

DUNDEE

PARTNERSHIP

Minute of the Building Stronger Communities Group held on Thursday, 21st February 2019 Committee Room 2, 14 City Square

Present:	Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
	Alison Anderson	-	Neighbourhood Services - Environment
	Angie Ballantyne	-	Dundee Voluntary Action / TSI
	Christine Humphrey	-	Strathmartine Forum
	David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
	Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services (chair)
	Gary Knox	-	City Development
	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:

Gillian Robertson	-	Adult Learning
Sheila Robertson	-	Citywide Literacies Team, DCC
Stuart Fairweather	-	Neighbourhood Services – Communities

Apologies:

John Hosie	-	Neighbourhood Services – Communities
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1. Introductions & Apologies

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

2. Minute of January Meeting

Agreed as accurate with a minor amendment to section 5.1 (reference to independent review of City Development plans).

3. Matters Arising

- New Fairness Commission members are currently being looked for (*item 5.2*). Anyone with suggestions or relevant contacts should contact Peter Allan or Jacky Close

4. Chairs Group – Issues & Information Sharing

The main discussion at the meeting was around the Gathering which is to be held in Committee Room 1 on the 14th May. The topic area to be discussed will centre on encouraging diversity and inclusion of young people in Community Regeneration Forums and the wider funding process.

Comment made that this matches with the positive experience of involving young people in Dundee Decides.

5. Priority Updates

5.1 Literacy & Accessing Services

Sheila and Gillian informed the group around the topic of poverty issues and how people with literacies issues access services.

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Sheila outlined that access and successful use of a service largely depends on three things;

- The literacies of the individual. Not just their ability to read and write, but also their communication, ability to make use of information, ICT literacy, etc.
- The reason for needing to access a service
- The agencies response to the individual

Three case studies were then used to illustrate this:

Male in his 50's who needs to maintain his online benefit claim

- He is unable to use a PC and so has been sanctioned several times
- DWP referred him to Mitchell Street for support
- He believes that he can't learn anything new
- He is able to read and write, but did experience a lot of negatives at school and so had an initial bad reaction to the environment at Mitchell Street (an ex-school)
- The staff member he was with realised this and made adjustments that enabled him to return and over a period of time learn the skills needed
- He is now offering peer support to new learners, and engages much more easily with services
- He is more able to express his feelings

Female, 17 years old who can't read or write

- She also has mental health issues stemming from severe bullying at school
- The 16+ Learning Choices team are supporting her, including helping her to access Adult Learning
- She is severely dyslexic and so one focus of work with her has been on developing her understanding of this, what it means and also highlighting the progress she has been making (which she finds hard to see)
- With help from two trusted people she is becoming more able to access other services

Female in her 40's with a learning disability

- Her mother passed away leading to big changes at home
- Her father wants her to be more independent in preparation for him also not being there for her, but accepts that there will be limits to this
- Her benefits have been cut as a result of a PIP assessment which increased worry over how she would manage week to week
- Adult Learning have helped her to put in an appeal
- In situations like this, it is useful for the various services involved to work together to support the individual

Gillian shared her story with the group, including how she;

- Covered up her difficulties with reading and writing to avoid stigma
- Didn't put in for promotions at work to avoid the additional written work it would entail
- Tried to get help in order to be able to assist her children with school work as they grew up
- More recently she has received help through Adult Learning which has boosted not only her skills, but her confidence
- She has also been able to share her issues and progress with them with a work colleague

Discussion followed, which included;

- How do you reach out to people?
 - Word of mouth, especially from existing / previous learners
 - Notices are used, but not relied on
 - Talking to people and groups about the services on offer
 - Agencies refer people who are struggling with literacies issues. DWP are a frequent referrer

- People do want to learn, but it can be hard to admit difficulties with reading, writing and IT
- What can the BSC Group do to help?
 - Let agencies know that awareness raising sessions are on offer, so that they are then better able to identify people needing help and refer them for support
- CLD Staff and teachers now do some of their training together which should help with identification of those needing help and how to go about getting it for them
- The Children & Families Executive Board could also benefit from a briefing on this topic. Elaine to arrange with Paul Clancy
- Stigma definitely has a big part to play in people not coming forward to get help
- Peter will put Jackie Close in touch with Sheila regarding possible members for the new Fairness Commission

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5.2 Strategic Housing

Robin talked to the tabled presentation (attached), which included;

- The new Strategic Housing Improvement Plan (SHIP) was approved at the November Neighbourhood Services Committee and has been sent to the Scottish Government for comment
- Funding has been identified up to 2021, a total of £50.953m
- The SHIP is a five year programme, which is reviewed annually
- Bi-monthly meetings are held with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), developers, etc. to look at planning proposals against a set of ten criteria, and focusing on four priority regeneration areas (Mill O'Mains, Whitfield, Lochee and Hilltown)
- 24 hour care is offered at much of the 'particular needs' housing. Work on this is coordinated with the Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) to forecast housing needs each year. Where a shortfall is identified, new housing units can be planned
- All new DCC builds will include sprinkler systems

