

ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD AND EXECUTIVE GROUP JOINT MEETING

Minute of JOINT MEETING of the ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD and EXECUTIVE GROUP, held REMOTELY on Thursday 26 August 2021 at 10.00 am.

Present:

ANGUS COUNCIL

Councillor DAVID FAIRWEATHER, Leader
MARGO WILLIAMSON, Chief Executive and Chair

POLICE SCOTLAND

Chief Inspector NICOLA RUSSELL

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

No Board representative present.

NHS TAYSIDE

No Board representative present

VOLUNTARY ACTION ANGUS

HAYLEY MEARNS, Interim Chief Executive

DUNDEE & ANGUS COLLEGE

No representative present.

ANGUS ALIVE

KIRSTY HUNTER, Chief Executive

ANGUS COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

No representative present

ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING LOCALITY PARTNERSHIPS

No Chairs Present.

ANGUS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

EMMA-JANE WELLS, Non-Executive Board Member, NHS Tayside; Chair,
IJB
PETER DAVIDSON, Non-Executive Board Member, IJB

ANGUS HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

GAIL SMITH, Chief Officer
LAURA KERR, Assistant Principal Officer

DUNDEE & ANGUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No representative present.

SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE TAYSIDE

No representative present. (See Apologies for Absence).

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

SCOTT GIBSON, Group Commander, Service Delivery – Angus Area

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

DAVID MILNE, Acting Location Director, Scottish Government.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

GORDON MacDougall; Head of Operations NE Region, Grampian Tayside and Fife (from 10.29).

TACTRAN

No representative present.

DWP

No representative present

ANGUS COUNCIL SUPPORT OFFICERS ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

MARK ARMSTRONG, Depute Chief Executive
JACKIE BUCHANAN, Director of Legal & Democratic Services
ALISON J SMITH, Interim Director, Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth
JIM HAMMOND, Service Leader, Education and Lifelong Learning
WALTER SCOTT, Service Leader, Roads and Transportation
SUSAN DUNCAN, Development Officer, Children, Families and Justice
TERRY IRVINE, Angus Council Service Leader Mental Health and Wellbeing
JACQUI SEMPLE, Angus Council Manager - Risk, Resilience & Safety.
SHELLEY HAGUE, Strategic Policy and Planning Manager, SPT&PSR
KIM RITCHIE, Strategic Policy and Planning Officer, SPT&PSR
ANDREW WILSON, Committee Officer, Democratic Services

Margo Williamson in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Gina Ford (Scottish Enterprise Tayside); the Chair intimated that this would have been Gina's final Meeting before her retirement from SET on 7 October 2021. She thanked Gina, who had been a regular attender of the Partnership meetings over several years, for her contribution to the Partnership during that time over several years.

Other apologies for absence were received from Jaki Carnegie, Dundee & Angus College; Mark Speed, TACTRAN; Moira Cambridge, DWP; Vivien Smith, Angus Council; and Alison Henderson, Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce.

An apology for absence were also noted on behalf of Andrew Kerr (SportScotland).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (ELECTED MEMBERS ONLY)

No declaration of interest was intimated.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minute of the Joint Meeting of the Board and Executive Group of 26 August 2021 submitted and approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE / UPDATE

The Chair reminded members that preparations were proceeding apace for the COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, which was due to run from 1st – 12th November 2021. Some 25,000 delegates were due at the event.

5. RESILIENCE UPDATE – Jacqui Semple

Reference – Minute of Meeting of 26 August 2021 Article 5

JS delivered a verbal update. Resilience was a quality which underpinned the Partnership and had been manifest in Angus throughout the pandemic, in the way in which local

organisations – public and private sector bodies alongside the Third Sector in a great relationship which had achieved heights not reached in some other parts of the UK. Much recovery work had been done to deal with the impact of Covid-19. The necessary continuing response to the pandemic centred on community testing and booster vaccinations ahead of the onset of winter. It was hoped that vaccinations would reduce the numbers of hospital admissions. It was anticipated that Covid-19 would be with us for months and years to come.

