



**Minute of the Dundee Partnership Management Group
held on Thursday, 5th November 2020 at 2:00 pm
Online via Teams**

Present:

Alice Bovill, Community Regeneration Forums
Alison Henderson, D&A Chamber of Commerce
Councillor John Alexander, Dundee City Council
Councillor Kevin Keenan, Dundee City Council
David Martin, Dundee City Council (co-chair)
Eric Knox, Dundee Volunteer & Voluntary Action
Gordon MacDougall, Skills Development Scotland
Gordon Pryde, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Gregory Colgan, Corporate Services, DCC

Nick Fyfe, University of Dundee
Michael Wright, Scottish Enterprise
Murray Webster, Community Regeneration Forums
Judy Dobbie, Leisure & Culture Dundee
Nicola Russell, Police Scotland
Simon Hewitt, Dundee & Angus College
Vicky Irons, Health & Social Care Partnership

In Attendance:

Andrea Calder, Corporate Division, DCC
Brian Logan, Scottish Government
Elaine Zwirlein, Neighbourhood Services, DCC
Janet Robertson, Corporate Services, DCC
Paul Clancy, Children & Families, DCC
Paul Davies, Corporate Division, DCC (minute)

Peter Allan, Corporate Division, DCC
Robin Presswood, City Development, DCC
Roger Mennie, Democratic & Legal Services, DCC
Simon Little, Alcohol & Drug Partnership
Tracy A'Brook, Committee Services, DCC

Apologies:

Brenda Campbell, Scottish Government
Grant Archibald, NHS Tayside (co-chair)

Kate Bell, NHS Tayside
Mark Speed, TACTRAN

Action

1. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

David Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting, the overarching topic of which was Recovery & Renewal. Apologies received are noted above.

He welcomed Nicola Russell back after a period on national secondment and Simon Hewitt in his first meeting as D&A College Principal. He also informed the group that Greg Colgan, incoming DCC Chief Executive, would be in place as co-chair from group's next meeting in February.

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed as accurate.

3. BEST VALUE ASSURANCE REPORT – DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

David reminded the group that a periodic audit of the local authority is carried out by Audit Scotland, and that ours has been recently published. He stated that it;

- Shows how effective our leadership and partnerships are
- Is a good milestone and worth reading
- Highlights both positives and challenges, and how far we've come in the ten years since the last audit
- Gives a complimentary analysis of our partnership working in the city, showing us to be genuine, comfortable working on challenges together, solution focussed, and able to work with communities too.

Feedback is welcomed from partners (to Peter / Andrea), and the report can also help form this group's future agenda.

All

Andrea added thanks to the partners that took part in the audit, especially at a difficult time for us all. Press coverage took a negative view and the

Audit Commission responded by saying that this was a positive report for Dundee, and that we are aware of our weaknesses and are working on them.

John Alexander highlighted the report's tagline, 'a decade of improvement' and thanked everyone for their ongoing efforts. He added that the meeting agenda shows our focus on the important issues for everyone in Dundee.

David added that a report is going to committee on 16/11/20 on an action plan in response to this audit report.

4. TAYSIDE MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY

This item was postponed until the February meeting due to Kate Bell being unable to attend.

KB

5. DRUG DEATH ACTION PLAN / ADP ANNUAL REPORT

Simon Little gave an overview of the report in order to bring a sense of the achievements and outstanding challenges for the ADP. An updated plan likely to become available mid-November. Highlights from Simon's presentation included;

- Prescribing – same day prescribing is now part of business as usual where appropriate
- Five new nurse practitioners are in post, leading to expanded assertive outreach to those at most risk. This in turn has impacted on coordination of non-fatal overdose work
- Drug Deaths – for January to September we are just below the level seen in the past four years. There was an initial rise in March to May ascribed to us going into lockdown
- Better collaboration across the sectors is taking place especially around the covid response, and more trust between the Third and Public sectors is evident too
- Positive relationships are being built with the Scottish Government and Drug Death Taskforce (DDT). We are being seen as an area to try out new ideas and an announcement in relationship to this may take place soon
- DDT funding has enabled investment in independent advocacy services, non-fatal overdose coordination, the Safe Zone bus, and prisoner discharge outreach support
- Improved leadership within the ADP is noted, though there are still capacity issues
- The relationship with Dundee University is being built, and possible help with self-evaluation may come about soon
- Concerns
 - Lockdown and fresh challenges, as many services are reliant on small teams leading to loss of capacity if any staff become ill or need to self-isolate
 - The rise in drug deaths during 'lockdown 1' may be repeated in 'lockdown 2'. Concerns are largely around increased social isolation being the cause of this
 - We need a Whole System of Care rather than individual supports. A Public Health Needs Assessment hasn't been able to progress as planned, so development of insights on this has been slowed
- Progress is being made on outlining the Whole System of Care. Pilot work is being proposed around 24-hour crisis support, and joint service development with mental health. These will have long term implications to how we work and increase alignment of services
- Outstanding areas
 - Integrated mental health services
 - Shared care with primary care. This is the biggest area for long term development and needs to include preventative work on anxiety and depression (which commonly co-exist with substance misuse issues)
 - Development of wellbeing

