



**Minute of the Building Stronger Communities Group  
held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019  
Conference Room 2, 14 City Square**

<b>Present:</b>	Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
	Alison Colgan	-	Dundee Partnership Team (minute)
	Andrew Radley	-	NHS, Public Health
	David Gardener	-	Dundee Voluntary Action
	David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
	Gary Knox	-	City Development
	John Wolstencroft	-	Neighbourhood Services
	Joyce Barclay	-	Health & Social Care Partnership
	Marie Dailly	-	Neighbourhood Services - Communities
	Paul Davies	-	Dundee Partnership Team (chair)
	Stella Carrington	-	Lochee Forum
	Wendy Scullin	-	Coldside Forum

**In Attendance:**

David Rice	-	Police Scotland
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**Apologies:**

Alison Anderson	-	Neighbourhood Services – Environment
Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services
Peter Allan	-	Chief Executive's
Ron Neave	-	North East Forum

**Action**

**1. Introductions & Apologies**

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

**2. Minute of October Meeting**

Two amendments were requested from the previous minute.

- Point 2 in matters arising which stated that a public meeting had not been held regarding parking in Maryfield should have stated that a public consultation had not been held.
- Item 8 detailed outstanding Dundee Decides projects, however it should have included pavement improvements on Albert Street which is still incomplete.

**3. Matters Arising**

- South Road (*item 3*). John Wolstencroft spoke to the Development Team at Abertay Housing as they weren't aware of exactly where the issue was. It was confirmed as being on the corner at the Primary School side and they are looking at going on-site in January
- CLD Strategy Group (*item 4*). They are looking at Community Councils and Neighbourhood Representative Structures and a paper has been prepared on this
- Lochee Clock (*item 5*). City Development are now on-site with the programme of works in place and hopefully the clock will be installed before Christmas
- Private Sector Housing (*item 6.1*). Peter to discuss with John regarding future issues with private and social housing and updates will be scheduled in for next year
- Community Access to the Cash Delivery Fund (*item 6.2*). Information on this has been shared with Communities Officers

**PA / JW**

- Drugs Commission Event (item 6.2). Recovery Friendly Pledge will be presented at this meeting next month
- Transport Forum Minute (item 6.3). This minute was circulated with last month's papers
  - David felt the survey results showing great public satisfaction were flawed as satisfaction depends on where people live and how easily they can access bus services. The group recognised that this is a polarising issue

#### **4 Forum Representatives – Issues & Information Sharing**

Stella informed the group that the Lochee forum were disappointed that having offered 50% of their Physical and Environmental Improvements to the participatory budgeting project they were refused, therefore no funds at all were offered.

In Strathmartine a new Community Safety and Youth Justice Group have been set up and are looking at increased use of motorbikes in St Mary's in particular. They are working at getting teenagers 15+ interested in safe riding and servicing lessons, however they can only work with 4 young people over a 10 week course and 4 is not enough.

In Maryfield work is almost complete on the new secure front doors in Dundonald Street, with additional work being looked at to keep people out of the back gardens. Art work has transformed the area and there have been no more issues with abandoned cars. A clean up of the area is also being carried out. Discussion is ongoing regarding Albert Street continuing to be used as a main thoroughfare for heavy vehicles against all the community's wishes.

### **5 Priority Updates**

#### **5.1 Third Sector Interface**

David gave the attached presentation on the work of the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and the support and services offered by them in Dundee. Changes have been made following a 2016 Scottish Government commissioned review of all TSIs in Scotland. From that, changes have been made by the merger of Dundee Voluntary Action and Volunteer Dundee on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 led by Eric Knox, former CEO of Volunteer Dundee.

There will be an Extraordinary Annual General Meeting in December for formal approval of the new name 'Dundee Volunteer & Voluntary Action', as well as their memorandum and a new logo and email addresses will be launched. A formal launch event is being planned for early February.

They are looking to create a golden thread across Community Planning and the Dundee City Plan. Work is ongoing to re-establish the three Third Sector Networks previously set up in Lochee, East End and North East. These will meet in quarter one of 2020, and another five networks will be set up across the other wards in Dundee in the first half of the year. They plan to have an appropriate voluntary sector representative join each LCPP to ensure there is a good link, with any issues or developments to be brought to this meeting and/or strategic partnership meetings.

#### **5.2 County Lines**

DS Dave Rice gave the attached presentation on Human Trafficking, County Lines and Cuckooing. Police Scotland have seen an upturn in the volume of this type of activity in Tayside and Dundee in recent months and they need the community report any issues or suspicions to Police Scotland or Crimestoppers (the latter can be done anonymously).

- The main victims tend to be young males aged 15 to 20, who are distrusting of authority and usually trafficked to be involved in the supply of drugs

- The community need to be aware that those trafficked tend not to have a local accent and often will be frequenting a particular house, which may actually belong to a vulnerable person
- Within a recent arrest of a gang of five young men from London it turned out that two of them (a 17 year old and a 19 year old) had been trafficked from London to supply drugs in Dundee
- Cuckooing is happening in Dundee and has increased in the past six months. A number of Serious Organised Crime Groups (SOCG) are targeting Dundee and intimidating vulnerable people in order to access their homes for use as drug dens / a base of operation, either by use of intimidation, force or providing a free supply of drugs
- Everyone is urged to spread the word around their communities that any suspicions or concerns should be either notified by phoning Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers. If there is any immediate danger, 999 should be used. It was suggested calling Crimestoppers may get the message through quicker than 101 as the reports are sent immediately to the Police
- DS Rice informed everyone that he can be emailed with any questions or suggestions for groups and communities he can present to on this topic

