

## Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, 7 February 2024  
**Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Location:** Volunteer Hall, Langtongate, Duns, TD11 3AF

## AGENDA

1.	<b>Welcome</b>
2.	<b>Feedback from Meeting of 30 August 2023</b> (Pages 3 - 4) Consider feedback from Meeting held on 30 August 2023 and Minute of the Special Meeting held on 14 December 2024 for approval and signature by the Chair. (Copy attached.)
<b>Section 1: Service and Partner Updates and Consultations</b>	
3.	<b>Police Scotland update</b>
4.	<b>Time for Change - NHS Borders</b> (Pages 5 - 32) Time for Change is a conversation with communities to share the challenges they are facing with workforce and finance, and the impact pressures are having on the services they provide. (Copy attached.)
<b>Section 2: Local Priorities</b>	
5.	<b>ReTweed</b> Consider presentation by ReTweed Chief Officer.
6.	<b>Capacity Building Lead Update</b> Consider update by Beth Landon, Borders Community Action.
7.	<b>SBC Neighbourhood Services Grass Maintenance Pilot</b>
<b>Section 3: Community Empowerment and Community Funding</b>	
8.	<b>Berwickshire Funding Table 2023-24</b> (Pages 33 - 34) Overview from Gillian Jardine, SBC Communities and Partnership Team. (Copy attached.)
9.	<b>Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund</b> (Pages 35 - 42) Consider recommendations from Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund Assessment Panel. (Copy attached.)

#### Section 4: Other

10.	<b>Additional Information Document</b> (Pages 43 - 48) (Copy attached.)
11.	<b>Next Meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership</b> Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership will be to follow.
12.	<b>Any Other Business</b>
13.	<b>Meeting Evaluation</b>

Please direct any enquiries to William Mohieddeen  
Tel: 01835 826504; Email: [william.mohieddeen@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:william.mohieddeen@scotborders.gov.uk)

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**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL  
BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

MINUTES of Meeting of the  
BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP  
held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 14  
December 2023 at 5.30 pm

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Present:- Councillors J. Anderson, J. Greenwell, D. Moffat, A. Orr and M. Rowley

Apologies:- Councillor C. Hamilton

In Attendance:- Community Co-ordinator, Community Engagement Officer (A. Boyle) and  
Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen).

1. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 30 August 2023.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chair.**

2. **BAP PLACE MAKING WORKING GROUP**

The had been circulated copies of a report by Keith Dickinson, Chair of the Berwickshire Area Partnership Place Making Working Group that reported on the progress of the working group and made recommendations for future Place Making activity. The working group proposed that their activity was to be succeeded by a community-led peer support network which would provide a space for shared learning, support and guidance to communities that were developing plans for their area. The network would be open to all interested communities who would benefit from participation in the network and not restricted to Berwickshire. The network would be convened by Beth Landon from Borders Community Action in her role as Capacity Building Lead for Berwickshire and Cheviot. A standing item at Berwickshire Area Partnership meetings was suggested so that time was made available to hear from the proposed network and that community-led developments were discussed. Ms Landon advised she would be happy to speak on behalf of the Network and that a peer support meeting was scheduled for 1 February 2023.

**DECISION**

(a) **NOTED the achievements of the working group;**

(b) **AGREED:**

(i) **To establish a community-led peer support network to support communities with ambitions to develop a plan for their area;**

(ii) **A standing agenda item should be introduced to the Berwickshire Area Partnership so that time is available at each meeting to hear from the network and discuss community-led developments within the Berwickshire community, with time also given for updates on local place plans and to consider themes and actions which could be incorporated into wider Berwickshire/Borders wide-plans; and,**

- (iii) **Support the flexibility to reconvene the Berwickshire Area Partnership Place Making Working Group if there was a need to reactivate its activity in the future.**

3. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership would be held on Wednesday 7 February. The meeting was to be moved to a Wednesday to allow people to attend who may normally have other commitments such as community council meetings.

