour Market Co-ordinator, Economic Development, North Ayrshire Council

Apologies

Irene Gott, Head of Workforce Futures, NHS, Ayrshire and Arran
 Irene Sinclair, Public Health Practitioner, NHS, Ayrshire and Arran
 Carol Nisbet, Kilmarnock College
 Alex Anderson, Economic Development Manager, Economic Development, North Ayrshire Council

1. Welcome

Carol Kirk, Chair introduced Margaret Watt of James Watt College to the group and asked members to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Angus O'Henley highlighted an inaccuracy in page 4, item 5. The minute should read; TERU are working towards a three-year business plan and one-year action plan.

The minute was accepted.

2a. Matters Arising

Sainburys

Jim Burns, Job Centre Plus informed the group that Sainbury's have now started putting vacancies onto their website for team leaders. The store is due to open at the end of November with around 200 staff. This will consist of 25 staff from other stores, with remainder being mainly full time positions. Vacancies are being closed very quickly on the site. Support is

in place with CEIS and CLD to help applicants with the online application process. Job Centre Plus also offered a member of staff on secondment to assist Sainsbury's in their recruitment process, this was declined.

He has been notified by the manager of Sainsbury's that they are not planning to use UCAN protocol. Andy Lee, Economic Development, questioned this with regard to their planning application for the site.

Carol Kirk, Chair, asked Andy Lee to check Sainsbury's planning commitment and she will contact them should they have breached their conditions.

Andy Lee

Public Art – Ayr Road

Audrey Sutton highlighted that there is plans to have a local artist create a piece of public art in Ayr Road around the Sainsbury site. She asked members if they had any recommendations/ suggestions with regard to this. Carol Kirk asked Audrey to take this forward.

Audrey Sutton

3. Issues Arising from the Peer Review of the Education Business Case for Change

Carol Kirk, Chair informed the group that she would provide verbal feedback with regard to the Education and Skills Business Case for Change Peer Review by Council senior officers.

Iona Colvin raised a suggestion of a Health Pathway involving local colleges and the Health Board. Carol suggested this could be raised at a future meeting of the group. Carol asked for a smaller group with representatives from Health and JWC to take this forward. Margaret Watt, James Watt College recommended Anne Campbell for this and suggested that this work may already be ongoing. A member of Mary Docherty's team was also suggested as a member of this group. Brian Cameron said SDS would be keen to be involved in this.

Workforce Planning – how the flow through would look in the future. How we manage the flow through from schools.

Morna Rae to co-ordinate.

4. Joint Conference – James Watt College and North Ayrshire Council

A full day open day has been planned for young people, parents and teachers and will take place in February when the college is closed to students. A range of learning pathways will be available with information on pathways from school – college – university with both the University of the West of Scotland and Calendon University interested.

Jim Burns, Job Centre Plus expressed an interest in being involved in the open day.

If anyone else is interested they should contact Alison Allan at James Watt College or Carol Kirk, Corporate Director/ Mary Docherty, Head of Service at Education and Skills.

5. Update: Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy

Angus O'Henley informed the group that their 1-year action plan is going to Committee in August and if accepted will back to the Scrutiny Committee.

Carol Kirk, Chair, stated that we would need to keep any eye on this as the role of the group may change.

6. Future Jobs Fund

Andy Lee gave the group an overview of the Future Jobs programme results. The programme completes in September. Overall 180 have been placed. Sustainability to date based on the 116 individuals who completed their placement is 47 (41%) retained.

Andy will circulate a report evaluating the Future Jobs Fund.

Audrey Sutton informed the group of the positive experience they have had with their trainee and informed the group that they have retained them within the Greenwood Centre.

7. Update: Employability

Angus O'Henley provided the group with a handout on the employability programme and informed them that funding had been retendered in the spring and will run until March 2013.

He spoke about various programmes and discussed the summary at the first quarter. Discussion took place on a new Communities Job Fund. North Ayrshire were allocated 78 places (2000 for Scotland as a whole) which are currently over-subscribed. Work is being undertaken with local employers to identify provision.

James Ledgerwood, Irvine Bay, raised questions on the number of participants within NEET and whether the number participating was good. The total figure is the North Ayrshire target and that is the figure that is hoped to be achieved.

Andy Lee gave the group an updated on a new Innovation Fund which is being introduced. A bid was made on 5th August for which he is still awaiting feedback. Carol Kirk asked Andy to circulate information to the group regarding this.

