



**Minute of the Dundee Partnership Management Group
held on Thursday, 13 May 2021 at 1.30 pm
Online via Teams**

Present:

Alice Bovill, Community Regeneration Forums
Andrea Calder, Corporate Division, DCC
Councillor Ken Lynn, Dundee City Council
Councillor Kevin Keenan, Dundee City Council
Gordon MacDougall, Skills Development Scotland
Graeme Hutton, University of Dundee
Grant Archibald, NHS Tayside (co-chair)
Gregory Colgan, Chief Executive, DCC (co-chair)

Judy Dobbie, Leisure & Culture Dundee
Mark Speed, TACTRAN
Michael Wright, Scottish Enterprise
Murray Webster, Community Regeneration Forums
Nicola Russell, Police Scotland
Ross Fitzgerald, Police Scotland
Stephen Wood, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Vicky Irons, Health & Social Care Partnership

In Attendance:

Andrew Kirk, Dundee Fairness Commission
Andrew Lorimer, Dundee Fairness Commission
Brian Logan, Scottish Government
Danielle Hinton, Faith in Community Dundee
Eddie Baines, Dundee Fairness Commission
Elaine Zwirlein, Neighbourhood Services, DCC
Frances Greig, Corporate Services, DCC
Jaki Carnegie, Dundee & Angus College

Jacky Close, Faith in Community Dundee
Karen Moir, Children & families, DCC
Kevin Marnie Dundee Fairness Commission
Martin Dey, Children & Families, DCC
Paul Davies, Community Planning, DCC
Peter Allan, Corporate Division, DCC
Tom Stirling, Neighbourhood Services, DCC

Apologies:

Andrew Todd, Police Scotland
Councillor John Alexander, Dundee City Council
Graeme Stewart, Department for Work & Pensions

Graeme Templar, Police Scotland
Jackie McKenzie, University of Abertay
Simon Hewitt, Dundee & Angus College

Action

1. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

Greg Colgan welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the members of the Dundee Fairness Commission. Apologies received are noted above.

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed as accurate.

3. MATTERS ARISING

a. Best Value Audit and Response

Andrea gave an update to the group. Officers have met with Executive Board Co-Chairs and reporting templates have been developed. A short report and example documents were circulated with the meeting papers for information. This will continue to be developed to ensure regular scrutiny and accountability going forward.

PA

b. City Plan Annual Report Preparation

Peter gave an update to the group. Work on the 2020-21 report is underway and will be completed by end of June. Updates on some Performance Indicators are currently outstanding, and Peter asked anyone still to provide updates to complete these ASAP.

(All)

c. Drug Commission Review

Peter gave an update to the group. The Dundee Drug Commission is due to reconvene in July and will bring updates to this meeting in September and December. Commission members are ready to get back to work on this, and have a lot of self-assessment information available to them.

4. DUNDEE FAIRNESS COMMISSION - PRESENTATION
New Fairness Recommendations for 2021

Peter gave a short introduction to the work that The Commission has been undertaking over the past two years. This included highlighting three big outcomes from the Commission;

- The impact the process has on members by participating and the way it informs practice as a person of influence
- The recommendations that come out of the report
- The additional involvement that takes place during the life of a Commission. Things happen and the Commission members take part in discussions around these. Some of the involvement for the Commission, which highlights their commitment to tackling inequality, included;
 - Participation in a Fairer Scotland gathering that met with Aileen Campbell (Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities of Scotland at the time)
 - Played a big role with Social Renewal Advisory Board
 - Met with the Scottish Government minister for Mental Health for direct discussion of the findings of survey work undertaken by the Commission
 - Social Security Scotland workshop participation, shaping what their HQ in Dundee should look like and what people's relationship with it could be
 - Contributed to a Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) briefing on covid experiences, with the work included in JRF's annual report
 - Some members were interviewed by national media
 - Helped to shape the funding allocation and assessment process for £300,000 dedicated to people struggling to heat their homes

The Commission focussed on three areas, each with its own working group;

- Physical disability and the relationship with poverty
- Food & fuel poverty
- The impact of mental health

Andrew Lorimer started off the presentation with an overview of the Commission's work the main points of which included;

- The Commission started on May 30th 2019 and brought together twelve people with experience of poverty & inequality and twelve with influence in the city
- Working groups formed around the three key areas
- Covid hit and so members focussed on supporting each other in first few weeks including making sure all were able to use Zoom
- The Commission lifespan was extended
- A survey was launched in August 2020 and resulted in 452 responses. Several months was spent analysing and drilling down into these
- The Commission's recommendations were tested with local people and organisations to check that they would be doable and would make a difference

Andrew Kirk then outlined the Disability recommendations:

- Health and support services should be kept available during emergencies like the pandemic
 - Face to face provision should be maintained whenever possible
 - The impact of changes in working practice on those receiving the service should be taken into account
 - Risks to service users & carers when making changes to services need to be taken into account
- Health and support services must clearly & quickly communicate changes to service users and carers
 - Any communication should be in all necessary formats, taking care to meet the needs of those with sensory impairments

- The Dundee Health & Social Care Partnership (DHSCP) should engage with service users and carers to make sure their recovery and emergency plans meet the needs for people with disabilities
- Social Security Scotland (SSS), the Dundee Partnership (DP) and Dundee City Council (DCC) should coordinate an awareness raising campaign around adult disability payments, and provide support for people to apply
- SSS should identify people who have lost their Personal Independence Payments as result of the assessment process
- SSS should set up a panel of people with lived experience of disabilities to ensure the new Adult Disability Payments are easy to access and payments swiftly implemented
- The option for independent advocacy support should be made more available
- The SSS local delivery team should also encourage take up of the internal SSS internal advocacy service

Andrew then outlined what being part of the Commission has meant to him, and what he hopes happens going forward

- Meeting and getting to know the other Commissioners has been a big positive
- He hopes that organisations carry out the recommendations as this will make a difference

Food & Fuel

Eddie Baines then outlined the Food & Fuel recommendations;

- DCC carries out an audit of all properties served by district housing, prioritising the Lochee Multis, to improve energy efficiency
- DCC establishes a pilot fairer payments scheme, with 'fair use' monitoring
- DCC creates more district housing schemes with a focus on areas showing greatest fuel insecurity
- Money advice services improve their forms and procedures to help people access fuel support. This should be done with stakeholder input
- MPs should work to get the Warm Home discount available year round
- Fuel advice projects should coordinate work on fuel insecurity and provide clear information on the support available
- All landlords should be required to fix a fuel support information card in all properties, next to/on meters
- A food insecurity strategy should be developed including dignified access
 - The Food Insecurity Network (FIN) should continue
 - A 'cash first' approach should be adopted, linking support closely with money and debt advice
 - Local initiatives should be put in place such as support cafes, local larders and other innovative responses

Eddie then outlined what being part of the Commission has meant to him, and what he hopes happens going forward

- He has tried his best to represent people in the community and is grateful for the platforms he has been able to access to do this
- Hopes that "the folk that hear us will listen."

Kevin Marnie then outlined the Mental Health & Wellbeing recommendations;

- The Discover Work service should simplify processes
 - Needs to be better coordinated
 - Needs to take a 'tell your story once' approach
 - Needs to use something more self-explanatory than 'employability services' and use language that people understand
- Self referral routes are needed for those with mental health issues who are unable to access a referral from another organisation
- Discover Work should make sure all staff are trained in mental health support
- Discover Work services should improve their approach to individuals through

- A tailored approach to individuals
- Joint working to provide long term support
- Support lasting until long term work has been secured
- Take into account people's practical needs such as transport costs, clothing, utility costs, etc.
- Discover Work to identify relevant training to enable employers to support employees struggling with mental health
- The DP should take the following approach in communications;
 - Simplicity of information so anyone can understand it
 - Use different approaches (stories, graphics, etc.)
 - Identify where people see and respond to information, and make use of these, e.g. bus stops, community notice boards, places of worship, supermarkets, radio, etc.
 - Involve people from local communities in the review and design of communications and move away from 100% digital access
- Dundee surveys identified a number of priority groups disproportionately affected by the pandemic; young people, unemployed / furloughed, furloughed, long-term sick / disabled, people in receipt of benefits, carers, people living alone, and older people. These groups need to be prioritised during recovery
- The DP and other bodies should support community solutions to help reduce isolation
- Services need to acknowledge the impact of financial uncertainty on mental health and wellbeing. They should work more closely together on this

Kevin then outlined what being part of the Commission has meant to him, and what he hopes happens going forward

- "It opened my eyes to a lot of things I never knew existed; things in the city that will hopefully be positive; I have made friends"
- The work continues always as it is important. The city and organisations working in it need to keep it going

Andrew Lorimer thanked everyone for listening and posed the question, 'Do you feel the DP has the resources and desire to make the recommendations a reality?'

The full report and recommendations can be found [here](#).