*The meeting concluded at 5.45 pm.*



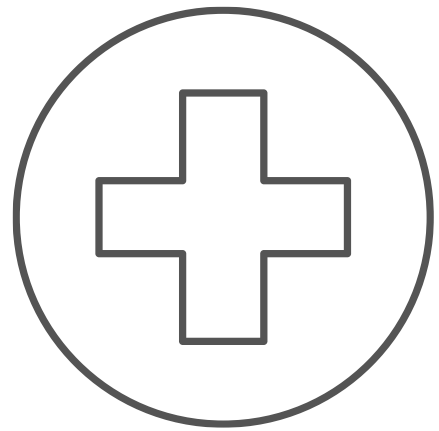
# Time for Change



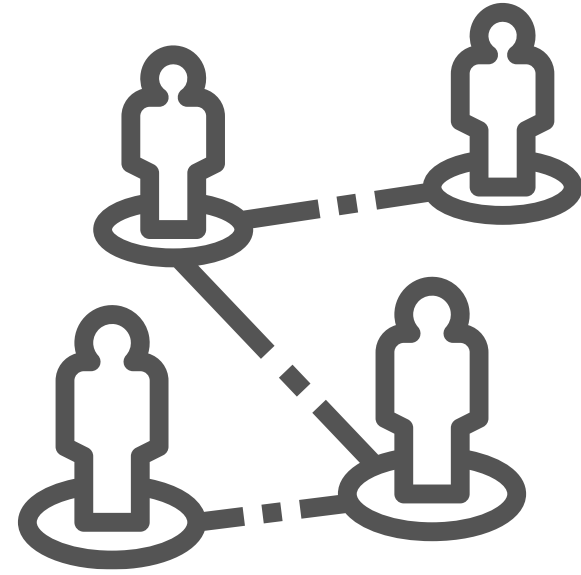
  
**Think  
Different**  
And help us make  
vital savings

  
**Think  
Different**  
And help us plan  
for the future

  
**Think  
Different**  
And help us change  
for the better

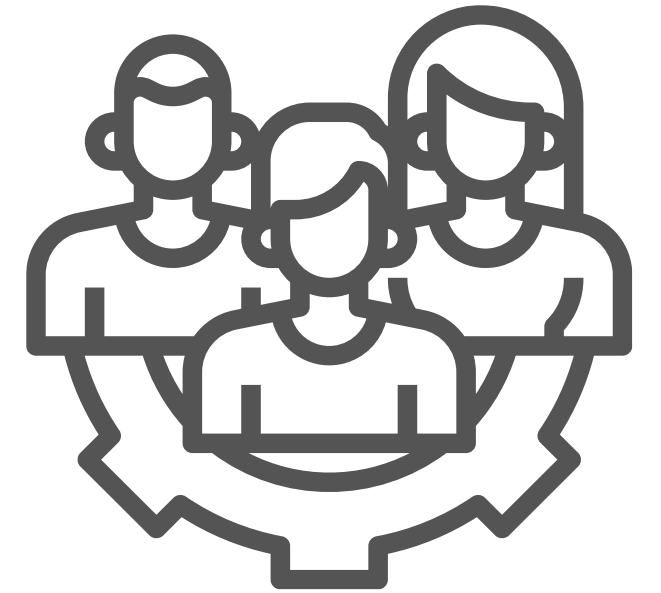


Developments in  
healthcare



Demographics

# Drivers for change



Workforce



Money



# Setting the scene

- The scale of the challenges faced in planning and delivering health services to meet need are unprecedented
- We must balance the delivery of safe, quality care within the financial and human resources available to us
- We have significant workforce challenges, with a smaller working age population (45% vs 65% nationally) operating across a large rural area and national shortages of specialist workforce in many areas
- Our financial deficit has continued to increase over the past few years due to growth in demand and changes in the cost of healthcare. We are projecting an overspend of £26 million by March 2024

# We need to start doing things differently



We cannot meet infinite demand with the resources available

This means we must consider options and make decisions about which services we do or do not provide, where from and who by

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We are committed to involving our staff and communities in the development of options and the decision making process

Sometimes developments are out of our control (e.g. independent contractor decisions)

It is important that we trust one another





# Social determinants of health & wellbeing

- The population of the Borders is 116,000
- Social determinants of health are the conditions in which we are born, grow, age, live and work
- They can be more important than healthcare or lifestyle choices in influencing our health outcomes, and often lead to health inequalities
- That's why it is important that people play their part in their own health and wellbeing