Discussion following the presentation included:

- John asked if housing offices and staff have been contacted with this information. It was confirmed that this has been done with Housing Officers and at a Landlords meeting, getting the message out
- It was asked if there were particular areas where these issues are more prominent that we should be aware of, however DS Rice confirmed the issues are widespread across Dundee and there is a fairly even spread of drug users across the city
- Marie suggested contacting the Communities Officers and LCPPs for presentations. It was agreed Marie would pass their contact details to DS Rice to facilitate this. **MD**
- It was also suggested that presentations at the Community Safety and Justice Board would be beneficial
- Wendy highlighted that residents at the bottom of the Hilltown, beside the multis in particular, have seen an increase in the problems in recent months. The lack of concierge presence in the evening is felt to contribute to this. There are lots of drugs in the area and new people with different accents, but also a lot of apathy amongst neighbours who feel they have to accept and expect this because of where they live
  - DS Rice encouraged everyone to report as much as possible, as it takes time to develop intelligence and each call allows them to develop investigations. He stressed that despite appearances, the police do follow up on calls, it just takes time before action is possible
  - It was suggested a Crimestoppers leaflet drop highlighting this issue in particular may help encourage some neighbours to pay more attention and report things and DS Rice will look into arranging this **DR**
- Joyce suggested that two vulnerable groups that can benefit from this information would be those with mental health issues, and the Pensioners' Forum. David Gardener added staff at DVA are working with both groups and passing on the information or leaflets can be done easily. He asked that leaflets be passed to the Lochee Hub and also Number 10 for distribution. DS Rice to arrange this **DR**
- David MacDougall suggested that providing information for inclusion in community newsletters could be effective as they are distributed to around 5,000 doors in each neighbourhood and so have a broad reach
- Stella stated that people in her area have stopped reporting issues as they feel nothing is being done. She asked if equipment to listen in on particular addresses is available, however was told that this is not the case
- DS Rice says it can be frustrating when they continually target the same individuals without the success of prosecution, therefore they need to look at being more astute to reach prosecution. The Divisional Intelligence Team currently consists of 7 staff

### **5.3 Poly-pharmacy/Over-Prescription**

Andrew Radley provided the attached update which included;

- Over-prescribing of medication and how anti-coagulants don't actually benefit most people, only around 2 in 100 actually benefit within a given time period
- Many conditions can be improved by other activities rather than medication, such as diabetes, mental health problems or the reduction of chronic pain. People also need to realise that being active does not mean the same as exercising at the gym
- People need to be trained to learn other ways of living with long-term conditions
- Painkillers taken for more than six months will no longer work as effectively and so a long term plan is required for managing chronic pain
- In England GPs are encouraged to use social prescribing for people to become more involved in gardening, dancing, cooking etc., as an alternative to medication
  - Locally, the Sources of Support team provide social prescribing from many of the city's GP practices
  - DVA are funded by NHS Tayside to provide Green Prescriptions to combat e.g. COPD, diabetes and mental health issues
- The aim is for everyone to have longer and better quality of lives

Discussion followed, the main points of which were;

- Marie stated that a lot of work is already being done between Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and the Community Health Team but more needs to be done. GPs need to come on board to prescribe less and way they operate. The message needs to be sent out to inform everyone what alternatives are available
- GPs all have access to the Primary Care Improvement Fund, therefore they can socially prescribe through the Third Sector
- Joyce stated there is not enough funding for social prescribers which means that HSCP are having to fund much of it rather than NHS Tayside which isn't sustainable. The Primary Care Transformation is looking at changing medical practices so they are about much more than just GPs. This will move some of the treatment away from GPs, to other health professionals based alongside them and may enable a shift in prescribing
- There were comments on the fact not enough questions are being asked by GPs about people's lifestyles, such as smoking, drinking or exercise levels. Also, repeat prescriptions are often being given out too easily

## **6. Dundee Community Regeneration Fund**

### **6.1 Grant Applications**

All applications were approved.

### **6.2 Projects Failing to Report**

The following projects have become ineligible for funding due to not having reported on funded activity (older late reports are not listed here, but remain ineligible):

- EE1805, St. Pius Church – Community Café
- L1809, Lochee Community Group – Lochee Community Shop

## **7. Local Community Planning**

Marie gave a brief update which included;

- Dates are currently being looked at for LCPP meetings and walkabouts for next year
- Lochee Ward is due to get a new LCPP chair. It is likely to be someone from City Development

## **8. AOCB**

- Marie enquired regarding the Community Regeneration Team being able to access last year's completed reports. Alison confirmed that a shared folder has been set up in CERDMS with completed reports and an updated table of

all grants incorporating what has been achieved/spent. It should be accessible to the whole team but Alison will check this

**AC**

- David Gardener informed the group that Scottish Government funding has been approved for the Lochee Hub for the next two years which is excellent given that there were 752 applicants for the funding. The team are planning development for more work during the afternoons, evenings and possibly weekends
- Joyce informed the group she will miss the December meeting but asked whether her February update should be a general update or if something more specific would be preferred such as covering Protecting People or the new Carer's Strategy. The group will discuss in December and feed back to Joyce for her to arrange

**All**

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

This meeting date and venue have been changed to Thursday 19th December, Hilltown Community Centre, Alexander Street.

**Attachments:**

- Third Sector Interface Update Presentation
- Human Trafficking, County Lines & Cuckooing Presentation
- Safe Prescribing Tayside Presentation