

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

NOTE OF THE MEETING HELD IN CIVIC ROOM 1, BARRHEAD

Thursday 19 June 2008 at 2pm

PRESENT:

Councillor James Fletcher	Leader of the Council (Chair)
Councillor Lafferty	Deputy Leader of the Council and Convenor for Education and Equalities
Councillor Douglas Yates	Deputy Leader of the Council and Convenor for Social Work and Health
Lorraine McMillan	Chief Executive, East Renfrewshire Council
Julie Murray	Director, East Renfrewshire CHCP
Tracy Butler	Single Outcome Agreement Coordinator, ERC
Dominique Carlisle-Kitz	Community Planning Manager, ERC
Gordon McGuinness	Skills Development Scotland (for West Scotland)
Anne Marie Kennedy	Chairperson, Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire
Sarah Gilmour	Community Planning Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Donald Harvey	Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
Kate Jackson	Area Inspector, Strathclyde Police
Jim Hunter	Chief Officer, North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority
Clare Sherry	Community Planning Assistant, ERC

APOLOGIES:

Stewart Daniels	Superintendent, Strathclyde Police
Valerie Davidson	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Alan Bigham	Joint Chief Officer, Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire
Frank Waters	Area Commander, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

INTRODUCTION

Councillor Fletcher opened the meeting and asked that best wishes for a speedy recovery be passed on behalf of the Board to Superintendent Daniels.

He then invited those around the table to introduce themselves.

Councillor Fletcher noted that the presentation by Jim Hunter from the North Strathclyde Criminal Justice Authority would now be the first agenda item.

1. NORTH STRATHCLYDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY

Jim Hunter provided a short presentation on the work undertaken by North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority and their link with Community Planning Partnerships.

A key agenda for Community Justice Authorities is to develop their relationships with Community Planning Partnerships and their role in delivering SOAs; this will develop as the SOA evolves into a full partnership SOA for 2009-2010. COSLA and the Scottish Government are currently discussing the role of CJAs within Community Planning and are expected to produce a joint statement on this issue.

Jim explained that the CJA is a relatively small organisation with a budget of just under £200,000 and three full time staff. Their core remit is to work with statutory partners to tackle offending and re-offending.

Councillor Fletcher asked Jim for some clarification around the target for reducing re-offending by 2%, explaining that in East Renfrewshire this equates to a very small reduction, in real terms, of the number of people re-offending. There is a danger that looking at the statistics in this way could result in a perception that the services provided to tackle re-offending provide poor value for money. Councillor Fletcher asked whether there was any information or research on the cost of offending to wider communities – in terms of the impact on offenders' families, as well as the victims of crime and the prison costs – as this would help to quantify the impact of services beyond a simple reduction in re-offending. Jim explained that to provide a definitive cost is challenging and other consequences such as the impact on the community have to be taken into consideration. He commented that there has been research prepared on this and he would attempt to source it and send it to partners. Julie Murray agreed that any relevant information would be useful and beneficial.

Julie noted that the agendas of the CJA and that of the CHCP and CPP were similar and advised that a wide range of joint working is already in place. Therefore Julie wished to discuss what is required to increase engagement with the NSCJA as it is such a small structure. Jim suggested the main priority would be to exchange information and ensure there is no duplication of activities. COSLA is working on proposals to develop the relationships between the two organisations. Councillor Yates suggested that as a local authority we would want to work with the CJA to develop and fund initiatives and innovative pilot schemes to drive the agenda forward.

Councillor Fletcher thanked Jim for his presentation and noted that it would be useful if he could provide information on the cost of offending.

2. COUNCIL RESTRUCTURE UPDATE

Lorraine McMillan advised the Board that the Council restructure had been finalised in February and then implemented in May. Lorraine explained that a letter is due to be sent out to all partners and community stakeholders such as community councils, highlighting the names of staff and their positions and remits.

Councillor Fletcher thanked Lorraine for her presentation.

3. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

Tracy Butler spoke to the report on the Single Outcome Agreement.

Tracy highlighted that the topic had been discussed by the Board on a number of occasions and therefore she would not go into detail of the document. The Board heard that the report presented is the basis of the document which will be submitted to the Scottish Government for approval at the end of June.

Tracy explained that since the last Board meeting there has been a negotiation process on the SOA between John Ewing, Director of Transport with the Scottish Government, and Lorraine McMillan. To date the feedback received from the Scottish Government has been extremely positive and there were no major changes required to the document. We have had initial indications that John Ewing is happy to recommend the document for approval by the Cabinet Secretary, and in particular has highlighted the full commitment demonstrated by East Renfrewshire to the outcome agreement process, with good early links with Community Planning Partners and strong backing from councillors.

The next few months will see the development of a full partnership SOA for 2009-2010 which will capture activities of all the partners and the priority will be to look at governance arrangements and how partners will be jointly accountable for the delivery of outcomes. Tracy highlighted that the East Renfrewshire CPP is starting from a very good baseline on this with strong input from partners to date.

Councillor Fletcher asked Board members to note that although Cabinet has approved the paper it does require final approval from the full Council at its meeting on 25 June, prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

Councillor Yates sought clarification that the role of the CJA had now been included in the SOA and enquired whether the CJA should be recognised as a statutory partner. Julie Murray suggested that the relationship should develop over the next year and Tracy confirmed that the role of CJA was now referenced in the SOA.

