

# DUNDEE

## PARTNERSHIP

### **Building Stronger Communities held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 Skype Video Call**

**Present:**

Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
Alix Finlayson	-	Dundee Partnership Team
David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
Murray Webster	-	Coldside Forum
Nicky Maccrimmon	-	Neighbourhood Services - Communities
Paul Davies	-	Dundee Partnership Team (chair)

**In Attendance:**

Chris McDonald	-	Community Commissioner
Danielle Hinton	-	Faith in Community Dundee
Kevin Marnie	-	Community Commissioner
Stuart Fairweather	-	Neighbourhood Services – Communities

**Apologies:**

Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services
Gary Knox	-	City Development
John Wolstencroft	-	Neighbourhood Services - Housing
Joyce Barclay	-	Health & Social Care Partnership
Peter Allan	-	Chief Executive's
Ron Neave	-	North East Forum

## **Action**

### **1. Apologies & Introductions**

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received are noted above.

### **2. Priority Updates**

#### **Fairness – Commission Recommendations**

Danielle introduced Kevin and Chris to the group and they presented in the form of a conversation. Kevin and Chris wanted to share experiences and highlight some of the Commission's recommendations and what impact the changes could make.

Firstly, Kevin talked to the group and presented on his work with the Commission's Disability working group. A highlight for him was the opportunity to be interviewed by the Joseph Rowantree Foundation on disabilities and benefits. People have reported that they are afraid or not able to reapply for the benefit when rejected. Kevin has also met with the Social Security Scotland Dundee lead and they now looking at how changes could be made at a national level. It has been recommended that assessments have been unfair and a local panel is being developed to discuss potential changes. These recommendations mean:

- Social Security Scotland will see who is not receiving the benefit
- There is potential for a careful and considerate approach
- A local experience panel would allow for experiences to be shared

The Building Stronger Members were asked to encourage teams/groups to get to know what disability groups need and what advocacy would best suit them.

Danielle gave a summary of the Food and Fuel recommendations. The group worked together with Craig Mason (Welfare Rights) and Lisa Shaw (DEEAP) on the new fuel scheme. Work was done with Craig and Lisa on the new form which is to be used, to ensure it was user friendly. They have now had positive feedback from those who have used the forms. The recommendation is that on an ongoing basis there is more of an input from customers, and a stakeholder group.

Chris was introduced to the group and presented some of the recommendations from the mental health working group. His highlight was being able to share experiences with looking for work and staying in work with other, and in particular John Alexander, Leader of the Council. This discussion focussed on employability and how to streamline the services within Dundee. The work of the group covered how to get in touch with the customers and take into account the mental health of those trying to access work. The group got in touch with members of the community and asked whether they had accessed the services and their experiences. The recommendations included:

- Having a single point of contact for access to services
- Training for those in services on mental health support. This should help staff in services to be less judgemental and enable a better customer experience

The full report can be found [here](#) (alongside other Fairness Commission reports).

Discussion followed, which included;

- Murray asked whether the group have seen any impact from the work completed by or any progress
  - Danielle reported that although progress has been slow, the group have seen changes made with Hillcrest in the wording / language used within their debt arrears letter. Some other services are starting to adapt the language used but there is still work to be done
  - Commissioners set up an independent working group called Dundee Fighting for Fairness (DFFF) which is going back to organisations and asking what changes have been made or whether items had been implemented
  - The group agreed that getting an update from DFFF on progress in six months would be useful
- Alice asked whether it would be possible for LCPPs to receive this sort of presentation, as different areas face specific issues
  - Danielle has met with Nicky recently and is happy to arrange more talks to get information to LCPPs
- Nicky raised that over the next couple of months the CET team will be developing Local Community Plans on a Ward by Ward basis. These will take into account Fairness Commission recommendations as well as the Engage Dundee results

### **3. Minute of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Agreed as accurate.

### **4. Matters Arising**

- Paul contacted Arlene Mitchell after the June meeting, but has not heard any update on the Mental Health Strategy. He will follow up on this **PAD**
- Generation Rent: John has not passed on any information as yet but to be kept as an action **JW**
- Gary to confirm that information on Lochee High Street from June meeting was passed on to colleagues **GK**
- 20p Bus Passes: John Berry had contacted local bus companies and unfortunately they cannot implement them this summer or in October
- Dates have been sent to John for the next Fintry Community Council Meeting
- Paul is to remind John Berry to pass on the information gathered in relation to the West End and parking schemes **PAD**
- Plant Stock: Murray has not received any information from Alison yet. Will follow up during the next month **MW**
- BSC Paperwork for additional members in Strathmartine: Alice confirmed that the issue has been sorted
- East End Representative to this group: Still trying to generate interest