# Services you can access in the community



# Community Bed Based Services (e.g. Care homes, community hospitals)



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# Acute Hospital Services



# Mental Health Services



# Services in the community | Where are we now?

- **Recruitment and Retention Challenges** with independent contractors; GPs Dentists, Pharmacists, Opticians
  - 15% of Community Pharmacists have no regular Pharmacist on a day-to-day basis
  - 10% GP vacancy rate
- **Demand for NHS dental services** continues to increase but there are significant national challenges in recruitment and retention of general dental practitioners
- Many **buildings in the community** are old and require upgrading and expansion
- **Primary Care Improvement Plan (PCIP)**: many services that used to be delivered by GPs are now provided by the Health Board (e.g. vaccinations and treatment rooms)
- **Pharmacy First** is an excellent service where you can receive treatment for a range of ailments direct from the community pharmacy
- **Diversified and upskilled workforce** – new roles, e.g. Advanced Nurse Practitioners mean you don't always need to see a GP
- **Health creating capacity** – what can you do to take responsibility for your own health?

# What you have already told us

- Access to local primary care is important to people
- When asked what the gaps in health and social care are, the second most common response was “access to a GP”
- In Berwickshire people said that GP recruitment and access to Dentists is an issue
- In Tweeddale feedback showed that GP communication has improved
- Carers reported needing more support from their GP in their caring role
- Post-diagnostic support for people with dementia is lacking
- Face to face appointments are important to many people

# Achievements and areas of focus

- **GP Fellowship scheme** to attract 'first five' GPs to the Borders
- **First Contact Practitioner:** Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy
- **Renew service:** a centralised service offering a 'see and treat' model for anxiety and depression
- **Urgent care pathway:** established in 2019, led by an Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP)
- **Service / Workforce Reviews:** operationally led reviews to forward plan safe, effective, equitable and both clinically and financially viable services
- **Primary Care Improvement Plan (PCIP):** continue to develop multi-disciplinary teams to support GPs, providing access to a range of healthcare professionals who support GPs providing comprehensive care to patients.
- **Increasing capacity of the dental service**

How you can look  
after your own  
health & social care  
needs



Value Based Health & Care  
Pharmacy First

Right place, right care

Oral Health care

Social Prescribing

Getting vaccinated

Self-Care; NHS Inform

Future Care Plans for the Frail

Connect with others

Live a healthy lifestyle



# What matters to you?

- How do you feel about what we have shared with you today?
- How does this reflect your own experiences?
- What matters to you?
  - What matters most?
  - What matters least?
- What steps have you taken to look after your own health?
  - What do you need from us to support that?





# Community Bed Based Services | Where are we now?

- Many people in Community Hospitals do not need acute nursing care
- People are remaining in Community Hospitals for longer than they need to
- Health & Social Care availability is very limited
- It is difficult to recruit care staff





# What you have already told us

- In Cheviot and Teviot & Liddesdale people said the Community Hospitals are good but have limitations in beds and what they can do
- The role of the community hospital seems to be unclear to the public– is it urgent care recovery, hospice, specialist?
- There are ideas about expanding what the community hospital does to reduce pressure on the BGH

# Achievements and areas of focus

- Joint working across the Health and Social Care Partnership
- Borders View (BGH)
- Care Villages and Extra Care Housing
- Technology Enabled Care
- Purpose and role of Community Hospitals
- Hospital at Home pilot
- Respiratory virtual ward
- Discharge without Delay
- Prevention and wellbeing

# How you can look after your own health & social care needs



Value Based Health & Care  
Power of Attorney  
Consider your home  
environment  
Have a network of support  
Look after elderly relatives  
(falls, isolation)  
NHS Inform for guidance  
Get vaccinated  
Move more



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# Acute Hospital Services | Where are we now?

- All our beds are open all year round so we have no extra space when things get very busy
- Lots of beds are occupied by people who are ready to move to their next place of care. Hospital is not the safest place to be if you are medically fit to move on, especially if you are frail
- We have faced some significant staffing challenges, although this is improving but there are still national shortages of registered nursing and medical staff
- Our performance is not where we want it to be (e.g. A&E 4 hour target)
- Recovery following the Pandemic is difficult with lots of people waiting a very long time to get their treatment
- We need to consider how the Borders General Hospital operates over the next 10–20 years

# What you have already told us

- It was a common theme that we are generally good in a crisis but we need to ease pressure by reducing need for crisis response
- There was generally positive feedback about inpatient care
- The BGH is not easy to get to for everyone in the Borders, especially in an emergency



