

Meetings Feedback form for Borders Community Action Representatives

Strategic meeting:

Community Planning Strategic Board

Date of meeting:

05/09/2024

Attended by:

J Amaral

Relevant agenda items:

- Update on BCA Volunteering Action Plan
- Scottish Borders Community Council Network
- Governance and Operating Framework
- Community Justice Plan 2024-29
- Improvement Service supported Biennial Self-Assessment
- Community Plan Theme Delivery Groups
- Quarterly Partnership Updates:
 - Community Justice Partnership
 - CLD Strategic Partnership
 - Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership

Specific points of interest:

Action tracker: Update on BCA Volunteering Action Plan – Juliana updated the volunteering action plan and the meeting held between BCA and elected members. Elaine T Nichol (Councillor) queried an specific action to meet Selkirkshire Councillors which has not happened. Juliana agreed to take this forward.

Scottish Borders Community Council Network – Clare Malster provided an update regarding the role of the network in the Community Planning Strategic Board, following the review in 2022 the SBCCN participation request to be included in the Community Planning Partnership. Survey has been circulated but unfortunately only 26% responded. The network has not been active for some time and therefore not clear direction on reporting mechanisms in place. Clare suggested that a follow up report is presented once more responses are obtained.

Governance and Operating Framework – Clare updated on progress on the decision of the Strategic Board to move away from the council. Previously, SBC provided administration for the Board. It was agreed at the delivery board meeting to create a short life working group to prepare a draft with options for the administration of the new strategic board.

Improvement Service supported Biennial Self-Assessment – the improvement service presented a self-assessment approach to community councils proposing all community councils to undertake a self-assessment similar to the one undertaken but the strategic board level. This will be used using a check list approach but facilitated independently by an improvement service, looking at good practice happening elsewhere. Draft timeline for this work would involve sessions starting in October, members are to participate in one, the improvement services will undertake analysis of the work with facilitated sessions happening in early 2025. All were supportive of the suggestion for a biannual assessment.

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Community Plan Theme Delivery Groups

Theme one – Poverty: Jenni Craig provided an update on work that has been taking place to understand the range of groups that are already in place and the various aspects of poverty where their focus lies, for example the Child Poverty Action Group. Acknowledging what is already taking place, and in the interests of avoiding duplication, it is proposed that the work to deliver the Theme 1 outcome concentrates on identifying the actions required and who is best placed to deliver them, rather than creating another group. An update on Burnfoot, Langlee and Bannerfield. Concerns around winter poverty in line with energy increase and inflation costs. Conversations are currently happening as part of other meetings on how to use existing resources to tackle poverty.

Theme 2 – Learning, Skills & Economy:

Sam Smith provided an update on the Local Employability Partnership aimed at delivering effective and easily understood employability and skills pathways. This work is divided into 5 strands: barriers, transitions, employer engagement, skills and leadership.

Progress on good work done by BANG supporting and engaging with 21 individuals around employment engagement with neurodivergent young people.

Works + good provision happening in Berwickshire supporting 16-24yo moving into work.

ReTweed work happening in Berwickshire supporting vulnerable women into positive pathways.

Construction sector looking into addressing barriers identified such as CSCS cards.

Driving theory and driving test support

Theme 3 – Health and Wellbeing

Combination between theme 3 and theme 4 next meeting happening 19/09 continued support to the social prescribing work happening in the Borders.

Quarterly Partnership Updates:

- Community Justice Partnership
- CLD Strategic Partnership
- Children & Young People's Planning Partnership

Theme 4 – Place, Community & Connectivity

The first meeting of Theme 4 delivery group met on 18 July 2024 with representatives from SBC (Transport and Communities & Partnerships), Borders College, SoSE, Live Borders and SBHA.

It was noted that there is overlap between all themes and in the case of Theme 4, particularly with Theme 3. With the timing of the meeting being during the summer break for many people, it was acknowledged that a number of people will be on leave. It was recognised that group membership will change as actions are identified and taken forward.

Community Justice Plan 2024-29 - Specific improvement activities are set out in the plan, and more widely the factors that have a positive effect on future behaviour such as, suitable housing, health care, education/training, relationships with friends and family, access to alcohol and drug services financial stability, attitude, employment, and mental health support. There are more than 90 persons from the Scottish Borders in prison at the present time. These individuals will at some point be released back into the community. In addition, there are individuals serving community sentences and subject of other statutory instruments overseen by Justice Social Work.

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Community Learning and Development Partnership - The Partnership plan concludes in September 2024 and an evaluation of the progress and impact that has been made within the plan's six priority areas is underway. An evaluation report will be shared subsequently. The Partnership has opted to produce a one year transitions plan for 2024-25 focused on a small number of key actions the Partnership intends to address (to be published in September). This will build in to a new three year CLD Partnership Plan (2024-2027) for Scottish Borders. HMIE visited Scottish Borders in June to undertake a CLD progress visit and evaluate the effectiveness of the Partnerships approach to self evaluation and planning for improvement. The inspection team highlighted a number of areas of good practice but also identified areas for development. These include:

- Strengthened governance of CLD
- Meaningful engagement of learners and community representatives in the development and delivery of the Plan
- Strengthened data collection, trend analysis, self-evaluation and Joint planning and delivery of accreditation opportunities and celebration of learning
- Opportunities for staff development and training

Children and Young People's Planning Partnership - The Children and Young People's Planning Partnership Board has four Networks which sit underneath it and are Chaired by leaders from different agencies- Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Children 1st.

Each Network- **A Good Childhood, Whole Family Support, Planning and Building Capacity and Supporting the Workforce** - has developed an action plan which progresses specific areas of work that was identified within the Integrated Children's Plan 2023 – 2026. The plans have been discussed, reviewed and signed off by the Board over the last few months.

Actions from this meeting:

Juliana to meet Selkirkshire Councillors to discuss volunteering.

Distribution list for information:

BCA Team + Third Sector Leaders

Signed: J Amaral