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## SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of Meeting of the TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP held in Hawick High School, Hawick on Tuesday, 19 November 2019 at 6.30 pm

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Present:- Councillors N Richards (Chair), W McAteer, C Ramage and G Turnbull, 23 representatives from Partner Organisations, Community Councils and members of the public.

Apologies:- Councillors D Paterson  
In Attendance:- Strategic Community Engagement Officer, Locality Development Co-ordinators (G Jardine, K Harrow), Democratic Services Officer. (J Turnbull)

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership and introduced Cheryl Fowler, Local Area Coordinator and Shirley Cumming, Paraprofessional, Scottish Borders Council.

### 2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

### 3. OPEN FORUM

- 3.1 It was advised that the Electric Vehicle Charging Point at Newcastleton required servicing and there was now a delay in charging vehicles. It was also highlighted that SB Cares' electric vehicles were not equipped with their own chargers, which wasn't practical and causing challenges for carers and their clients. Officers would refer the issues to the Street Lightening Team Leader and SB Cares' Service Development Manager.
- 3.2 The Passenger Transport Manager had advised of a new government fund available for community groups to lease their own vehicles. An update was requested by Newcastleton Community Council. Denholm Community Council also requested an update on the funds available to communities to organise their own community transport system.
- 3.3 Dark Sky – Newcastleton Community Council were keen to progress this strategy and would require to submit an application for funding to the community fund towards the costs of progressing the project. Newcastleton CC would schedule a meeting with other interested community councils to discuss the project and funding required. (Denholm, Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water, Hobkirk and Southdean community councils were interested in participating).
- 3.4 The Audit Commission's Best Value Assurance Report of Scottish Borders Council had been published. The report recommended that performance reporting required to be more comprehensive and include actions taken. Ms Jardine advised that a report on the Audit Commission's recommendations would be presented to Council on 19 December, and would include an action plan. An update would be provided at the next meeting.
- 3.5 Area Partnership/Community Fund consultation - Ms Malster explained that a report would be presented to Council detailing the outcome and recommendations from the consultation. An update would be presented to the next meeting.

- 3.6 Pines Burn and Windy Edge Wind Farm appeals - Southdean Community Council gave an update on a court case in England which might affect changes to planning application in the future.
- 3.7 Locality Working Groups – it had been advised that these would be reinstated to develop the Health and Social Care Integration action plan. It was requested that an update be provided from the Chief Officer.
- 3.8 Safeguarding Scotland's Remote & Rural Communities Consultation – It was queried why the Council had not responded to the consultation on the proposed Bill which would give powers to help smaller remote rural communities. The Chairman would take forward and advise accordingly. A list of remote rural communities would also be circulated.

4. **FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETING OF 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

The Minute of the Meeting of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership held on 17 September 2019 had been circulated. A summary of the discussion and a review of priorities identified in the draft Teviot and Liddesdale Locality Plan had been attached as an Appendix to the Minute. A range of comments were made including: improving communication, revisiting existing service reviews and working with partner organisations, such as the NHS, to sync appointments. The Chair advised that since the meeting, Bus Users Scotland had carried out a consultation in Hawick and Newcastleton. The feedback from which would be shared at the next meeting.

5. **TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE LOCALITY PLAN - HEALTH, CARE AND WELLBEING - REDUCING ISOLATION AND SOCIAL LONELINESS**

- 5.1 Scottish Borders Council Local Area Co-Ordinator and Paraprofessional, Shirley Cummings were in attendance to give a presentation on reducing isolation and social loneliness in the Scottish Borders. Ms Fowler began by advising that the community capacity building team focused on older adults (from age 50 years) to encourage social and physical activities in the community. In each town in the borders, various groups had been set up, such as lunch clubs and gentle exercise classes which helped reduce isolation. Ms Fowler explained that in Hawick there was already many activities in place. However, one of the projects with which she had been involved, was the Trishaw project which would enhance the quality of life for the elderly in and around Hawick. Other projects such as an indoor curling group in Newcastleton and Hawick afternoon dance club had proved successful. However, volunteers were needed to keep these projects running and to enhance them and take forward. Ms Fowler went on to explain that when someone was referred to the team, her role was to find out what they could access in their local community. This might be advising of clubs in their locality that they might enjoy, or supporting them to attend activities. Ms Fowler concluded by advising that the four key areas to reducing isolation were: partnership working with organisations; strategies to engage with potential volunteers; setting up a befriending organisation in Hawick; and, transportation to get people connected.
- 5.2 Ms Cumming then gave an overview of What Matter's Hub explaining that the Hub was where people from the community could access information, advice and support to help them remain in their own homes or get involved in the community. At the Hub, which was situated in the Heart of Hawick, they were also able to meet with voluntary groups, social workers and occupational therapists. Ms Cumming explained that her role was to have effective conversations with people to find out their strengths, existing support and what community groups might assist. She was also able to put in place care packages (up to four hours per week). Ms Cumming explained that this might involve putting someone in touch with the right organisation or activity and gave an example of the assistance provided to a gentleman to attend a regular music event. The project was still evolving but the Hubs were in every locality throughout the Scottish Borders, with one in Newcastleton and one proposed for Denholm.