# Achievements and areas of focus

- Successful International recruitment: 60 Registered Nurses/Allied Health Professionals and 15 International Medical Graduates
- Virtual Ward pilot (respiratory)
- Hospital at Home pilot
- Near Me appointments
- 'Surge' planning process underway to free up beds for patients requiring planned treatment (e.g. surgical procedures)
- Service / Workforce Reviews: operationally led reviews to forward plan safe, effective, equitable and both clinically and financially viable services

# How you can look after your own health & social care needs



Value Based Health & Care

Waiting Well

Patient Initiated Review

Move More



Connect with others

Use NHS Inform for advice

Get vaccinated





# What matters to you?

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- What steps have you taken to look after your own health?
  - What do you need from us to support that?



# Mental Health Services | Where are we now?

- Significant staffing challenges e.g. Psychiatry Consultant staffing is 43% below establishment
- 'Safe staffing' levels are difficult to achieve across inpatient areas
- Performance is much lower than we would like (e.g. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)
- Recovery following the Pandemic is difficult with lots of people waiting a very long time to get their treatment
- Many buildings are old and require upgrading and expansion
- Health creating capacity – what can you do to take responsibility for your own health?



# What you have already told us

- Across localities it was perceived that there are challenges within Mental Health services
- The Mental Health Forum said that they had good experiences of multi-agency responses, Local Area Co-ordinators providing support and good co-production of service design and delivery
- Waiting times for mental health services are concerning
- Some people accessing mental health services said they had good experiences with their GPs but those in the LGBTQ+ community said that GPs could improve their support

# Achievements and areas of focus

- Renew service: a centralised service offering a 'see and treat' model for mild to moderate anxiety & depression
- Millar House: offering supported accommodation for patients with varying mental health disorders
- Mental Health Community based teams and services
- Dementia Transformation (Borders Specialist Dementia Unit, Extra Nursing Care)
- Service / Workforce Reviews: operationally led reviews to forward plan safe, effective, equitable and both clinically and financially viable services

# How you can look after your own health & social care needs

Have a network of support

Connect with others

Get vaccinated

If you are worried, speak to  
someone

Stay active & spend time  
outside if you can

Wellbeing Service

Breathing Space



# What matters to you?

- How do you feel about what we have shared with you today?
- How does this reflect your own experiences?
- What matters to you?
  - What matters most?
  - What matters least?
- What steps have you taken to look after your own health?
  - What do you need from us to support that?





# THANK YOU



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**Berwickshire Funding 2023/24**

7 February 2024

<b>Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF) 2023/24</b>	
	£
Opening balance as of 01/04/2023	£ 50,185.00
<b>Plus ring-fenced Horse Time carry forward from 2021/22</b>	<b>£ 4,500.00</b>
<b>Total available</b>	<b>£ 54,685.00</b>
<b>Less:</b>	
Ring-fenced Horse Time carry forward from 2021/22	£ 4,500.00
NSF applications awarded since 01/04/2023	£ 35,801.00
NSF applications that are assessed and await decision	£ 15,814.25
Sub-total	£ 56,115.25
<b>Funds remaining if assessed applications are successful</b>	<b>-£ 1,430.25</b>
NSF applications still to be assessed	£ -
<b>Potential Overall Position</b>	<b>-£ 1,430.25</b>

<b>Other sources of grant funding - Berwickshire</b>			
Grant Type	Available	Awarded	Remaining
Local Festival Grants	£ 14,060.00	£ 6,550.00	£ 7,510.00
Annual Support Grants (Community Councils)	£ 13,680.00	£ 8,460.00	£ 5,220.00
SBC Small Schemes	£ 70,415.00	£ 49,642.00	£ 20,773.00
SBC Enhancement Trust	£ 2,494.23	£ 2,000.00	£ 494.23
SBC Welfare Trust	£ 13,057.65	£ 6,161.00	£ 6,896.65
	<b>£ 113,706.88</b>	<b>£ 72,813.00</b>	<b>£ 40,893.88</b>