Discussion followed which included;

- The Our Ladies site, now scheduled for use by the Scottish Prison Service, had not received any proposals for housing builds
- Bank Street has issues with untidiness, and a request was made for this to be cleared up. Robin indicated that Hillcrest do plan to build there, but no date for a start has been fixed yet. He will look into this with regard to a clean-up in the meantime
- There is a lot of good work and high quality building going on. Dundee is unique in relation to the HSCP being involved in planning of new housing stock and the putting in place of support for new tenants as the housing is being built
- The private rented sector is an issue with regard to fairness and poverty, with affordable housing being a key issue. The Fairness Action Plan is under review and so the relevant contact to discuss this is needed
 - The relevant team within DCC is the Private Sector Support Unit

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5.3 Health & Social Care

Joyce talked to the presentation circulated with the papers. This included;

- The HSCP was created through legislation to try and improve the delivery of health and social care services by avoiding duplication / gaps between NHS services and Local Authority services, and came into existence in 2016
- Some confusion arises due to HSCP staff having NHS or DCC email addresses rather than a HSCP one
- A range of services is provided including
 - Psychiatry
 - Drug problem / substance misuse services
 - Protecting people
 - Older people's services
 - Learning / Physical Disabilities services

- Allied Health Professionals such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy (an area in which former NHS and DCC staff have come together well)
- The Integrated Joint Board which oversees the HSCP is independent of both NHS and DCC, and includes a range of key professionals, Third Sector, staff representatives, carers and service users
- Progress is being made towards locality working, including making links with Communities Officers
 - There is a focus on service delivery based on area profiles and need, seeking to address health inequalities
- A new Strategic & Commissioning Plan is currently out for a final consultation – see [here](#) for more information – with a focus on four key areas;
 - Early Intervention & Prevention
 - Locality Working & Engaging with Communities
 - Models of Support
 - Pathways of Care

6. Dundee Community Regeneration Fund:

6.1 Grant Applications

All applications were approved.

Some final awards for 2018-19 funding are expected next month to allocate the bulk of remaining funds before the end of the financial year. Some leeway is being given to spend on Physical & Environmental Improvement beyond 31st March 2019.

6.2 Projects Failing to Report

There are currently eight groups on the list, though several more will be receiving late report reminder letters today. It is hoped that the recipients will complete their reports before this group's March meeting.

The following projects are ineligible for funding due to not having reported on funded activity from 2017-18 (older late reports are not listed here):

- EE1730 – St. Pius X Church – Community Café
- EEP1707 – Douglas Community Spaces Group – Power in the Shed
- F1706 – Broughty Ferry & District Men's Shed – Shed Development & Start Up
- L1727 – Dundee & Angus Recycling Group CIC – Equipment
- NEY1708 – Mill O'Mains Community Pavilion – Youth Project

7. Local Community Planning

Stuart gave an update on The Ferry LCPP's recent 'annual conference'. Alongside a shortened LCPP meeting, they took the opportunity to invite local people, groups and practitioners from a range of sectors to a local networking event. Around 60 people took part and the event was well received. Communities Officers are currently looking at whether this format should be replicated in other Wards.

8. AOCB

8.1 OPFS Laughter Clubs – Lochee & Charleston

OPFS are no longer delivering these, and in Lochee this has also impacted on the 'Tattie Patch', use of which has been handed over to the local school. From discussion;

- Service users are unhappy about this
- It was OPFS's decision nationally to refocus on work with lone parents, and pull back from delivering groups like this for families
- Local discussions are taking place on alternate ways for the groups to be delivered e.g. via an LMG, but;
 - The timing of the OPFS decision make direct continuation difficult
 - Some LMGs may feel unable to take on responsibility for the local group

- There are possible TUPE issues around employment of staff if an alternate delivery agency is identified
- The local press are conflating this with cuts to the Third Sector (though the DPCRF funding for these groups is in place until the end of March and could have been continued with an application and Forum approval)
- From a Partnership point of view, the recommendation is for the DPCRF to be maintained at 2018-19 levels, despite savings being made elsewhere
- Some agencies, similarly to OPFS, will be looking at their delivery and so partners, including the Third Sector, are discussing an approach to consistently get the best advice to them on funding and other support available to them
- Further discussion regarding the future of the Tattie Patch appears to be needed, especially if the group is able to continue in some form
- In general, we need to be sensitive about how projects like this are brought to an end. Discussion with local partners is needed

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8.2 Strathmartine Communities Officer

Query raised about what the plan is for support in Strathmartine given that the Communities Officer is not being replaced.

- At present DCC policy is not to fill posts unless they have a critical / health & safety role
- Once the 2019-20 budget has been agreed, then the position will be reviewed by David Simpson and Marie Dailly

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 21st March, Mitchell Street Centre

Attachments:

Strategic Housing Update

Health & Social Care Update & Mind map