

DUNDEE



PARTNERSHIP

**Minute of the Building Stronger Communities Group
held on Thursday, 22nd November 2018
Committee Room 2, 14 City Square**

Present:

Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
Angie Ballantyne	-	Dundee Voluntary Action / TSI
David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services (chair)
Gary Knox	-	City Development
Jim Campbell	-	East End Forum
John Hosie	-	Neighbourhood Services – Communities
Joyce Barclay	-	Health & Social Care Partnership
Paul Davies	-	Community Planning
Peter Allan	-	Chief Executive's
Robin Shields	-	Neighbourhood Services – Housing
Ron Neave	-	North East Forum
Stella Carrington	-	Lochee Forum
Wendy Scullin	-	Coldside Forum

In Attendance

Angela Robb	-	Neighbourhood Services – Environment
Anita Jamieson	-	Volunteer Dundee
Chelsea Marshall	-	Menu for Change
David Hilber	-	Menu for Change
Derek Miller	-	Chief Executive's - Financial Inclusion
Rizwan Rafik	-	Taught by Muhammad
Samantha Bruce	-	Food for Thought

Apologies:

Alison Anderson	-	Neighbourhood Services - Environment
David Martin	-	DCC Chief Executive
John Berry	-	City Development – Sustainable Transport

Action

1. Introductions & Apologies

Elaine welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions was made. Apologies received are listed above.

2. Minute of October Meeting

Agreed as accurate with an amendment to correct the venue (Brooksbank Centre) and a clarification at the end of item 4.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Dundee Decides

- In Maryfield, it is still unclear what the £50k assigned for pavement will be used for (the work having already been carried out by Tayside Contracts)
 - John Hosie attends a four-weekly meeting regarding projects. Jay Grant will liaise with Stuart Fairweather to determine spend, which will most likely be based on other priorities voted for within the area.

3.2 Road Closure Charges

Negotiations are still ongoing to reduce the charge for road closure in Lochee to allow a Christmas procession to take place, given that other parts of the city have seen road closures carried out for free.

- Gary Knox / Peter Allan to look into this

- Elaine is happy to work on developing a clear policy if this is needed

4 Chairs Group – Issues & Information Sharing

The group have decided to postpone the planned Gathering until May to allow sufficient time for planning content. Forums have been asked to come up with ideas and the Chairs Group are deciding on the format for the event.

5 Priority Updates

5.1 Financial Inclusion

Derek provided an update which included;

- Circulation of the Talk Money Week programme. Many of the items on the programme are regular surgeries
- The 'Dundee Funeral Support Service' now has a manager and staff in place and they are in the process of making links for referrals. More information will follow in December / January.
 - To accompany this, DCC are working on a respectful funeral package
- Alan Molloy from Social Security Scottish (SSS) team attended a recent Financial Inclusion Strategy Group (FISG). The local SSS manager will join the FISG for future meetings as part of making local links
- A new advice centre is opening up in Stobswell, and having an open day on the 30th November. It is being led by Brooksbank and the Stobswell Forum, and aims to have a range of services operating from there

Discussion included;

- Shelter are now at the Lochee Hub on a Wednesday
- Information on crisis services over Christmas was being looked for
 - While DVA is closed over the festive period, some staff are thinking about opening for a few days and need to know what else is going on
 - Future coordination of services over the festive period would be welcome, especially those dealing with fuel and food poverty
 - Derek to canvas the advice sector and DCC departments for information to circulate

DM

5.1.1 Food Poverty

Peter introduced the subject by highlighting that food poverty is one of the most visible aspects of poverty in Dundee. There is a lot of public support for food banks, but we are getting used to their existence. There is a big relationship to in-work poverty too, and food banks could be a useful connection for services trying to reach the in-work poor.

There is a determination within the city that people should not need to go to food banks which leads to two main questions;

- How do we decrease the numbers accessing food banks?
- How do we ensure that people get the additional help they need?