<b>Summary of applications</b>						
No.	Date	Fund	Organisation Name	Amount	Project	Status
1	23/07/2023	NSF	Berwickshire Swap	£ 3,132.00	Berwickshire Swap	Awarded
2	18/07/2023	NSF	Abundant Borders	£ 913.00	Berwickshire Garden Maintenance	Awarded
3	18/07/2023	NSF	ReTweed	£ 4,941.00	ReTweed Community Courses (Gavinton, Cranshaws & Coldstream)	Awarded
4	19/07/2023	NSF	Leitholm, Eccles & Birgham Community Council	£ 2,664.00	Connecting Leitholm	Awarded
5	21/07/2023	NSF	Swinton & Ladykirk Community Council	£ 400.00	Spring bulb planting & refurb of football goals on the Green	Awarded
6	23/07/23	NSF	Allanbank Arts (A Heart For Duns)	£ 2,250.00	Creative Club	Awarded
7	23/07/2023	NSF	Cockburnspath After School Club	£ 5,000.00	Cockburnspath After School Club	Awarded
8	18/07/2023	NSF	Foulden Mordington Lamberton CC	£ 2,100.00	AED for Lamberton in adopted phone box	Awarded
9	24/07/2023	NSF	Eyemouth Museum Trust Ltd	£ 5,000.00	Maintenance of Eyemouth Museum's historic windows	Awarded
10	20/07/2023	NSF	Eyemouth Harbour Trust	£ 5,000.00	Sea Garden Project & Art Wall	Awarded
11	26/07/2023	NSF	Paxton House Trust	£ 4,401.00	Paxton House Community Garden	Awarded
12	20/11/2023	NSF	Coldingham Primary PTA	£ 5,000.00	Purchase of Loose Parts store and play equipment	Assessed
13	25/11/2023	NSF	Coldstream Gateway Association (Coldstre	£ 1,000.00	Courthouse Place Car Park Flower Beds	Assessed
14	30/11/2023	NSF	Sea the Change	£ 5,000.00	Berwickshire Bikes	Assessed
15	30/11/23	NSF	Swinton and Ladykirk Community Council	£ 414.25	Refurbishment of benches, SEG Banner, Safety wear & equipment	Assessed
16	12/04/23	NSF	Coldingham Community Council	£ 4,400.00	PA System	Assessed
<b>Total</b>				<b>£ 51,615.25</b>		

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## **Report of Neighbourhood Support Fund Assessment Panel BAP Meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

### **Introduction**

This paper outlines the recent work undertaken by the Assessment Panel for the Berwickshire Area Partnership, Neighbourhood Support Fund. It gives a brief description of various activities and a review of recent applications. It goes on to make recommendations for consideration by the BAP.

### **Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund 2022/23**

Berwickshire Area Partnership, Neighbourhood Support Fund, Assessment Panel (NSF AP) met for the second full meeting of the financial year, at 11am on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Only £50.2k was available for distribution through the Neighbourhood Support Fund during 2023/2024. Following the awards made in the first round of funding this year circa £14.4k remained (an additional £4.5k was ring fenced for an earlier approved award). In summary we had circa £14.4k available to distribute between five projects, together seeking a total of £15.4.

It is clear that more applications are being made by communities taking on activities that were in the past provided by SBC and other statutory bodies. Communities are willing to take on these roles, commit a lot of time and effort and save SBC a great deal of money. This needs to be recognised and volunteers deserve to be supported adequately through the NSF.

It is unfortunate, therefore, that the NSF was halved this year. As a result, many deserving applicants from both rounds, will have been disappointed that their strong applications did not receive support. It is hoped that this situation can be reversed when setting the NSF budget for next year.

### **Panel Membership**

We are pleased that two new members have joined the Assessment Panel this year: Nicky Seed and Bob Hope. Having been a party to the development and implementation of our assessment process over the past four years, and Chair

of the Assessment Panel since its inception, I feel it is time to stand down. This will be my last report as Chair of the Assessment Panel.

There is always a need to recruit additional members and attain a full complement of panel members. Anyone interested in joining the panel should contact Gillian Jardine [GJardine@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:GJardine@scotborders.gov.uk) or James Purves [JPurves@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:JPurves@scotborders.gov.uk) for further information.

### **Attaining full delegated powers for the Assessment Panel**

At its meeting on 4th March 2021 the BAP agreed to the following recommendation:

“We recommend the creation of a sub-subcommittee of the BAP with full delegated powers to undertake the assessment of applications and subsequently make awards.”

At the BAP meeting 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 our recommendation that “the Neighbourhood Support Fund – Assessment Panel receives full delegated powers to make and communicate its decisions to applicants” was again endorsed by the BAP.

