

DUNDEE

PARTNERSHIP

Building Stronger Communities held on Friday, 4th December 2020 Skype Video Call

Present:	Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
	David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
	Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services (chair)
	John Wolstencroft	-	Neighbourhood Services – Housing
	Joyce Barclay	-	Health & Social Care Partnership
	Murray Webster	-	Coldside Forum
	Nicky Maccrimmon	-	Neighbourhood Services - Communities
	Paul Davies	-	Dundee Partnership Team
	Peter Allan	-	Chief Executive's
	Ron Neave	-	North East Forum
	Yvonne Tosh	-	East End Forum

In Attendance:

Sheila Allan - Community Health Team

Apologies:	Andrew Radley	-	Public Health
	Gary Knox	-	City Development
	Stella Carrington	-	Lochee Forum

Action

1. Apologies & Introductions

Elaine welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first full BSC meeting since March. Apologies received are noted above.

2. Minute of Friday 9th October 2020 (Sub-Group Telephone Conference for DPCRf Decisions)

Agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

Paul still to look into how other funders view applications from national charities.

PAD

4. Recent Community Survey Results

Sheila presented a summary of three recent surveys carried out with communities in Dundee (slides attached). The surveys were the Fairness Commission survey, Engage Dundee, and a Food Insecurity Network survey. The main points included;

- We had a very good, rapid response to the pandemic and lockdown in Dundee, but some people still struggled. We needed information from vulnerable people on their experiences to help build up a body of evidence to shape future activity / response
- In all, 1535 responses were received across the three surveys
- The Fairness Commission survey (452 responses in July) covered three areas; disability, mental health, and fuel poverty
 - Of 168 people stating they had a disability, 112 were impacted in accessing vital services
 - Cross-analysis of impact in all three areas covered by the survey has also been done
 - Mental health issues include; anxiety over the future, social isolation, loneliness, uncertainty over finances, fear over covid infection & the non-adherence of others to the rules, and exacerbation of existing conditions

- People commonly missed their normal networking / social activities
- Fuel poverty responses highlighted; that pay-as-you-go meters are much more common in more deprived areas, fuel costs have increased as people are at home more, and increasing concerns over winter regarding running out of credit in fuel meters
- Engage Dundee (900 responses in August) focussed on use of services.
 - It was also able to gather a lot of demographic data on the respondents; 75% of those completing the survey were women, the majority were of working age, approximately a quarter were on benefits, 45% had a long-term condition
 - Most commonly used services during lockdown were GPs, websites / online self-help resources. Around a third also accessed mental health advice or support
 - Satisfaction with services was generally high, but a small number of respondents indicated low satisfaction with substance misuse services
 - Difficulties experienced included; mental health (37%), maintaining a healthy lifestyle (31%) and job insecurity (21%)
 - Mental health impacts such as fear, anxiety and stress were reported by 553 people
 - Some positive developments were noted including; less traffic, able to spend more time with family, and increased green space use
- Food Insecurity Network survey (192 responses in June)
 - Most of the respondents were in single adult households, and many indicated they were accessing local services
 - Many were on a long-term low income, and a quarter felt that they needed long term support
 - Other pressures beyond food insecurity included; mental health, financial pressures, and social isolation
 - Those visiting food projects highlighted that they were getting much more than just food. Additional support included social contact, support from other agencies co-locating with food agencies, and information received in food parcels
 - Comments on what would help included; being able to get back to normal activities, getting back to work, being helped to go to college or into work
- Key themes seen across all three surveys included;
 - Accessing services has been hard
 - Financial uncertainty / job insecurity
 - Social isolation
 - Mental health
 - Fear of infection
- The data will now be used to help with planning recovery actions, along with the people affected
- Sheila thanked colleagues in Public Health and the DCC Information & Research Team for assisting with the data analysis
- Any queries on the above should be directed to Sheila.Allan@dundeecity.gov.uk

5. Community Empowerment

Nicky provided information on three topics, with the main points summarised below.