## 5. Priority Update

### Maryfield- LCPP Update

Stuart presented to the group (presentation attached). The main points covered included;

- The last year has been difficult due to Covid-19
- Some key groups have continued to operate as much as possible such as the Stobswell Forum
- The Stobswell Forum have continued to meet weekly and been successful
- The Regeneration Forum is continuing online although other community groups have struggled to meet but now starting to think about meeting in person again
- Projects within the area have had to modify how they have been working e.g. Stobsfest was held this year but to ensure safety it was delivered online
- For the future, there is going to be a focussed piece of work in the lowest 5% SIMD area, within which around 1,500 people live. This will also help to tackle addiction and promote Recovery
- Discussions taking place around the Mary Shelly steps project and the Eden project

## 6. Forum Representatives – Issues & Information Sharing

David has been looking at the consultations surrounding the pocket parks. In some places Spaces for People has overtaken developing plans. Work is still to be done as drainage issues makes it difficult for some parks and others have become little more than areas for car parking. It was generally felt that Spaces for People was rushed and not particularly well thought through, leading to disappointing results. In addition, some of the funds had to be returned to the Scottish Government.

Alice updated that more work is being done for the school holidays e.g. bus tickets and cinema passes were bought for families and have been used. The lowered restrictions are now allowing for more to happen at the St Mary's Community Facility.

Murray commented that a blended approach to meetings will be needed, but that the Wi-Fi in community centres was often not able to properly support this. Nicky responded that a bid is with IT at the moment to make improvements

### 6a. Chairs Group

Community representatives reported that the Chairs meeting would be good to be set up but the remit for the group and what is to be covered had to be looked at. For example;

- The meeting could be bimonthly and cover much wider subjects as an information sharing group
- It needs to avoid duplicating current work done by other groups
- David raised that there has been differing opinions in Maryfield. Some members would like to continue and others do not as find it to be useful

Nicky had collated information from across the city and noted that Forums are interested but want a clear purpose. Work will be done with the CET in order to gather further views and ideas. There is interest whether it could have broader membership (e.g. Community Councils, and other Neighbourhood Representative Structures) and act as a city-wide forum with a greater range of ideas present in the discussions.

**NM**

Paul had held off organising discussions to review elements of the DPCRf process in light of renewed interest in restarting the Chairs group. As discussions are still ongoing about the Chairs group, he now plans to take forward plans around the review. Paul will circulate some topics for conversation at August forum meetings with a view to setting up a review meeting in mid-August.

**PAD**

## 7. Community Empowerment

As part of the IT bid been submitted in order to increase the accessibility within community centres, tablets are being provided in centres in order for customers to be able to access services via 'Attend Anywhere'. This will allow better access to

services as they will not have to wait for the next time a drop in is due to be held, instead being able to meet via videolink.

- Noted that improvements may also be possible at the St. Mary's Community Facility through covid recovery funding. Alice to speak to Mark / Colin about this

**AB**

The new community wing at Mill O Mains is due to be opened by Easter next year.

Community Groups and face to face meetings are starting to be discussed. Potential to continue to work from home. Murray asked whether there was any way to get IT bid pushed along any quickly in order to accommodate blended meetings.

Engage Dundee has now closed, and the data is being analysed. Around 900 responses were received. The results will go to the August LCPP. It was almost entirely held online due to Covid-19 and this accounts for a lower response (usually we would see around 4,000 responses. LCPPs will use the information for the Local Community Plans, which should go to January Committee.

Now that Scotland is at Level 0 changes could be made to Community Centres. It was decided however that centres were still to operate at 2m distancing to avoid the need for another risk assessment in each of them for just a two week period. It is hoped by the 9<sup>th</sup> August Centres will be able to open 9-5, Monday to Friday again. CLD guidance is still to wear face masks inside unless as part of an ESOL classes where facial expressions are needed to be seen.

Each ward received £6k for Covid-19 recovery for specific activities to help those who experienced isolation throughout the pandemic. The fund is mainly based around community centres.

Carole Jenkins has now retired and the group wish her well. Elsewhere, a new team member has started in Maryfield - Keira O'Rourke.

## **8. Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund**

### **8.1 Grant Applications**

All grant applications were agreed.

### **8.2 Late Reports**

No late reports this month. A number of physical improvements have been delayed due to issues accessing supplies and so extensions have been granted.

## **9. AOCB**

It was raised that there have been concerns raised due to rubbish and environmental issues and affecting large parts of the city. The group are to analyse the situation over the next couple of months. Paul offered to flag this up with Waste Management.

**PAD**

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 10am – Skype Link

## **Attachments**

- Fairness Recommendations
- Maryfield – LCPP Update