Recovery had commenced and the co-ordinating Group, led by Jackie Buchanan, Director of Legal and Democratic Service, was now meeting regularly. Work was going on to ensure allocation of grants to communities took place more quickly, and the Council's Scrutiny and Audit Committee had picked up on this.

Ahead of the winter months, it was deemed prudent to review certain matters, for example, through the Business Continuity Group. Terrorism, although thankfully absent in Scotland, still had to be seen as a threat with work needing to be done to avoid susceptible people being drawn in.

There was a need to be mindful of, and to mitigate, supply chain issues. The Group was pleased to note that the Senior Practitioner for EU Exit was monitoring the position.

The Council was looking ahead to address issues of winter resilience, and explore how to go ahead with Christmas lighting this year.

The Chair thanked Jacqui for her comprehensive report.

6. REDUCING CHILD POVERTY – Mark Armstrong

Reference – Minute of Meeting of 26 August 2021 Article 7

Mark advised that the Child Poverty Report had been completed and signed off. He expressed his thanks to Shelley Hague and Kim Ritchie for their assistance in co-ordinating the work on the Report. Nationally, the Angus Report was usually one of the first to be submitted to Scottish Government.

The Report examined the factors which had impacted on communities, demonstrated by evidence from service providers of factors leading to hardship. With the normal work of many agencies on hold, capacity was severely restricted. Officers were now embarking upon a process of self-evaluation, using an app from the Improvement Service. The results of this would be aligned with Child Poverty Week in October. This would be an opportunity to look at what could be done to collectively to improve the work of the Partnership, bringing in the voices of those with life experiences which could then be reflected in the context of the Partnership's Improvement Plan. A specific workshop would be held between 4th and 10th October, during Child Poverty Week.

The Partnership noted the position.

The Chair highlighted Child Poverty Week, advising that Mark was on the Group responsible for developing a communication programme, highlighting good practice and issues on child poverty specifically, as well as poverty in general. The Week would be of interest to all members of the Partnership, with individual contributors giving the benefit of their experience of working under Covid conditions.

7. IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – Terry Irvine

Terry advised that he had succeeded Bill Troup as Chair of the **Mental Health and Wellbeing Group** in January this year. The Group's role was to promote wellbeing and suicide prevention. Key drivers included a Strategic Provisioning Plan, and learning from adverse events, and from the independent review of mental health in Tayside. The Group had seemed too large for its role and so its focus shifted to be more outcome focussed. A smaller, strategic group was set up, to meet monthly, with its membership to be reviewed in due

course. Use was also made of short-life working groups, although the use of substantive working groups was also under consideration. The focus was to be on Recovery and Renewal. A Development Officer had been recruited, to set up a series of consultation events. These would assist in the production of a Strategy on Mental Health for 2022-27.

The Integration Joint Board was recruiting a Mental Health Lead Officer to link more strongly with primary care. Work would continue throughout Angus.

The progress report highlighted the need for clarity, and prioritised community development, clarifying the way ahead for mental health services.

The Strang Report contained 51 recommendations, 26 of which were relevant for Angus Working Together, a peer support service for young adults of 16+ with a contract in place for support from August. Given community locations, service delivery may have to be more flexible particularly to people with experience of mental health issues when younger. No referrals rejected; joint working across teams was improving, looking to give a compassionate response for those in distress. Too many people required wellbeing support rather than mental health support; focus now to look at planning a centre for support to avoid a need for provision of mental health treatment.

The Strang Report recommended provision of a seven day service; this had now been achieved in North Angus and would be applied across the rest of Angus as soon as possible.

The Chair thanked Terry for his presentation and suggested that the Partnership would find a presentation on mental health and wellbeing of much interest, particularly if it included details on where we as partners help, and collectively, what we could all be doing.

Gail Smith advised that the IJB had requested provision of an Implementation Plan for October to include key developments, including a Crisis Hub; increase in suicide prevention measures; a coma visiting pathway; a community support model in older people's care services with evaluation following rollout if required.

The Chair noted that there was a huge amount of work currently in progress, and it was necessary to be able to show that as a result of all this activity, fewer people would be needing services.