At the BAP Meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023, we reiterated this request. We continue to feel that it would be beneficial to uncouple the work of the Assessment Panel and the BAP and move to three equally spaced application periods on an annual basis. We could then publish these dates well in advance and deal with applications more timeously.

We have over the last three years proved that we can undertake the role of an Assessment panel fairly and robustly. None of our recommendations have ever been overturned and our processes have been widely praised. It is therefore time for the Assessment Panel to be given full delegated powers.

### **Recommendation 1**

**We seek BAP support to request that SBC agree that:**

1. The Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund – Assessment Panel receives full delegated powers to make and communicate its decisions to applicants.

2. The NSF assessment process moves to a cycle of three, equally spaced, funding rounds each year, with the prospect of applicants receiving a decision within four weeks of the closing date for applications.

## **Assessment of Applications**

I have outlined the assessment process many times, as I have recorded in my reports over the past three years. Suffice to say we have a very robust system of assessment that recognises the need for: transparency; appropriate declarations of interest; applications to comply with the published Eligibility Criteria and blind marking of all applications. We have managed throughout to achieve a strong measure of agreement on applications and move relatively smoothly to a consensus and agreement on our recommendations.

The minutes of the assessment panel meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 can be seen in **Appendix 1** below. These minutes includes a brief description of each application and some individual feedback from our deliberations. Our recommendations are summarised in the minutes.

## **Recommendations 2**

**It is recommended that BAP approve the awards detailed in Appendix 1 - MINUTES of Meeting of BERWICKSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND ASSESSMENT PANEL held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 17th January 2024 11.00.**

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## **Appendix 1**

### **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL BERWICKSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND ASSESSMENT PANEL**

MINUTES of Meeting of BERWICKSHIRE  
NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND  
ASSESSMENT PANEL held via Microsoft Teams  
on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 11.00.

Present: - Keith Dickinson (Chair), Andrew Mitchell, Jim Hettrick, Kathy Huffman,  
Nicky Seed, Bob Hope, James Anderson

In Attendance: - Community Co-ordinator G Jardine and Community Engagement  
Officer Ali Boyle

Apologies: - John Greenwell

#### **1. WELCOME**

KD welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSESSMENT PANEL**

KD asked those present to promote membership of the panel to others to see if they would like to be involved – any interested parties to be passed contact details of GJ who can provide more information. KD noted that he would be standing down as Chair of Assessment Panel after then next BAP meeting. Anyone interested in stepping up as Chair to contact GJ.

JA advised that he had not been sent scoring sheets and GJ explained that a decision had been made historically that Elected Members were not asked to score applications as they cannot take decisions when they are not in a public meeting. KD welcomed the willingness of Elected Members to be fully engaged in the assessment and scoring process

#### **3. BALANCE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND**

The current balance of the Berwickshire NSF is £14384 with applications totalling 15,814.25.

There is also an additional £4500 which has been ringfenced for a Horse Time 'Resilience and Regulation' application which had been carried over from the Community Fund 21/22.

#### **4 PROJECT ASSESSMENTS**

##### **COLDINGHAM PRIMARY PFA – LOOSE PARTS PROJECTS**

An application from Coldingham Primary PFA requesting £5,000 was received for the purchase of a Loose Parts Hub which would be sited at Coldingham Primary School playground.

Discussion took place regarding the application, the panel were supportive however a possible issue with requirement for planning permission identified. – This has been communicated to the group and the panel requested that the group be supported if necessary to manage this process.

### **Recommendation**

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership **award** a grant of **£5,000.00** subject to necessary planning permissions being obtained. Funding not to be issued until these are in place.

### **COLDSTREAM GATEWAY ASSOCIATION (COLDSTREAM IN BLOOM)**

An application requesting £1000.00 was received for their Courthouse Place Car Park Flower beds project for the purchase of perennial plants.

### **Recommendation**

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership **award** a grant of **£1000.00**

### **SEA THE CHANGE**

An application requesting £5000.00 was received to part fund a coordinator to take forward their Berwickshire Bikes Project. Our guidelines state that some salary costs specific to projects can be applied for. However, the panel feel it would be better to focus support on the delivery of specific elements of the proposed project.

The application was discussed at length by the panel with some members expressing their support, while others questioned whether the project was at too early a stage for the fund to be able to support.

