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MINUTES of MEETING of HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP held in the VICTORIA HALLS, HELENSBURGH on TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Councillor George Freeman (Chair)
Councillor Vivien Dance Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Daniel Kelly Councillor Andrew Nisbet
Councillor David Kinniburgh Councillor Al Reay
Councillor Ellen Morton (Vice Chair) Councillor James Robb

Attending: Lynn Smillie – Area Corporate Services Manager
Jane Fowler - Head of Improvement & HR
Gillian Barclay – Argyll Development Worker CDS
Glenn Heritage – Third Sector, CDS
Eileen Wilson - Community Planning Manager
Isaac Owens – Helensburgh & Lomond Representatives Forum
Morevain Martin - Senior Development Officer
Nigel Millar – Association of Community Councils
Anne Marie Arthur – Acting Director, Dunbritton Housing Association

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor George Freeman, Chairperson of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group, welcomed everyone to the meeting and general introductions were made.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated from:-

Provost William Petrie
Inspector Mark Lundie – Strathclyde Police
Anne Helstrip – NHS
Station Commander David McCaughey – Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
Geoff Calvert – Community Safety Co-ordinator, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. COMMUNITY PLANNING

(a) CONTEXT

Jane Fowler, Head of Improvement and HR, outlined the process of the Community Planning Partnership and explained its development and priorities. She explained the Council's role in Community Planning and outlined how the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Group would identify their priorities for the next 4 years. Final

adjustments to the Plan have now been made.

(b) PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Jane Fowler outlined the role of the three Thematic Groups and how these would fit into the Community Plan. She summarised the key tasks which would be undertaken - Community Engagement, Developing Area Community Plans, and Performance Management. The Plan would also be forward looking and Jane advised that if members could identify any other key issues, they should be incorporated into the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Plan.

(c) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Jane Fowler explained the Stakeholders' links to the CPP and spoke of the principles of the Partnership working, which were Empowerment, Participation, Inclusion and Self Determination. She advised that the role of the CPP was to provide partnership links and develop Local Area Community Plans. The resulting benefits would include improved communication, improved relationships and better community engagement. Councillors highlighted the importance of feedback to the process.

(d) DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN

Members were advised of how the Community Plan had developed and that the final version would be available on 26th November 2009 and would be distributed to partners at this time. There are four themes within the Community Plan, these being Economy, Environment, Social Affairs and Community Engagement. Members noted the similarities between the four areas but that the differences should also be recognised.

5. LOCAL AREA INFORMATION

(a) FAB (FAIRER ARGYLL AND BUTE) NEEDS ANALYSIS

Eileen Wilson, Community Planning Manager, advised that the data has been updated since the Needs Analysis carried out last year for the FAB (Fairer Argyll and Bute) PLAN. She explained the source of this information but advised that it was not possible to pinpoint the needs of individuals. Eileen explained that there were many factors which could determine needs and these included geographic location and issues such as alcohol, drugs etc. A demographic map was used to illustrate this.

6. AREA COMMUNITY PLANS

(a) BACKGROUND

Jane Fowler spoke on the Area Community Plans and explained that other areas had nominated 'key' partners to identify 'key' priorities

and how they could contribute to the Area Community Plans. She advised that it was important that actions were co-ordinated to deliver on outcomes for a more effective service delivery and that there would be clarity and openness within the Plan. These factors would enable effective scrutiny and performance management.

(b) CONTEXT

Jane Fowler invited Partners to ask themselves what outcomes in developing the Area Community Plan they would like to see, what the risks and challenges of these outcomes would be, and success measures would also have to be incorporated.

(c) PROCESS

Jane Fowler advised that the development of the Local Community Plan would be facilitated and developed by the Council's Corporate Services Manager and would require input from all partners. It would be important to keep it focused and realistic as it would contain the promises being made to the community.

7. SCORECARDS

(a) BACKGROUND

Jane Fowler provided a background of the Pyramid scorecard system to Partners advising them that performance needs to be managed. This would be done jointly across services and with partners and would be based on the jointly agreed priorities from their plans. Once the Plan content was agreed, it would be possible to decide what information to access. The information, which would be gathered from a variety of sources would provide a richer picture of what is happening in the areas.

(b) CONTEXT

Jane Fowler advised that scorecards would be used as a means of managing performance. The information would be incorporated into the Council's Pyramid Programme and highlights targets using a 'traffic light' method with red indicating more attention required etc. Sample scorecards were demonstrated to Partners. Jane advised that printed copies of these scorecards would be available to all Partners until such times as they had access to the Pyramid system.

(c) PROCESS

The importance of having clear success measures would ensure clarity of the proposed outcomes was highlighted. The source and provision of data and in which format it would take was also considered. Partners were informed that the Council's performance management team would collate the data and produce the scorecards.

8. MEMBERSHIP OF GROUP/LINKS TO EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS

Jane Fowler advised that it was still early days and that all the Area Community Plans were still to come in. She acknowledged that there is a wide range of active communities within Argyll and Bute and that this newly formed group would be 'tapping' into a wealth of material. Local knowledge, existing networks, partnerships with developed plans were all reasons to link with these organisations. The benefits of this would be the elimination of duplication and representation. Partners were encouraged to identify more links but that these must provide a two-way benefit, both providing incentive and sharing information. The provision of feedback was once again highlighted.

Several Partners also indicated that they would prefer to see the Draft Plan in order to ascertain what the targets were in order to avoid excess of and duplication of information.

9. MEETING DATES - CORPORATE SERVICES

Lynn Smillie, Area Corporate Services Manager, suggested that the meetings were held on the third Tuesday of every second month where possible, with the first of these meetings being on Tuesday 19th January 2010.

10. COMMUNITY EVENT (100 COMMUNITY VOICES) - COMMUNITY LEARNING AND REGENERATION

Partners agreed that a date possibly in March or April would be best to hold a Community Event, at which time everyone would have become clearer on their roles. It was hoped that there will be a broader representation of Service users at the next meeting and the Area Corporate Services Manager agreed to discuss this with the various representatives as appropriate.

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