Gail advised that the supporting financial framework for the Living Life Well initiative was still not ready. Recruitment was underway to support this. (MW to pick up with TEP).

Cllr Fairweather expressed interest in 24/7 Crisis in Care Hubs in locations which could be visited or contacted by phone, and which he saw as a good step forward.

Terry Irvine referred to Bill Troup's take on the recommendations of the Strang Report, in that some people went to Carseview but really needed something else. He advised that efforts were being direct towards future provision of a single centre for Angus providing a joint mental and physical health approach; it was currently in very early planning stages. It would be a Hub, operating 24/7 and serving the whole of Angus, eventually providing other services, including welfare rights, under the same roof.

Nicola Russell advised that the Police tried to signpost people according to their needs, which could be a complicated business, particularly for the individual who needed support. An Action and Implementation Plan would be helpful, and valuable. People in crisis whom the police had to deal with often featured in incidents over the night hours and ended up in police care or criminalised.

Terry Irvine advised that a 24 hour, 7 days a week, emergency telephone number would soon come into use across Tayside.

Jackie Buchanan emphasised the importance of measuring all outcomes. Early intervention can have a significant impact.

Susan Duncan advised that suicide action plans were currently in place. She and Terry were working hard across the Tayside Suicide Network, and a national strategy was planned to be in place by September 2022. As a link to the work being done nationally, a local survey had been carried out, receiving just under 200 responses which would be considered as part of new developments.

AT THIS POINT THE MEETING BROKE FOR 5 MINUTES.

8. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT – Shelley Hague

Shelley presented the Draft Angus Community Plan Annual Performance Report 2020/21 covering the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, and outlining the activity carried out in pursuance of the Community Planning vision for Angus, alongside work done to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. To mark the 10th anniversary of the Christie Report, which had shaped the way in which the Partnership had worked for the people of Angus, case studies were included to illustrate the work linked to Christie Commission principles. Christie promoted the principle that Public Service Providers be required to work much more closely in partnership, to integrate service provision and thus improve the outcomes they achieved.

The shape of the Performance Report had been determined at a specially held session some two years ago, and the type of data and statistics to be included. The draft Report included new developments, including a Cultural Strategy from AngusAlive, discussed at the previous meeting of the Joint Board and Executive Group. For Shelley, the challenge had been to weave all together and set the scene for the new Plan to be developed.

The Foreword would be provided by Margo, as Chair of the Partnership. This would be followed by a self-assessment; Shelley believed most members were content with the current structure and also with the general direction being taken by the Partnership. 100% of the partners responding to the annual survey agreed, or strongly agreed, that the Partnership had done a lot to deliver on the priorities in the past 12 months. 60% agreed that the Partnership should now consider other areas of work. The Plan had started off in 2016, which now seemed a world away; an add-on priority now was the 'greening' of the Partnership's strategy. 100% of the membership agreed the current service design was the way forward.

There were no questions from the Meeting regarding the survey content or findings.

Shelley noted that currently there was a significant amount of work taking place on strategic development, which had put the Partnership in a strong position. Feedback from the survey helped populate this, particularly about the capacity of people to participate more than ever before, now that meetings could be attended virtually, removing the need to travel. She was particularly pleased with the promotion by the Partnership of local food production, through the Eat Local; Eat Healthy, Procure Local, initiative, which would help support local food production.

Kirsty Hunter confirmed that she was happy with the delivery on priorities.

A session on the Communities Learning and Development Plan session was due to be held on Friday 27th August. It would include the development of an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy including a governance structure.

Shelley noted that it was usual to have an at-a-glance section on the Partnership's performance, and she would welcome any views from the membership. Highlights from the past year included the work done on the incidence of suicides on the Arbroath cliffs; and on water safety incidents. She was passionate on the topic of period poverty, the resolution of which had seen Angus take a national lead.

The Partnership had handled 28 consultations over the past year. It was noted that a major health consultation was due soon.

Aspirations Shelley saw as a development area for herself in terms of future Partnership development. She noted that it was clear that Partnership members did not want the Partnership's priorities to change. The three current priorities – Child Poverty; Mental Health and Wellbeing; and Connectivity – were still relevant as we headed into recovery.