- 5.3 The Federation of Village Halls representative was in attendance and made a request for volunteers to help the community with transportation.
- 5.4 Following the presentation, the Chairman invited those present to take part in a round table discussion about reducing isolation and social loneliness in terms of potential options, solutions and actions within communities. There was templates on the tables to aid the discussion on which points should be recorded. A summary of the output of the discussion is attached as an appendix to this Minute.
6. **TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE COMMUNITY FUND**
- 6.1 The Locality Development Co-Ordinator, Gillian Jardine, referred to documents which had been circulated and which were available at the meeting, which gave an overview of the Interim Community Fund and internal and external funding maps for Teviot and Liddesdale area. She explained that there was a total 2019/20 budget allocation of £174,308 for the Teviot and Liddesdale Community Fund. Within this fund, after committed allocations of £7,000 for Community Councils; £12,550 to Local Festivals; £4,729 to Village Halls; there was an available balance of £150,029 remaining in the Fund. Regarding the committed allocations, Ms Jardine explained that these would remain for the 2019/20 financial year. However, would be reviewed as part of the Area Partnership/Community Fund consultation. Details of applications to the Teviot and Liddesdale Community Fund had been circulated.
- 6.2 The first application, from Alchemy Film & Arts, requested £9,925 to part fund Once Upon a Time in Hawick – an exploration of the identities and stories of Hawick through film. A representative from Alchemy was in attendance and gave a short introduction to the project. The Partnership unanimously approved the application. However, requested that as the project brought visitors into the town, consideration should be given to providing assistance from economic development to provide support for Alchemy in the future
- 6.3 It was agreed to approve the application for £9,925.00 from Alchemy Film & Arts
- 6.4 The second application, from The Borders Green Team Enterprises (BGT) requested £4,948.20 to purchase new and updated garden machinery to replace BGT's existing equipment which was old and beyond repair. The Partnership unanimously approved the application.
- 6.5 It was agreed to approve the application for £4,948.20 from The Borders Green Team Enterprise.
- 6.6 It was noted that there was still £134k budget available. Ms Jardine explained that applications needed to be submitted by mid-January for consideration at the next meeting and confirmed that match funding for projects was permissible and that any funding granted could be spent in the 2020/21 financial year. The Partnership requested that as decision making was constrained because of the General Election, that Council considered ring fencing any remaining funds for the next financial year. Ms Malster explained that this would be a decision for Council when considering the report on the Area Partnership/Community Fund consultation.
7. **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT UPDATE - EASY READ PACK**  
Ms Jardine advised that work was in progress on providing accessible information on the Act which would be shared at the next meeting. The Bridge requested that they be part of this development.
8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP**  
The Chairman asked the meeting for any suggestions/proposals for future agenda items or any items to be submitted to Ms Jardine for the next meeting. It was requested that the layout of the room be changed so that the group could participate as a whole in any discussion and share issues or examples of good practice. It was also asked that an audit identifying actions taken as a result of the meetings be circulated.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership was scheduled for Tuesday, 18 February 2020. Councillor Richards thanked all those who had attended the meeting for their participation.

