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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTE of Meeting of the BERWICKSHIRE
AREA PARTNERSHIP held in Eyemouth
Primary School, Eyemouth on Thursday, 7
February 2019 at 6.30 pm

Present:- Councillors D. Moffat, J. Greenwell, M. Rowley, together with 16
representatives from Partner Organisations, Community Councils and
members of the public

Apologies:- Councillors J. A. Fullarton (Chair), C. Hamilton, H. Laing
In Attendance:- Strategic Community Engagement Officer, Locality Development Co-
ordinator, Clerk to the Council, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Councillor Moffat chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Berwickshire Area Partnership and thanked the Community Councils, Partners and local organisations for their attendance. He outlined the programme for the evening and introduced the speakers.

2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 6 DECEMBER 2018**

The Minute of the meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership held on 6 December 2019 had been circulated along with a summary of the discussion attached as an appendix to the Minute. The Locality Development Co-ordinator, Mr C Banks gave some highlights from the feedback received at that meeting.

DECISION AGREED

3. **THEME: QUALITY OF LIFE**

3.1 The Chairman welcomed representatives from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Live Borders and the Council's Community Learning and Development Team. Further information on local data and statistics can be found at: [Berwickshire Area Partnership](#). The theme for the focus for debate for the remainder of the meeting was **Quality of Life**. The Chairman referred to the main item on the agenda – discussion around the theme 'Our Quality of Life' - and introduced the key speakers who each gave a brief summary of the work, relevant to the theme, being carried out by their organisation/section.

3.2 Inspector McGuigan highlighted the commitment of Police Scotland as identified in the Local Police Plan 2017-20 for Scottish Borders. Following a consultation process there were seven Local Police Priorities identified which linked to the themes within the Scottish Borders Community Plan: domestic abuse; road safety; violent crime; anti-social behaviour; drugs and alcohol misuse; protecting people (including child protection); and acquisitive crime (incorporating rural crime, doorstep crime, housebreakings and thefts). Police had strong links to the Council's Safer Communities team with proactive campaigns such as Drivewise Borders and Crucial Crew. Inspector McGuigan stressed that all resources were clearly focussed on the priorities and also drew attention to the work undertaken over the past year by the Community Action Team (CAT) who provided a dedicated community resource which would specifically target issues such as anti-social behaviour and on-street parking. Any matters to be resolved by CAT would be made

through elected representatives. A quarterly performance report on the activities of CAT was circulated.

- 3.3 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Group Manager, Michael Jaffray, made reference to the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Scottish Borders which was included in the paperwork provided on the tables. In particular, he drew attention to the focus on the key local priorities on helping people feel safer in their homes by giving access to appropriate assistance on broader safety in the home. The service would work with local communities and the Eyemouth response team to promote community resilience to contribute to improved outcomes for people to be involved in non-fire emergencies such as extreme weather events. He further went on to explain that work was being carried out with community partners on making roads safer and to challenge anti-social behaviour. Mr Jaffray referred, in particular, to the aim to reduce unwanted fire alarm signals, where there was no fire but an automated fire alarm system was activated. This currently accounted for over 65% of emergency response activity across the Scottish Borders. Mr Jaffray explained that a full time Watch Manager had been employed in Eyemouth to reduce the non-fire emergencies and to support the local area partnership to take forward awareness aimed at high risk groups in the community. Police Scotland were currently working closely with schools to improve existing preventative strategies as there was often a close link between deliberate fires and anti-social behaviour. Mr Jaffray concluded by emphasising that the service wanted to work closely with communities and would welcome comments from local residents.
- 3.4 Community Learning and Development Manager, Mark Smith from Scottish Borders Council was in attendance to talk about the work of the Community Learning and Development Service and in particular the work being carried out with 11-25 year olds. The learning activity focused in the Borders Youth Programme to work with young people who were at risk of offending in the community or not reaching their full potential had been a great success. The anti-social behaviour problem in Eyemouth was based on young people having nothing to do. He confirmed that work was being carried out in schools to target and accommodate young people and carers to address issues like mental health with the development of youth clubs, adult and family learning centres in Eyemouth. Partners and members of community groups worked together to co-produce an approach and information resource to support emotional wellbeing. This would be co-ordinated within the Berwickshire area wide partnership looking at the highlighted priorities and to share resources and further develop and support learners, partners, families and young people.
- 3.5 Assistant Curator, Andrew Tulloch from Live Borders gave an update on the cultural side of the area and work being carried out alongside libraries and museums to increase the number of tourists to the area to visit places like the Jim Clark Museum, parks, the castle and any exhibitions being held and to be aware of all the civic week events that take place. Mr Tulloch reported that many volunteers contribute to the promotion of the delivery of the service to gain public engagement with the local activities.
- 3.6 Following the introductory talks, officers joined Elected Members, partners and members of the public at their tables for a discussion on the main issues relating to "Our Quality of Life" in the Berwickshire Area. A pack of information was provided at each table to aid the discussion as were feedback sheets to record the emerging points. Following this first discussion period and a short break each group returned to their tables where they were asked by the Chairman to focus on prioritising the key issues raised and to discuss and identify ways of taking these forward within the Berwickshire Area. A summary of the output of the discussions was provided as an Appendix to this minute.