The Chair referred to the impressive numbers of volunteers. It had been encouraging too to see the numbers of 16 / 19 year-olds entering in training / employment. Haley Mearns advised that VAA had big case studies on volunteering, and that it would be useful to see the extent of input of the Angus community – something worth publicising. She would forward the details to Shelley. Partners played their part too – for example, the Fire and Rescue service had hosted food boxes. Shelley requested that members continue to send her this information, including as much detail as possible.

Transport brought people together for the greater good, underpinning other work. Improvement in both digital and physical access would help reduce inequalities across Angus. Work on this was led by the Accessible, Inclusive Travel and Transportation Working Group, informed by the Angus Transport Network. The new Regional Transport Strategy 2023-2033 was in course of preparation. Other good case studies also existed, including a European network study, which included Angus. Looking forward, it would be desirable to have picture illustrations, and Nicola Russell and Scott Gibson each indicated that they would be happy to assist in providing some suitable material.

Developments in digital broadband included: progress by Virgin Media with their fibre build in Arbroath, connecting over 6,000 homes in the first phase; connection of all Angus towns with 21Gb paths using MPLS Network technology ensuring a resilient, reliable and quick connection; BT announced as supplier for fibre installation across Angus, funded by Tay Cities Deal and UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport; and all rural schools now brought fully into the Council full fibre network with comparable speeds to central town schools.

Dundee and Angus College's Digital and Future Talent Strategies had been instrumental in improving digital accessibility and connectivity of the College's students, and in the wider region. Reference was made to the service design approach taken at Dundee and Angus College, and the need to identify a partner to help take this forward as part of a core approach, building on work done with the College already. It was likely that much more would be heard about this.

Jackie Buchanan noted the positivity of the aspirations on Page 13 of the report, which she likened to performance indicators, and which she considered read very well. She did however think that it would be worthwhile to reflect on the context. Shelley explained that this the position of this item had "moved about" the Report as it was being drafted. She would prefer to have it placed towards the end of the Report, and would forward a link to Jackie to illustrate what she meant, and ask her views on how the report read.

9. COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW 2022 - 2030 – Shelley Hague and Andrew Carse

Shelley advised that Andrew Carse unfortunately was experiencing electricity supply difficulties at home this morning, and now could not attend the meeting.

There was submitted a discussion paper which advised that due to changes on communities, environment and society as a whole over the next year, the Community Plan, originally developed in 2017, should be reviewed, to refresh the outcomes and activity while retaining the original vision and priorities.

The Joint Board and Executive Group agreed to approve the proposed approach.

Shelley advised that the new Community Plan could run to 2030, or if thought best, could be over a shorter timeframe. She proposed that, beginning in November 2021 and running through to September 2022, sessions would be held following a detailed timeline to co-produce activities, indicators and outcomes over the next 8 years. The new Plan would reflect

national governance, and the influence of Christie. In terms of strategic alignment, documents would be made more readable, and a start made to link all the various plans. A hybrid model could be found in child work where there was a very good partner network.

The current structure had moved to a more reactive model than previously due to Covid-19, through its working groups and strategic group. The Partnership could be described as an engine room, supporting communities and linking to Partnership priorities. "Maybe we are not all on the same boat; but everyone is on the same ocean". It was time to review considerations, and think about the next 5 to 10 years, engaging in horizon-scanning, and to reflect on findings from the survey. Some Partnerships had paused due to the pandemic. Some long-term planning was necessary too – what do we all need to get from our Partnership? The changes would be similar to what had taken place in Perth and Kinross. Timeline to be tweaked by Task and Finish Group; also noted that Shelley Hague was moving post.

Nicola Russell observed that the Perth experience had happened over a lengthy period. As in Angus, it was not a Plan for the Council on its own, and the expectancy of its delivery should not fall on the Council alone.

Haley Mearns advised that VAA had applied successfully for CFR2 funding for £100,000 for research on community engagement. Work would start in October and she would share the report with colleagues.