Menu for Change

David gave an overview of the aims and work of Menu for Change, summarised below;

- They are working nationally in three areas, and have been in Dundee for the past 18 months
- It is recognised that there is no food shortage, but that some people don't have enough money to access food
- The project brings people together and looks at actions that could help with this e.g. Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF), Faith in Community Dundee (FiCD), CONNECT, Maxwell Centre, Taught by Muhammad, Shelter, and Fairness Commission members
- The SWF text message to people declined funding has been amended to highlight other places where people may be able to get support
- There are lots of advice services in Dundee, and volunteers are often not aware of who is best to refer a person to in a given situation. A project is needed to help people know more

- Services are generally well connected, but can improve their sharing of information. to help with this, a 'speed dating' event is planned
- There is an amazing amount of community growing in Dundee and mapping of this is being carried out by DCC. Menu for Change are looking at how people can access food from them
- Having the same person attending places such as advice cafés is important to help build up trust, and so advice agencies are taking steps to improve this

Three pilot projects were started in October;

- Support Worker at the Maxwell Centre, to deal with foodbank referrals and applications to the SWF. On site 10-3, Monday – Friday and handled 90 referrals in October
- Danny at FiCD is working on a leaflet to hand out to non-specialist advisors to help with correct referrals being made
- The Yusuf youth Initiative have a Community Inclusion Worker to engage with the BME community, and spread the word regarding advice services with the aim of increasing awareness and inclusion

A report on the work of Menu for Change is due out in early 2019.

Discussion followed which included;

- Word of mouth is a vital component of awareness raising
- Community Growing isn't just about the food, but also bringing people together and helping them to feel valued
- work is ongoing with regard to sourcing funds to develop the nurseries at Camperdown for community growing purposes
- Members of the community are encouraged to flag up to DCC any potential sites for community growing
- The pilots are designed to be 'proofs of concept' and it is hoped that they will attract future funding to continue, and/or for existing providers to draw on the experience gained from them
- Links to literacy / numeracy provision could be helpful to enable additional people to take part in activities. This could be a useful topic for a future meeting; Marie Dailly to be invited to discuss this
- The Healthier Weight Initiative has been using some community grown produce to make healthier jams

PAD

Taught by Muhammad

Rizwan gave an overview of the work of Taught by Muhammad, which included;

- This is a full time food bank, Monday – Friday which includes a delivery service (anonymous to prevent stigmatisation). This helps with single parents, people with disabilities, and older people
- Some of the more common reasons people give for needing to use the food bank include; a change in their benefits, Universal Credit, repaying an overpayment of benefit, and simply lack of money to pay all their bills
- Taught by Muhammad is there to help with short term crises, but only take referrals from support agencies such as CONNECT, Shelter, etc. as they are able to help with preventing future crises
- For foodbank referrals in August – November;
 - 54% included children
 - 57% were due to a delay / change in benefits
 - Lochee and Coldside were the two biggest areas that referrals came from
- Four support cafés are also delivered, in Douglas, Charleston, Finmill and Kirkton community centres
 - Douglas sees approximately 80-90 people each week; Charleston 60-70 people
 - These cafés help to reduce social isolation, with a family friendly environment. Initially people sit separately, but over time do begin to form into groups
 - Additional services provide drop-in support, including Citizens Advice Bureau, CONNECT, and NHS health checks

- Volunteers have been instrumental in delivery
 - During school holidays, more children attend the cafés
- Budgeting classes are also delivered, including a cooking programme that focusses on providing healthy food on a budget

Food for Thought

Samantha provided an overview of the work of Food for Thought, which included;

- It is a foodbank alternative, and currently runs alongside the Charleston café on a Tuesday. It is delivered by Samantha and two volunteers
- Members pay £1.50 per week and this is used to purchase food from Fareshare
- Each week, members are then able to receive about three bags of shopping, including some clothing too
- After being in operation for about seven months, the scheme has 93 members and provides sixty crates of food to them on a weekly basis
- They are seeking to become a SCIO (with help from DVA) and base themselves in a retail property not far from Lochee High Street
 - At present they are self-sustaining on the membership fees, but will need additional funding if they are able to move to a retail premises
- With the number of members, Fareshare are now struggling to provide the amount of food required each week, and so they are seeking to increase the number of stores providing food to them
- A Christmas dinner for members is planned, to help tackle social isolation
- Over time, they are building up trust with their members and finding out more about the situations they are in
 - Approximately a dozen of their members work, or are in working families
 - Zero hour contracts are an issue for some