Greg thanked all the Commissioners for their input & then called for questions and comment. The main points from this follow;

- More information is needed around disability and advocacy. We are likely to need additional capacity that can articulate a person's case for them
- Would like to see the extent of problems in order to be able to address them. Disabilities issues are amongst the hardest a Councillor comes across
- Grant Archibald wants to do everything he can to make things better in Dundee and expand the opportunities for people in the city. Promised the commitment of NHS Tayside to work with DCC and partners
- Greg stated that he and DCC are really committed to looking at taking action on the recommendations at pace
- Nicola asked can we do as a partnership? Two issues stand out - complexity in accessing services and the retelling of stories. Both need dealt with. How do we remove these barriers to people getting the support they need? She expressed confidence that this group can undertake to do this
- Judy stated that Leisure & Culture Dundee (LACD) is supportive of all that has been said and she is hopeful and confident that LACD services can work with others to improve on points made today

- Jaki stated that lived experiences are key. Dignified access to services and support is key, so how do we go about making this a reality?
- Eddie highlighted that shame and stigma limit use of larders and food banks
 - At the food larder he volunteers with, they do not to ask about circumstances but to have a membership scheme
 - They do know that 60% of service users are in work poor
 - Openness helps bring friendliness to the model. People get to know each other and intergenerational links are made. People become more socially included
 - OSCA however are now wanting the larder to ask for people's circumstances, which they feel would be a backward step
- We do need to make things positive experiences for people and need more views of service users
- We are all aware that the furlough scheme will end and more people will join the welfare system. Are we likely to know who they are in advance so we can provide support in advance of things happening?
 - Greg – we're unlikely to know this as furlough is implemented on an employer by employer basis. We could look at encouraging those on furlough to engage with us as part of action plan, paired with arranging support offer from employability and other services. We already have a pilot project in Morgan working with parents to maximise benefits
- Murray echoed views on recommendations and asked the group; How many Fairness Commission reports are we going to need before they become redundant? Previous Commissions have led to this group stating that we needed to make changes. What are we going to do differently as a partnership this time to make sure we're not back here again in a few years? Responses included;
 - There are actions identified that have been progressed, but there is still work to be done on stigma, communications, etc. Change will take time to be brought into effect
 - Over the past year keeping services going and communication have both been highlighted. A fundamental review of how we operate as a partnership is needed
 - The challenge is what we can do to make things better for people alongside colleagues in other organisations. People in positions of responsibility need to commit to working on this and then get it done. Specific things need to be made better as well as overall making things better
 - It is the work of a lifetime. We can only make marginal progress in Dundee within a much larger set of influences, but we will focus on making what difference we can for Dundee
 - There won't be another Commission but instead a Fairness Leadership Panel
 - Faith in Community Dundee are also supporting Dundee Fighting For Fairness (DFFF) as an ongoing campaigning voice against poverty in the city with financial support from DCC and JRF
 - We need to make sure that this is the last time we need a Commission. The campaign for clearer communications have been around for a long time
- Redundancies and who will present is a difficult challenge. Businesses have tried their best to keep employees but many will lose their jobs at the end of scheme. We do need to make sure we better the lives of those we can wherever we can. We all need to step up to the mark
- Andrew Kirk stated that he has had problems getting help from many services as someone registered blind including DCC, NHS, and the police. Reasonable adjustments are often missing and organisations need to realise their legal obligations to provide help. They can't send everyone to the website for information

- Graeme Hutton stated that he has seen the city going through many transformations. Dundee University is recasting its mission statement and wants to be a 'civic university'. He asked; What tangible things can we do? The university is a great resource for looking at exemplar designs, qualitative analysis of place, etc.
- People need to recognise the differences in disabilities, including the hidden / less obvious ones such as being on the autistic spectrum

Greg rounded off the discussion which had identified good areas to focus on and that we need more discussion about how to move forward together. Officers are to be instructed to develop a response and incorporate this into the Fairness Report that will go to committee in June. Personal thanks and that of the Partnership was given to all of the Commissioners. Thanks were also given to Danielle, Jacky and Peter in supporting the Fairness Commission through a difficult time.

Jacky Close concluded with these two points;

- How do we make sure the recommendations are embedded in the Fairness Action Plan and also acted on?
- Community Commissioners will be working together over next couple of years through DFFF. They will work with the Fairness Leadership Panel and regularly check for evidence of progress and review, keeping communities at the centre of the process

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY & JUSTICE PROGRESS

Elaine Zwirlein and Tom Stirling talked to the report circulated with the meeting papers. The main points included;

- The report shows progress on the work being done. There has been a lot of good progress, but it also highlights challenges from the past year
- The report reflects the priorities set by the board and work over the past year
- Examples are included of work done around the impacts of covid
- Thought has been put into how to respond to the Best Value audit going forward, including asking key partners to provide meaningful reports to the board regularly
- Priorities will be looked at over coming year to make sure they are aligned with needs
- The work of the Board also covers reducing reoffending

Karen Moir added that the report highlights how partnership work has continued during the pandemic, especially around maintaining support being provided to vulnerable people.

No queries were raised by the group.

6. AOCB

None raised.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 9 September at 1:30

Thursday 2 December at 1:30