***The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm***

## Teviot and Liddesdale Locality Plan – Health, Care and Well-being: Social Isolation and Loneliness

*Suggestions made:*

- Improve communication and visibility of local groups and services
- Multi-use venues and facilities, including new school campuses
- Increase number of leisure activities, including dementia friendly walks
- Have more family events
- Have community champions
- Talk to your neighbours
- Have more informal volunteering
- Support people to develop their digital skills & offer better access to the internet
- Improve community transport so people can access groups
- Expand outreach services eg What Matters Hubs

Identify what the gap is (e.g. age group, geographical area)?	What can be done to address the identified gap?	Who would take this forward – we need key champions/organisations	What support would be needed (financial, time, resources etc), and what would this look like?	What would the benefits be to the community/individuals?
Communication of what services are available	Find out which services know about the What Matters Hubs	WMH staff to visit organisations to promote their service	time	
	Annual Directory of what services are available in TD9 (both printed and digital versions) – similar to the Hawick Trade Directory		Printing costs Time Buy in from organisations	
	Increase the number of ‘cup and chat’ tables in cafés			
	Council etc. need to improve communication strategies to make sure they aren’t frightening people with their messages on changes to public	SBC Officers / Communication dept Local media SB Connects could be used to reinforce communication on a particular topic		

	services – newspaper headlines can cause fear and panic			
	Contact less obvious groups – ie local sports clubs - to share messages on how people can access support			
	Need a network to bring people together as many groups and services don't have contact with one another			
Make sure that we don't just focus on rural isolation. Urban community members can also feel isolated	Use underspend of community fund budget or other budgets to help pay for transport/staff costs that would help support those isolated in our community to attend community events  Can we look at sharing journeys to reduce costs	Community Fund.  Local area co-ordinator – aware of what's on  Red cross mapping	Finance Transport costs	We look at isolation as a whole.
Family Circumstance (Lone Parent)	Identify groups that those vulnerable in our community can attend.  Link these families/parents with a befriending project  Have a better understanding and knowledge about what's what's on	SBCconnect -> can we promote a what's on guide in this newspaper that will reach every household.  Communities and partnerships team to follow up creating a 'whats on guide'  Red cross to share their activity mapping	Finance for letter drop	Communities more aware of what they can attend.  Word of mouth helps.
Transport	E-Cars subsidised taxis  More volunteer drivers please.			

Transport is essential to get people to events/hubs	Community transport people giving lifts			
Whole Community	Community Newsletter			
Rurality impacts on children and young people's mental health as they can't engage with peers	Groups that are able to work with children and young people need a workers living and working in the community to ensure activities take place		Project worker available locally	Address mental health issues in children and young people
Community reliant on public transport	Increase the passenger capacity	Border Buses SBC	Link up Bus services and ensure there is enough passenger capacity.	Remove exclusion of bus users (those who are reliant on public transport).

<b>CASE STUDIES – EXAMPLES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY</b>		
'Community Connections' – Outside the Box	Community Connections is a new project that is based in two rural areas in Scotland: – Eaglesham and Waterfoot in East Renfrewshire – Brechin, Edzell and the Northern Glens in North Angus Community Workers will bring together groups, activities and services that are used by the whole community, particularly older people and people who may feel isolated or disconnected from their community. In North Angus, we are also working alongside groups and services that support people living with dementia.	
'Museums on Prescription' Canterbury Christ Church University and	Museums on Prescription is the first scheme of its kind in the UK to tackle health inequalities by directly linking up museums and referrers from health, social care and third sector organisations.	

University College London	New programmes of museum-based, creative activities for lonely, older adults aged 65-94 years at risk of social isolation, have been designed to improve the mental and psychological wellbeing and social inclusion of older adults.	
Recovery Devon CIC	They were awarded £7,500 to create 'Happy to Share My Table' cards that people can use in cafés and other public spaces to let others know that they welcome the company of strangers. The project aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness by enabling people to connect and build positive relationships.	
'Good Neighbours' The Voluntary Organisations Development Agency (VODA) in North Tyneside	The Good Neighbours project recruits, trains and supports volunteers to carry out a variety of practical tasks commonly associated with those carried out by a 'good neighbour'. From small household tasks to helping run errands or assistance with shopping, no long-term commitment is needed from volunteers, just the desire to help local people who need it. Good Neighbours volunteers receive training, support and get together regularly to discuss their role and share experiences	
'The Voice That Makes a Difference' Northampton	They were awarded over £115,000 to bring over 1,000 young disabled people together to enjoy films by providing 24 screenings at local cinemas over three years that include British Sign Language, subtitles and audio description. This will make the cinema accessible to all. The funding will also provide workshops in drama, music and technology to support young people with disabilities to build their confidence and skills.	
'Vintage Vibes' Lifecare Edinburgh and The Broomhouse Centre and Enterprises	Started in 2015, Vintage Vibes tackles isolation and loneliness among over 60s (called VIPs) in Edinburgh by creating long lasting one to one friendships offering support, companionship and the opportunity for VIPs to be more socially connected and active in their local community	