Gordon McGuinness recommended that reference be made to partnership working with neighbouring authorities, for example in the work around employability. The Board agreed that this should be included.

Councillor Yates congratulated Tracy on her work with the SOA.

Tracy agreed to send out an update to partners on the SOA process following the full Council meeting on 25 June.

The Board approved the report.

4. FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

Tracy Butler introduced the Fairer Scotland Fund report.

Although a separate report had been prepared on the FSF Tracy highlighted that the Fairer Scotland Fund approach will be integrated with the SOA. Again the FSF has been discussed on several occasions and Tracy explained that as there has now been a series of reports and recommendations this has resulted in a relatively complex funding situation.

The Board were advised that 2008-09 will be a transitional year in the approach to tackling poverty and deprivation. It will create a move from the previous Community Regeneration Fund which supported 13 programmes of work in areas of deprivation, into a comprehensive long term approach which will strengthen the role and contribution of mainstream services to tackling poverty and deprivation.

Tracy reminded the Board some of the Fairer Scotland Fund has already been committed. £106,000 has already been allocated to continuing programmes such as Jobs Action Team and School Holiday Activity Programme from April to June 2008. In addition, at its meeting in April, the Board agreed to release £72,000 from the Fund for employability and More Choices More Chances activities.

The report for discussion today sets out how the remaining resources of £445,000 will be allocated for the remainder of the year. £235,000 will be used to continue programmes from the CRF to the end of March 2009, as set out in the report. The remainder of the funding will be used to take forward the employability agenda and develop and redesign services focused on early intervention and community capacity building. The Board were asked to note that the FSF is a very small resource in relation to the multi-million pound budgets of mainstream services and some of this should be used to redesign core services.

Anne Marie Kennedy queried whether the FSF will be focusing on all geographical areas rather than the specific areas of deprivation set out in the previous Regeneration Plan. Tracy explained that the FSF does not have as

strict criteria as the CRF therefore the money can be spent in wider areas which will capture the smaller pockets of deprivation in East Renfrewshire. However, the regeneration priority areas will continue to be a focus for the CPP.

Gordon McGuiness highlighted that at a recent meeting with Alisdair McIntosh he had explained that the key for the FSF is to have a strategic alignment with the SOA and from what he can see East Renfrewshire has captured this well. This is to be commended.

Julie Murray highlighted that, for the CHCP, the key approach is for the funding to be used as a catalyst to direct the delivery of core services to achieve the set outcomes.

The Board agreed to the recommendations in the report.

5. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PLANNING STRUCTURES

Lorraine McMillan explained that there had been ongoing discussions with Jamie Reid and Caroline Innes in regards to developing community planning arrangements, highlighting that in East Renfrewshire there is a lot of successful partnership working ongoing and the SOA will give the CPP an opportunity to focus on the same outcomes.

Lorraine highlighted the situation in East Renfrewshire is favourable and partnership work to date is to be commended however there is always room for improvement.

Lorraine went on to outline that the review will focus on creating more dynamic relationships between the partners and ensuring meetings make efficient use of partner's time. In the coming months Jamie and his team will be discussing with partners the current arrangements and how community planning can become more effective. There will be a report of the findings at the next CPP meeting in October.

Lorraine outlined a number of key questions for partners to think about, and either make comments within today's meeting or give their feedback during the review process:

- Do meetings reflect the strength of our partnership activity on the ground?
- Do we get to the heart of the issues at meetings?
- How do the Partners ensure people see the Community Planning is about service delivery, not meetings?

Councillor Yates welcomed the review and said it must ensure Community Planning meetings makes best use of people's time.

Donald Harvey commented that he would be happy to discuss examples of good practice in East Ayrshire during the process of the review.

Councillor Fletcher commented that it is fundamental that Community Planning works effectively. The Scottish Government have put a strong emphasis on developing the role of community planning. Therefore all contributions will be welcomed and Councillor Fletcher asked that the comments be as robust and honest as possible.

The Board agreed that the time was right to review community planning structures and that they would be happy to share their comments and views.

Councillor Fletcher thanked all for their comments and stated that he looks forward to the review findings at the next meeting.

6. 'SMARTER CHOICES, SMARTER PLACES'

Tracy Butler spoke to the report on behalf of the Roads, Planning and Transportation team in East Renfrewshire Council.

The Scottish Government is funding a number of demonstration Sustainable Travel Towns in Scotland under the banner "Smarter Choices, Smarter Places". The aim of the initiative is to achieve an increased proportion of active travel and public transport use.

Stage One of the bid has been approved by the Scottish Government and they are now entering into Stage Two and would ask partners to formalise their support with written confirmation detailing the links with existing policies and where we could work in partnership to implement the programme. Tracy advised this would be requested in the letter that is issued with the note of the meeting.

The Board agreed to support the paper in writing.

7. A.O.C.B

Anne Marie Kennedy enquired when we would receive an update on the 'Promoting Safe Use of Alcohol' report which was presented at the last meeting. Julie Murray agreed to put Fiona MacDonald in contact with Anne Marie and explained that Linda De'Caestecker was unavailable for this Board meeting but it is planned for her to attend the next meeting.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As previously agreed the date for the next CPP Board meetings is as follows;

Thursday 9 October 2008 2pm, Civic Room 1, Barrhead