Building Access

- DCC Community Centres are open. At present they are only open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm except for regulated Youth Work by the DCC Youth Team
- Sanitation points are in place, as are one-way systems, test & protect signage, and verbal briefings on entry about how to act in the building to keep everyone safe
- National Guidance from the Scottish Government for the CLD sector includes that they shouldn't see anyone face to face unless absolutely necessary and it can't be done online (e.g. food larder). Meetings should be held online
- When we move to Tier 2 we could bring some meetings face to face, but still under advisement
- Four harms need to be minimised; covid itself, impact on children's education, the effect on wider society and its structures (access to food, electricity, services, etc.), and wider health harms (mental health, social isolation, etc.)

- Some groups are taking place with 5-6 attending rather than the usual 30, in order to help with some of the mental health issues
- Occupational risk assessments are carried out for the profile of people coming in, including whether they are in a higher risk category? If they are, then centres can't have them in as part of the duty of care to not put people at risk
- Plans are in place for moves to other Tiers as and when they happen, with quick implementation possible

Comment included that there should be scope to focus on the survey findings, with Community Centres being good venues to do things differently in order to make an impact on these.

Issues Being Raised by Communities

- Information on what the problems are and some possible solutions were being sought
 - Sheila's presentation was taken to all November LCPP meetings and the LCPPs have been asked to look at what can happen in each locality
 - The Community Empowerment Team will be speaking to Local Management Groups, Neighbourhood Representative Structures, Community Councils, and community members about this information and getting views on what would be helpful in addressing this
 - Lots will be about sociability – restarting social groups will be key. Mental Health nurses have been placed into Community Centres to help with this
 - Lots of external funding is currently available for community groups to help 'build back better' (see [SCVO website](#) for info)

LCPP Update

- LCPPs held their first formal meetings for a while in November. The primary focus was to get people back together and talking. Elected members appreciated the opportunity
- No Decentralisation Briefing is being held this month. The programme for next year is being looked at with senior managers
- The Best Value Audit of DCC noted Local Community Planning as a real strength
- New Local Community Plans are due to be created in 2021
- A route map for all the above is being developed to make sure that what goes on in communities reflects what people want to see, supported by new Community Empowerment Team model

Elaine thanked Nicky for the useful update, as it is important to know where we want to be and making sure that communities are at the heart of it

Murray added thanks for all DCC staff on the frontline who have worked tirelessly over past nine months.

Elaine noted to the group that the mass vaccination programme may make use of community centres as part of delivery. No firm decisions have been taken as yet on how the roll-out will take place.

6. Priority Updates

6.1 Fairness

Peter referred to the Fairness Action Plan / Child Poverty Annual report circulated prior to the meeting and noted that this has been deferred to the 7th December. This annual report shows how we are challenging child poverty alongside work on Fairness as a whole.

Scottish Government feedback last year looked for us to spell out more of what we are doing to address child poverty and we have tried to do that by emphasising work with families and children. They also looked for more targets and measures and so new indicators have been added, as baselines to begin with.

This should also be a joint DCC / NHS report but we had little in there last year from NHS. Work with Blair Finlay has led to more health input into this report.

Covid impact is looked at in para 4.3.2 highlighting the more affected groups: women, children, older people, those with poor mental health, people experiencing homelessness, etc. In general, covid has made existing problems worse.

The report updates on what we were already doing, covering attainment in education, employment in general, health and causes of poor health, and has an Action Plan at the end.

The 2021 report will;

- Need to say more / do more about digital exclusion as some people don't have access to technology, the skills to make good use of it, or both
- Need to still help people with benefit access, to make sure children are properly provided for
- Look at food provision, as there is a very different picture due to covid-19
 - How much support we can give has been a key question, with as much help being given as possible
 - Projects have been amazing in organising themselves and in getting food out to people
 - We should work towards moving away from the need for this when we can

The new action plan in 2021 will also take into account the next Fairness Commission report and will be put in place after local government elections next summer.