It was suggested that had the application been looking for more specific items rather than a development coordinator that the application may have been more successful. NS suggested that BAVS may be able to help with the development work for the project and offered to link in with the group if they wish.

### **Recommendation**

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership **do not award** a grant on this occasion.

### **SWINTON AND LADYKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

An application requesting £414.25 was received for the refurbishment of village benches, a Swinton Enhancement Group Banner and Safety wear and equipment.

### **Recommendation**

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership **award** a grant of **£414.25**



## **COLDINGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

An application requesting £4,400 was received to purchase a PA system.

There was some discussion regarding this application as it had been received a few days past the deadline. JA explained that there were extenuating circumstances which led to the late application. KD noted that he felt that if an application came in late, but not so late that its inclusion in that round of funding would affect the effective administration of the other grants, then it could be deemed as acceptable. Council Officers to make a judgement call upon this and only circulate valid applications to the panel.

The panel were generally supportive of the application as it would allow the group to become more self-sufficient, potentially lead to more events being held for the community and that the purchase of the PA system would allow community members to be trained in its use giving community members a chance to learn a new skill.

### **Recommendation**

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£4,400**.

## **HORSE TIME RING- FENCED FUNDS**

The Panel discussed and viewed the evaluation form and agreed that the ring-fenced funds could now be released as the conditions for the second payment had been met.

## **5. EVALUATION OF THE BERWICKSHIRE NSF AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

KD asked the panel for feedback regarding their experience of following the NSF Assessment Panel Process.

A general discussion took place, and the panel felt that overall, the process worked well and made the following positive observations:

- Blind scoring is good.
- Clear and fair process.
- Plenty of opportunity for discussion which allows for consensus decision.

The Panel made the following suggestions for possible areas of improvement:

- Having a larger pool of panel members to ensure that all areas of Berwickshire were represented and to ensure that enough panel members were available to make decisions.
- Providing more support to inexperienced applicants regarding the completion of their applications.
- Possible further development of the application form to ensure that the specific information requested in the application form clearly relates to the assessment criteria.
- Panel members being sent copies of the evaluation forms of completed projects so they can see the effectiveness of projects and the value of the NSF.
- Asking groups for details of volunteer hours projected/used to carry out projects within the application and evaluation.
- Making a representation to the council to request a larger budget as it was felt that often community groups are looking for financial support to carry out work that historically would have been carried out by the council.

KD requested information regarding the total number of applications received and the amount of funding requested from the NSF over the past year. AB to compile.

## **6. NEXT ROUND OF FUNDING**

GJ asked the panel to discuss, should community funding be available in 2024/25, when they would like to reopen the fund and how many funding rounds they would like to have next year.

KD suggested 3 equally spaced application rounds per year.

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 12:30 pm

## **Additional Information**

### **SBC Papers for Scottish Borders Council meeting - Thursday, 25th January, 2024 10.00 am**

[Agenda for Scottish Borders Council on Thursday, 25th January, 2024, 10.00 am - Scottish Borders Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

### **SBC Current Consultations**

#### **Have Your Say - Placemaking and Community Engagement Sign Up - Closes 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

The way we are engaging with our residents is changing - and we want you to have your say. Placemaking is a process of community engagement where the opinions and desires of the community are used to inform the future of the places we live, work and play - and by getting involved and telling us what matters to you, we can make sure the voices of all Scottish Borders residents are heard.

[Have Your Say - Placemaking and Community Engagement Sign Up](#)

#### **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023 - Closes 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

In line with the requirements of Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983, Scottish Borders Council is undertaking a review of polling districts and polling places for use in parliamentary and local elections.

The aim of the Review is to ensure:

1. all electors in the Scottish Borders have as reasonable facilities for voting as are possible in the circumstances; and
2. so far as is reasonable and possible every polling place which the Council is responsible for is accessible to electors who are disabled.

The Council would like to hear from electors on these issues, in particular your comments on the suitability of current polling stations and suggestions for possible alternatives would be appreciated. The Council would also welcome comments from anyone, or group, with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability.

[Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023](#)

#### **Website survey - Closes 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

We have recently refreshed our website and would welcome the feedback of users.