Discussion followed which included;

- Peter and Derek to meet with Samantha to determine what help DCC can give
- Volunteers are being sought for a Board for Food for Thought. One of the Menu for Change Board has already volunteered for this. Samantha to meet with Evelyn Cairns to help with developing the capacity of the Board
- To date, food provided has been tinned goods. They are just beginning to provide some fresh food which will increase the choice of 'proper meals' that members can make
- To help with recruiting and managing volunteers, Anita suggested that Samantha meets with Volunteer Dundee

PA / DM

5.2 Third Sector Interface

Angie and Anita gave a presentation which covered the whole of the Third Sector Interface in a 'Who's Who?' format (see attached presentation). This included;

- Dundee Voluntary Action (DVA)
 - Community Planning & Organisational Development
 - Capacity Building
 - Health & Social Care Partnership, Learning & Organisational Development
 - Children & Families, Strategy & Performance
 - Health, Care & Wellbeing, including the Mental Health Team
- Dundee Social Enterprise Network
 - Supporting social enterprises
 - Raising awareness
 - Delivering training
- Volunteer Dundee
 - Volunteering, promotion and support to organisations
 - Employability

In addition the presentation highlighted that;

- There is a lot of work going on at this time of year

- DVA and Volunteer Dundee are coming together as one organisation in March/April 2019
- The Scottish Government has developed outcomes frameworks for Third Sector Interfaces using 'How Good Is Our Third Sector Interface'

5.3 Travel Networks

John Berry was unable to attend the meeting, and so this update was postponed.

6. Dundee Community Regeneration Fund:

6.1 Grant Applications

All applications were approved. In addition;

- In relation to MP1803, it was noted that Police Scotland have CCTV up and active in the area
- The last date for applications for this financial year is the 14th February, though this only allows ten days for spend to be made and no leeway for deferral. Submissions by the 17th January would be better.

6.2 Projects Failing to Report

No groups have been added to the list this month.

The following projects are ineligible for funding due to not having reported on funded activity from 2017-18:

- EE1713 – Art Social Midlin – Art for All Event
- EE1730 – St. Pius X Church – Community Café
- F1706 – Broughty Ferry & District Men's Shed – Shed Development & Start Up
- L1719 – Lochee United Junior FC – Arts Project
- L1727 – Dundee & Angus Recycling Group CIC – Equipment
- NE1709 – Mill O'Mains Community Pavilion – Summer Programme
- NEY1708 – Mill O'Mains Community Pavilion – Youth Project

7. Local Community Planning

John provided an update on a range of items including;

- The World Community Development Conference will be held in Dundee on the 24th-28th June 2019. Titled 'People, Place & Power', DCC have twenty spaces for staff / community representatives. Anyone interested in a space should contact John
 - The Thursday & Friday will be used for practice exchanges across Dundee, e.g. Dundee Youth Council, Community Engagement, the Decentralisation Journey (including Forums and LCPPs). Community Growing and the latest Fairness Commission are also possibilities
- Community Asset Transfer. There have been 52 enquiries in the past three months, with fifteen being referred to Regeneration Staff and/or DVA for support. Fourteen Stage 1 applications have been completed, and of these just two are likely to go ahead for transfer
 - The demand anticipated two years ago hasn't materialised, and as a result Carole Jenkins is moving to fill the North East Communities Officer post (Mike Welsh is moving to fill the vacant Lochee post)
 - An Asset Transfer Steering Group will still oversee the process. Nicky Maccrimmon is taking up the Community Manager's post in January and will also have oversight of the CAT process as part of his role
- Participatory Budgeting. The source of the money for the next round of this is still being identified but it will go ahead. Communities will be involved in the process.
 - There are three ongoing delays with existing Dundee Decides projects, two in East End and one in the North East, which will take into the next financial year to complete
 - Some other minor delays are expected to be worked through within this financial year

8. AOCB

8.1 Peter is still to raise community involvement in the ADP at one of their meetings, due to the last meeting agenda being full. **PA**

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 13th December, Committee Room 4, 14 City Square

Attachments:

DRAFT