Discussion included;

- The closure of Debenhams is another blow to city due to job losses. We need to work with people for them to access alternative jobs (and help create the jobs too). Online working will be a big part of things for everyone so it is definitely a key priority
- The work of the Food Insecurity Network has been amazing in feeding people in need across the city
- The situation is much longer term than we thought – now 9 months in, with at least 6 months more ahead of us
- Digital exclusion has been highlighted as a key issue. There is a fear that so much information has been online and via social media that some older people may have missed out on a lot of it. This in turn leads to worry that a lot of older people have missed out. What is / can be done to help get to these people?
 - Joyce: Lots of people have been helped to get online. We have worked hard to support those who we know about through telephone calls, etc. but there are worries about those we do not know about. DCC social media prompts early in lockdown to share info with neighbours were also helpful
 - Peter: We do need to get people online as it may be the only way we can reach them. Some may never be able to be online though, so we also need to work on this, especially with regard to them not feeling alone
 - Nicky: Connecting Scotland provides funding to get equipment out to people and link them with a digital champion. Alison Honeyman's team are coordinating that and several Community Empowerment Team staff are acting as digital champions. The focus was initially on shielding and high vulnerability groups. Phase 2 focussed on families w young children in house. Phase 3 is currently taking place and focussing on older people in care homes. There are also issues to take into account for people with literacy problems
 - Receipt of items via Connecting Communities appears to be based on a person's situation rather than their income
- Dundee Volunteer & Voluntary Action have information for accessing devices and online connections for disabled and older people. Contact is Nicola.Mitchell@dvva.scot
- If local people have a story to share, the Tele / Courier are happy to help share these. The Community Empowerment Team are happy to support people with wording for these
- The level of support from within the community has been brilliant, involving businesses, charities, faith groups, the hospitality sector and more. How they've responded in providing food for those who need it has been terrific to see, though tragic that it is needed

- We will see Fairness being top of our agenda going forward

7. Forum Representatives – Issues & Information Sharing

Forum members highlighted a number of items, summarised below.

Alice

- A meeting of the Transport Forum took place this week to discuss the proposed big changes to bus routes. Today is last day for comments. In St. Mary's the numbers responding has already made a difference to these
- St. Mary's Community Centre are delivering a food larder in partnership with Kirkton Community Larder that is also being used to share information
- Encouraged people from Kirkton to get involved in discussion around the Kirkton Hub and its potential closure

David

- The Stobswell Forum has coped well with the change in regime of Christmas Funding to get a Community Christmas Tree in place. They have produced a video of the switch on and school participation which is now available [online](#)
- A shop has been opened in Albert Street for collection of goods / parcels for distribution in the community. Over 100 letters to Santa have already been received
- Weekly Zoom meetings are being held by the Stobswell Forum

Yvonne

- A socially distanced version of the annual 'Breakfast with Santa' has been organised at the Douglas Community Centre, with tickets for children to come in to see him and get breakfast

Elaine expressed the groups thanks to communities for making sure that 'Christmas hasn't been cancelled'.

8. Dundee Community Regeneration Fund

8.1 Grant Applications

Paul highlighted the additional information in the financial table, showing funds previously allocated, but unable to be utilised by recipients due to covid-19 being returned to the funding pots for Forums. A detailed breakdown of this was also provided at the end of the document.

All Forum recommendations for funding were approved.

9. AOCB

The group noted the DHSCP update provided by Joyce with the meeting papers. Any queries to be sent to joyce.barclay@dundeecity.gov.uk.

Peter commented that it is good to get back to meeting as a full group again. Even virtually, it is very useful for the level of engagement possible. Elaine added that there is a lot of work for us to do, and we'll get on with it.

David passed on a Thank You, as this sort of forum has prompted another sort of forum. A group of Neighbourhood representative Structures have been getting together outside of BSC to compare how they do things and learn from each other. Over time, this will benefit wider communities.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 21st January 2021. Details to be confirmed, but probably online via Teams