[Website survey](#)

## **Provision of Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) Parent Consultation 2023 - Closes 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Local Authorities in Scotland are required to consult with parents every 2 years, to support their planning for the delivery of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). This questionnaire is aimed at parents/carers whose children will access ELC provision in the future and those currently accessing ELC provision. It is also useful for the Council to consult with parents /carers whose children are now at Primary School. If you are responding as a parent/carer who previously accessed ELC provision, please respond to the questions based on your experience.

[Provision of Early Learning & Childcare \(ELC\) Parent Consultation 2023](#)

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## **Scottish Government Current Consultations**

### **Democracy Matters – Closes 28 Feb 2024**

Somebody, somewhere is making decisions on your behalf. Democracy Matters conversations have already started to explore whether far more of these decisions could be made by communities themselves. This is a key and connected part of the wider Local Governance Review which is looking across all of Scotland's vital public services to consider how power and resources should be shared between national and local government.

Read more: [Democracy Matters - Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space](#)

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## **Energy Efficiency Schemes**

### **Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme.**

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) is a government energy-efficiency scheme in Great Britain, designed to tackle fuel poverty and help reduce carbon emissions. ECO is an obligation placed on energy companies to deliver energy efficiency measures to domestic premises.

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/energy-company-obligation-eco/homeowners-and-tenants/faqs-domestic-consumers-and-landlords>

### **The Great British Insulation Scheme**

Similar to ECO 4, but focusses on insulation only

[Great British Insulation Scheme | Ofgem](#)

### **Home Energy Scotland**

Home Energy Scotland can offer bespoke advice to householders that best fit their circumstances and this could include the ECO 4 scheme or other grants and schemes such as the EES:ABS scheme or Warmer Homes Scotland.

<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/funding>

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## **Food Conversations**

Food Conversations: The latest Food Conversation meeting took place on 17 November where a number of items were discussed. One of the items discussed was a food consultation to access up information on how people are accessing food and identify any challenges they are experiencing. The consultation will shortly be circulated and will be promoted to local organisations and groups.

The Food Conversation meetings are open to any community group or organisation who has an interest in the delivery of food support and long-term food access in Scottish Borders. If you are interested in joining these meetings, please let us know by emailing us at [communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk)

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## **Community Choices**

**There are no updates for Community Choices.** Should this change, an update on the latest meeting will be provided at the Area Partnership.

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## **Community Empowerment**

**Currently, there are no formal Participation Requests being considered within the Berwickshire area. SBC is currently working with and advising groups for 5 asset transfer requests.**

For information about the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: [Parts of the Act | Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

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## **Place Making**

A place-based approach is about understanding the potential of a place and coordinating action to improve outcomes, with community participation at the heart of the process. For information, tools and resources on place-based approaches visit [Our Place](#)

For details on existing Borderlands Towns Place Making progress visit [Place Programme \(arcgis.com\)](#)

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## **Area Partnerships' Information Pack**

[Berwickshire Area Partnership | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

[Community engagement, planning and ownership | Area Partnership information pack | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

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### **Community Councils:**

Scottish Community Councils Latest News, including information about funding opportunities and national consultations:

[Community Council News](#)

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### **Scottish Borders Council Meetings**

[Browse meetings - Scottish Borders Council - Scottish Borders Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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### **Cost of Living Support**

[Financial support and advice | Cost of Living Crisis support | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Debt Advice:**

[Citizens Advice Bureau](#)



Download the NHS  
Borders Money Worries  
App here

NHS Money Worries App – download from Google Play or the App Store

### **Covid-19 vaccination programme**

<https://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/covid-19-vaccination-programme/>

### **NHS Borders website for current updates:**

<http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/coronavirus/>

### **Business support**

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business>

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>

### **General Funding:**

<https://fundingscotland.com/>

[Grants Online](#)

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/>

[Community grants and funding | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

[Neighbourhood Support Fund | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

[SBC Enhancement & Welfare Trust](#)

**NHS Borders Wellbeing Service:**

<http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/general-services/wellbeing-service/>

**NHS Borders Wellbeing Point:**

[www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/wellbeingpoint](http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/wellbeingpoint)

<https://www.rcot.co.uk/conserving-energy>

This includes pacing, fatigue management and some ideas about restarting gentle exercise

<https://www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk/>

This covers most aspects, including information from physiotherapy and occupational therapy websites

<https://www.chss.org.uk/advice-line-nurses/>

Phone or email to access their support/advice

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