- Developing the capacity of the workforce
- Challenges
 - Some Scottish Government funding may cease next year which could have serious impact on budgets. Even if it continues at its current rate, a deficit is still projected for next year
 - Capacity to make progress and report on this
 - Alcohol Brief Interventions. We are behind targets on these but aiming to get them on track ASAP

Vicky Irons – endorsed Simon’s comments which show the effort being put into this area of work. The momentum is there and needs built on. The last 6-7 months have shown how primary care can work differently when needed and there is a national ‘lessons learned’ group looking at this. Fatigue may however cause issues going forward.

Bailie Keenan asked whether issues around pathology and causes of death (drug mix) have been looked at nationally in order to advise people to avoid certain things, and how do we address our label as ‘drug death capital’?

- Simon indicated that he is unaware of any progress on the toxicology issues. He is urging for more information along with other ADP Chairs as we need this information to understand what is going on, and for families to get closure on what happened.
- David indicated that we are lobbying the DDT on this issue, with the help of Robert Peat who was on the Dundee Drug Commission and is part of the DDT. Feedback on this will be via the ADP

6. RECOVERY & RENEWAL PLANNING - PRESENTATION

Robin Presswood presented an overview on recovery and renewal, focussing on the economy. This included;

- The plan looks at the inter-relation of many aspects of life and towards implementation through a renewed City/Council Plan
- We need a whole city approach, over the long-term, to build back better using a flexible policy framework while still balancing the budget. A section on Fairness & Inequalities was given as an example, showing a short-term Recovery Phase (six months) and long-term Restructuring Phase (up to three years)
- Top-line economic challenges were highlighted including; up to 16,000 jobs at risk in the city, the impact on younger people, economic disruption, health & wellbeing, impact on education, poverty & inequalities, and the continuing impact of covid-19
- Short-term, there is multi-agency support for the Recovery Phase and a number of local / regional measures put in place
- There is a risk of a double dip recession due to second wave of covid-19. The Hospitality sector is particularly impacted – data on jobs at risk broken down by sector highlights this
- The Tier 3 local restrictions were summarised
- Labour market insights were presented at a national level, with Tayside level through information from SDS. Key risks arise over the end of the furlough scheme
- Good news – the growth in people on Universal Credit has been slower in Dundee than the rest of Scotland. The overall claimant count has however gone up in line with the rest of Scotland
- Resilience – Dundee named as the third most resilient local authority in Scotland according to the Oxford Economics Vulnerability Index, for a variety of reasons
- Restructuring Phase. There are several ongoing economic recovery actions e.g. the Tay Cities Deal, Civil Service jobs campaign, Waterfront strategy, improving local employability partnership, and enhanced focus on the digital sector
 - Waterfront – expecting to gain 1,000 jobs by end of 2021 due to ongoing developments

- Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc – 1st tenant to be announced 6/11/20 and building conversion is underway
- BT have committed to maintaining Dundee as a base of operations, employing 1,200 people
- Alliance Trust Savings / Embark Group will be undertaking local development of a financial technologies incubator in partnership with range of agencies
- The Eden Project is at the preferred location stage and aligns with Dundee's strengths in culture and environment
- Ongoing construction activity community benefits are being realised
- Long-covid needs to be factored in as a net downward effect on the economy

The presentation slides are attached with this minute for information. Robin is happy to pick up on points with group members after the meeting.

Further comment took place, which included;

Gordon McDougall

- The presentation captured challenges and opportunities
- Data presented shows the sectors requiring support to help them bounce back post-covid. Also shows sectors where we should try to redirect people to e.g. green jobs, digital jobs, etc which needs influence over education and career development
- Mental health & digital exclusion are two areas of biggest worry, especially as face to face services are limited at present. How do we increase availability of these?
- Any funds that come our way need to be focused appropriately
- Data sharing has been instrumental in making progress too.