**DECISION
NOTED**

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that the action plan and timescales for Reston Station was April 2019 to 2024. In response to a question on the locality plan, Mr Rowley responded that the budget priorities would be identified and a draft plan would be shared with the local area partnership in due course.

**DECISION
NOTED**

5. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership was scheduled for Thursday 2 May 2019. It was suggested that the venue for the next meeting could be Coldstream Community Centre. Councillor Moffat thanked all those who had attended the meeting for their participation and input.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 am

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Topic: Quality of Life				
Issue / Challenge	Solution	Play #yourpart		Priority rating
		Lead for action	Who else?	
<p>Police Scotland/Community Action Team (CAT) What steps could be taken to address anti-social behaviours? How could the CAT team work with the community to tackle local issues?</p>	<p>Was anti-social behaviour an issue in Berwickshire? Is it based on perception(s)?</p> <p>Awareness raising, community engagement, peer support Ensure the Community Action Team (CAT) are visible and communicate how best to get in touch with them. Advertise that local councillors are the gateway to CAT. Issue around 101 calls not being answered – staff don't know the local area. Understanding of how 101 calls are 'weighted'.</p> <p>Appears to be misuse of social media by young people. There are separate Youth Community Officers working with Primary and Secondary schools, they work closely with the Community Officers.</p> <p>Local issues identified and dealt with promptly. Focus on community engagement, prevention, peer support and local groups.</p>	<p>Police Scotland Scottish Borders Council</p>	<p>General public Local groups Community Councils Sports clubs/organisations Men's Shed / Enhancement Groups</p>	
<p>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) What measures could be taken to raise awareness and address safety in the home?</p>	<p>Most voluntary referrals are the worried well. More people want to live longer at home.</p> <p>More community engagement, two-way communication/information channel Online information sharing Home fire safety visits Focus on prevention, including slips, trips and falls (accidents in the home). Mirror the Cheviot Health & Social Work Team model.</p> <p>Creating more/better referral partnerships and pathways into the SFRS. For example Borders Community Transport, good neighbour schemes. How about SB Cares as a referral partner? Work through the High Schools and school children – online videos which are designed for school teachers to use.</p>	<p>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p>	<p>Key partners, stakeholders (e.g. SB Cares, Community Transport schemes, Community Council etc.) General public, community groups, neighbourhood schemes etc.</p>	
<p>Live Borders How do we make leisure and culture services and facilities accessible to all? How do we encourage participation in</p>	<p>Transport links and connections Timings of services / activities – esp. evenings Improve services Transport to access services required More events/classes to more local/rural venues e.g. village halls (as is happening in the Highlands) Engage/co-produce what they want/how to engage with them – ask groups e.g. young people Service redesign Groups need to join up</p>	<p>Live Borders Community Centres All (change in mind set required)</p>	<p>Scottish Borders Council, incl. Schools/Education Other local community groups and people e.g. churches</p>	

<p>leisure and culture opportunities?</p>	<p>Make access easier / more convenient, affordability More/better marketing and promotion – of the offer, how to sell in, not just through social media; look beyond your museum, facility Open to public participation, devolve power to local areas More ownership to local communities, local people have the knowledge to lead on actions Different service providers working together Capacity to work with volunteers, including the volunteer’s capacity</p>			
<p>Community Learning and Development (CLD) How do we improve the well-being and life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people?</p>	<p>Safeguarding on social media (for young people) 30% of young people identify with mental health issues Transport/connections into the vulnerable support groups – what technological solutions could help here; how can tech opportunities create better connections?; what about networks? More space for young people to get together- attractive area for youth work Move from Community Plan to implementation More support from SBC to local groups to lead on action and responses Recognise the skills/expertise of organisations and individuals Cool down crew (adapted from national model) – identify vocational solutions Reward children who are achieving rather than just those who “play up”</p>	<p>Scottish Borders Council (Education)</p>	<p>Borders College Health & Social Care Partnerships Learning Community Partnership SFRS Youth work in Berwickshire</p>	
<p>Communication How do we ensure communities and individuals know what is happening in their area? How do we engage with those who are socially isolated?</p>	<p>Tapping into community groups / networks Knocking on the door from groups/neighbours Overstretched volunteers – 4-5 people doing a lot of things Lack of communication How best to join/look things up – what opportunities to promote/communicate activities, e.g. SB Connect, word of mouth, notice boards, newsletters, printed copies, facebook pages, effective media Electronic noticeboard being developed by Duns Community Council/A Heart for Duns Need effective communication media Investment – look at good examples elsewhere e.g. biking in Tweeddale. Increase spend on early intervention Access pupil equity fund – spend on early intervention work – socially prescribe (NHS Borders & buy in from everyone) Different perspectives between young and old on what social isolation looks like. Tech solutions can help but also isolate. Education piece required. PlaceCal.org – community events calendar, age friendly website collects hyperlinks re. events in community</p>	<p>Scottish Borders Council Community Learning Partnership</p>	<p>Area Partnership</p>	
<p>Other: Shared communal spaces</p>	<p>How do we create communal spaces for all? Open and inclusive to get away from cliques Solution - Local groups have an “open day/come and try” to break down barriers</p>	<p>Everyone</p>		