Andy Lee

Social Impact Bonds were also discussed with Peterhead Prison being raised as an example. Information will be circulated to allow the group to develop an understanding of this approach.

North Ayrshire Council will host the Scottish Apprenticeship Week (week beginning 5th September) with local employers and SDS taking part. The venue is yet to be confirmed. Modern apprentices will be invited and it hoped that a modern apprentice will be speak on the day.

Brian Cameron informed members that SDS will officially launch their website on 31st August.

Audrey Sutton raised questions on additional support for front line staff with libraries. There has been an 18% rise in computer use within libraries in the last year and this has mainly been for job seeking purposes. It was agreed that more training is need for people to complete on-line applications as around 20% of people fail to complete applications on-line. Carol Kirk stated that there is a need to improve access, especially within the 3-Towns area as there is disproportionate access within this area.

Extensive discussion took place on the use of social media to encourage young people to access employment information. Both James Ledgerwood and Councillor Gurney informed the group that young people

are not likely to use social media for this purpose. Councillor Gurney stated that there is a big difference between digital access and digital intervention and that digital interaction does not work for employability issues.

Cunninghame Housing Association are holding a seminar in December which will be presented by Renee Luber. Colin McKee, CHA will keep the group updated as to progress.

8. Welfare Reform (Effect of Loss of Benefit)

Isobel Kelly informed members that she felt it would be most useful to update members with information on various consultations.

A consultation will be provided by the Scottish Government on the replacement of the social fund with their recommendations.

The Work and Pensions Committee has expressed concerns over the work of ATOS. There were concerns regarding providers and new work programme. There is also an inquiry to replace with disability living allowance with personal independence payment.

She stated that the group which would be the hardest hit would be single parents.

Discussion took place on the transition from Incapacity Benefit. Work is being undertaken with mental health team to ensure people who are engaged with Social Services and Health will be supported through the transition period. Work is ongoing to help people maintain benefits and not lose out through inability to access the system.

Universal credits will simplify the benefits systems and will be introduced in 2013.

Jim Burns, informed the group that the Welfare Reform Bill was still going through the Parliamentary Reform process.

9. CPP Update

a. CPP Communications

An article on community benefit clauses will be released through the Communications team at the end of the month to highlight the good news on community benefits. If anyone has any suggested article topics please contact CPP team.

b. SOA Action Plan – Quarter 1 Actions Report

The report highlights that at present several actions are slightly adrift of target but will finish within the timescale of the Action Plan. No action is required.

c. SOA Action Plan – Quarter 1 Indicators Report

3 indicators are slightly off target. There will be an increase in quarter 2 via employability. There is a need to track information regarding new business. Discussion took place on benefits which can be retained for 6 months for people starting a new business

10. Partner Reports

a. TACT

Stephen McLaughlin that they have begun groups on Worklessness, Health and Community Safety thus shadowing CPP priorities. As these will take place prior to the CPP Board Meeting Stephen will provide an update to the Board for information.

b. Scottish Enterprise

Joy Love informed the group that Hunterson are at the planning stage with pilot activities. She also gave information on RSA and A & I Accessories. Management and staff of Barony Universal have moved into their new premises and will open at the end of the Autumn. There will also be apprenticeships available with Scottish and Southern Energy.

c. Health

There is a report enclosed within the papers. There was no representative from Health available to attend the meeting.

There was discussion around the length of the report from Health as it was felt that it was too repetitive and not in a digestible format.

d. Cunninghame Housing Association

Colin McKee advised the group that there was currently spaces within the Careers Training programme which they are currently back filling. Retention has been high

e. Money Matters

Isobel Kelly had no more information to provide at present from the report enclosed.

f. Education and Skills

Mary Docherty had no more information to add. Carol Kirk asked Mary Docherty to provide more information on MCMC once it was available.

11. A.O.C.B.

Job Centre Plus

Jim Burns informed the group that there had been an increase in the number into construction. James Ledgerwood felt this was positive, however stated that the only way forward was to maintain this. There is a problem with people being put through for jobs without skills which are appropriate to it.

Jim Burns also informed colleagues that there was local inward investment with Belhaven opening a new pub/hotel in Kilwinning (near to Fire Station). KFC is also planning to move into Kilwinning. Chemring are creating new jobs. Iceland are planning to move to a new store across from the new Sainsbury site. Brightworks also have a number of vacancies.

Brian Cameron advised members that all participants who have taken part in pre-employment training with SDS have entered into employment with local hotel chains.

There was no other business.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 26th September 2011.