Bailie Keenan commended the presentation

- Challenges to the Partnership are the jobs likely to be lost, and getting people into the jobs market
- We need more on community wealth building and for all funds to deliver for the city rather than going outside of it
- In construction we need to counteract any loss of jobs in this sector, to enable local spending and local growth
- The city centre will need looked at too, as many shops may not be there post-covid

Alison Henderson

- Agreed that we need to spend locally as much as possible. We already do well on this but can get better
- It is good that we have multiple sectors active in the city, and are not too reliant on any one of them
- Businesses are generally aiming to keep people on via the furlough scheme
- The Kick-start programme should create paid 6-month jobs for young people (16-24), many in small companies

Simon Hewitt

- From the College's perspective, there is 'lots going on, both positive and negative' and this creates a challenge in determining what support and training to put in place
- Activity needs to be joined up with other partners, including those who are also putting in place training, and so we need to be really clear about where the opportunities are and avoid duplication of effort

Michael Wright

- It is good news today that furlough scheme is being extended to March 2021, especially for the most affected sectors, but it is still going to be

a bleak winter for many businesses as they miss out on their most profitable time period due to restrictions

- The 'FinTech Hub' is a major coup for Dundee
- The clean growth / green agenda is also very strong locally

John Alexander

- Being able to stand still right now is essential, as well as looking for growth in particular sectors
- We are all aware of concerning socio-economic factors that already existed, and which are being exacerbated by covid-19
- Resources do need to be targeted at those aged 40-60 in relation to re/up-skilling for work

David Martin

- Highlighted the pivotal role played by Scottish Enterprise in much of the above
- Thoughts from this meeting will be taken to the Fair Work & Enterprise Executive Board soon
- An in-depth look at the Eden Project is to be arranged for our next meeting
- Thought is needed around tourism / cultural sector recovery as it is likely to be slower than we initially thought due to length of crisis
- Job quality is also an issue that needs addressed e.g. zero-hour contracts, job security, etc.

RP

Robin Presswood

- The additional comments emphasise the strength around the table
- Sub-contracting will be discussed at FW&E Board next week
- City Centre – consultation on this is planned looking at the next 30 years
- The Chamber of Commerce is a vital partner in working with local employers
- The Digital sector is growing at 15-20% and needs particular talents in coding, not necessarily via college or uni routes. A project starting soon will involve 'neurodivergent people' and explore their potential ability to code well

A request was also made that we 'sense check' the 16k potential job loss figure in light of ongoing restrictions and mitigating activity.

RP

7. FAIRNESS / CHILD POVERTY ANNUAL REPORT

The latest draft report was circulated with papers.

Peter informed the group that this is the second annual report and that the format and content has been improved on last years. It demonstrates how we contribute as a city to reducing the number of children in relative poverty to <10% by 2030 (a national target). Highlights include;

- More focus on how we are impacting on the lives of children in this year's report
- Indicators have been introduced to help show change in poverty levels. These are mostly baseline figures at present, but we will see impact in the next report (scheduled for June 2021)
- There is more health content this year, but there is still scope for additional NHS content next year
- The final version of the report will be taken to Committee on 16/11/20 and will include an extra section on highlights of performance during the last year
- There is a lot more we can add in future e.g. around covid impact, new SIMD findings, and implementation of many new ideas

David informed the group that;

- Work with the Third Dundee Fairness Commission is being re-energised

- Grant Archibald and Emma Fletcher have been approached with regard to future inclusion of more Health related work
- He also asked that all organisations take note of this report, implement activities to improve fairness, and work out how they can contribute to activity too

Peter added that the latest Fairness Commission report was circulated with the meeting papers and includes many important issues being identified, including those arising due to covid and lockdown

Commented was made that the impact of covid can't be underestimated, especially now we're looking at 'long-covid' and people getting more worried again. This will have further mental health impacts.

8. JOINT CITY / COUNCIL MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

This report will bring people up to speed on the last six months and achievements made. It includes updates to data not available for the previous end of year report. There are changes to actions in sections 6.1 / 7.1, with further review of commitments needed in light of covid-19.

The report will be going to Committee on 16/11/20.

9. AOCB

John Alexander stated that this is the last meeting for David Martin as DCC Chief Executive. He expressed the group's thanks for all of David's efforts, which will stand us in good stead for the future.

Bailie Keenan added that he has enjoyed working with David, as have many others

David responded by saying that one of his first meetings in Dundee was a DPMG, and he found it to be awesome, very different from other areas. As a group we work well through things. He gave thanks to Peter Allan and Paul Davies for keeping things working, and to Murray and Alice for keeping communities involved and represented in the Partnership. He finished by saying that it has been a privilege working with this group.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 4 February 2021 at 1:30

Attachments

Recovery Planning Slides