David Milne advised that a Covid strategy was being worked on by Scottish Government, Public services were working together, including Scottish Government silos, to produce rules for the Third Sector. He suspected that when the strategy came out, it would probably give his role to community planning to drive a lot of this. Shelley looked forward to being linked into this work, and would arrange a dated for a discussion with Laura Kerr to make connections with the Health & Social Partnership plans.

Mark Armstrong thought it would be useful to see what came from Scottish Government. The pandemic was global and recovery rested on many levels, including upon how our local Angus approach fitted with the Tayside and Scottish context. He had some concern about what national results would show. David replied that across government there was a desire to drive priority themes which would allow local flux – child poverty, guarantee of income streams, and reduction in costs for people in poverty, all to be based on a holistic approach.

Walter Scott noted that Angus was making good progress in improving accessibility and connectivity, both physical and virtual – the area was becoming very connected. In terms of transportation, the Angus Transport Network was currently working well. Five meetings had taken place recently with a range of people representing various bodies, as well as themselves. These meetings had been used as idea generators / sounding boards. As part of a review of the transport network and virtual connectivity, surveys were taken forward for review and analysis. These results would be worked through to the Member / Officer Working Group overseeing the review of public transport and winter road services. It would also feature as part of the Active Travel Strategy (Report No 43/21) as presented to the Communities Committee on 23 February 2021. That report was part of a long pipeline of work which included projects ranging in size from very large to small, with ultimate results dependent on what could be afforded. A briefing to elected members was scheduled for next Wednesday, 1 September. One priority identified was on National Cycle Route 1, which resulted in the Council undertaking works to resolve a flooding problem at a particular Angus location, funded jointly by the Council and Sustrans.

The Roads & Transportation Service was also supporting the launch of a free bikes initiative, through partnership with Angus Cycle Hub, which had been successful in securing some funding and involving development officers and mechanics in recycling used bicycles for children who were unable to afford to buy one. The youngsters would receive training and equipment. The project would be monitored closely and the results reported back to a future meeting. 1,000 bikes would feature in the Angus scheme; nationally, a total of 3,000 would be recycled and put back into use.

Alison Smith asked if the bikes would be new or recycled – Walter replied that there would be a bit of both. He was on the Project Board which had learned that, currently, there were not many new bikes to buy, world-wide. The project allowed for the refurbishment of bikes which could be passed on after the current user was done with them – it could operate like a 'bike library'. As part of the Active Travel Scheme, there would be some funds for extensions to paths for shared bike/pedestrian use as Roads & Transportation worked through its pipeline of projects.

Walter also introduced Emergency Traffic Regulation Orders to the Partnership, advising that officers were hoping to make better use of revisions to regulations anticipated soon that would allow trials and testing of new road layouts, almost on a 'suck it and see' basis. The Council would also have to deal with the issues raised by the Scottish Government's pavement parking ban which required regulations to underpin legislative approval. There was also the Regional Transport Strategy consultation which would oversee an anticipated move away from the current emphasis on use of private vehicles, as well as greater use of electric vehicles.

Councillor Fairweather expressed his appreciation to Walter for replying to communications from members of the public relating to the Places for Everyone works in Arbroath; as a result, businesses which had originally been strongly opposed to the project, were now in favour.

Ally McLeod advised as to the level of fibre infrastructure currently being installed to enable an anticipated tenfold increase in use, potentially delivering 1GB to homes. The world-wide shortage of chips however could delay some installation work.

The R100 programme currently awaited BT Openreach to confirm its Angus area plans, but was due for completion by 2026. Vouchers were intended to assist affordability although only 14 claims under the voucher scheme had been made so far out of the 8,500 premises so far connected. Margo asked if there was more which the Council could do on communications to increase awareness; apparently Scottish Government do not put out much information. David Milne would take this point back to put to SG.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING – Chair

Reports for Noting

The Chair drew members' attention to the following documents, requesting that any comments which members may wish to make, be directed to Shelley Hague.

Employability Partnership Minute – Jim Hammond, Chair

CPP Risk Register – Shelley Hague, Service Lead Officer

Anti-Social Behaviour Governance Structure – Lucyna Rutkowaska, Housing Officer

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 27 October 2021 at 10.00. (Remote)