

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF HEALTHIER STRATEGIC GROUP
THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 2008
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor L Bell (Chair)	The Moray Council
Councillor J Hamilton	The Moray Council
Councillor B Jarvis	The Moray Council
Councillor A McDonald	The Moray Council
Councillor A McKay	The Moray Council
Councillor J Sharp	The Moray Council
Barbara Bruce	MCHSCP
Elaine Brown	NHS Grampian
Linda Leighton-Beck (Sub for Dr L Wilkie)	NHS Grampian
Andrew Fowlie	NHS Grampian
Mike Perera	NHS Grampian

APOLOGIES

Mrs S Chisholm	The Moray Council
Dr Lesley Wilkie	NHS Grampian
Mr R Carey	NHS Grampian

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors A Wright, G McDonald and D Stewart, Mrs B Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Mr R Anderson, Community Planning Officer, Mr S Riddell, the Director of Community Services, Mrs D Bosworth, Principal Accountant, Mrs T Gervaise, the Acting Public Health Lead, Mr M O'Hare the Principal Trading Standard Officer and Mrs S Kennedy, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor L Bell welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Council's new Healthier Strategic Group.

2. PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed Dr David Cameron, the Chair of Grampian Health Board to the first meeting of the Healthier Strategic Group.

Dr Cameron addressed the meeting and outlined the work going on in the delivery of health services in Moray and Grampian through the Moray Community Health & Social Care Partnership and the commitment required to deliver these services.

He further advised that he was in the process of appointing chairs to the relevant committees and that he would give clear indications to the new chairs that there was a need for a day's work and that they would be suitably remunerated for this.

He stated that he was happy with developments and whether Health was located in Local Authorities or NHS he was of the opinion that health services should be delivered through a partnership arrangement and the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) was a vehicle to create partnership working through Community Planning.

He indicated that he had attended a recent meeting in Moray and felt that although the Voluntary Sector had been alluded to, they should not be forgotten.

He wished Moray all the best for the future.

The Chair on behalf of the Healthier Strategic Group thanked Dr Cameron for his presentation.

3. ROLE AND REMIT OF THE HEALTHIER STRATEGIC GROUP

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Group to agree the role and remit for the Group based on the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and other commitments.

During discussions the Group noted that the role and remit had been previously submitted to a meeting of the Moray Community Health and Social Care Partnership. However it had not been signed off. It was further noted that the arrangements in Moray were different from those in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. In Moray, joint responsibility for health services lies with the lead officers and rather than change the constitution it was agreed that Legal Services would add an addendum to the report to clarify any issues.

Thereafter, the Healthier Strategic Group noted that there was agreement in principal to the role and remit of the Group subject to an addendum being submitted by the Council's Legal Department and that an amended report would be submitted to the next meeting of this group.

4. HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager presenting the Group with the first Strategic Assessment for the Healthier Theme group, which will be used to develop Strategic Priorities for the partner

organisations and will be included in the Single Outcome Agreement (2009-2010).

The Group noted that the Strategic assessment focussed on six main areas, namely Drugs and Alcohol, Healthy and Active Young People, Obesity; Mental Health, Health Inequalities and Shifting the Balance of Care.

During discussion the group expressed concern at the rising numbers of people with alcohol dependence and also the lack of help and support for families living with the daily stress and strain of living with someone with alcohol and drug problems. It was noted however, that some help was available through Moray Council on Addictions and Al-anon and it was felt that there was a need for a change of approach in Moray as the numbers misusing alcohol were rising. The Group also noted that a recent alcohol survey in Grampian had shown that Moray had overtaken Russia in alcohol consumption, leading to an increase in the risk of death and cancers. It was felt that there was a need for this group to become more involved to highlight the problems, possibly through supermarkets and the NHS etc. It was also hoped that government legislation would be enforced and it would become illegal for anyone under 21 to buy alcohol at off license premises as it was felt that more responsible drinking would be done in pubs/clubs.

Further discussions were centred on free school meals for 5 to 7 year olds; inequalities and the elderly and it was felt that there was a need for more evidence based intervention to reach areas of multiple deprivation. It was also noted that the group needs to ensure they are engaging with the community and are smarter at gathering information and delivering outcomes and that more data was required to drive forward the priorities

Thereafter, the Group agreed:

- (i) to note the current Strategic Assessment;
- (ii) agreed that more data was sought to ensure that the Group have a full picture of the priorities required;
- (iii) to note that once the Strategic Assessment is agreed that it would be reported to the group on an annual basis and monitoring reports would be submitted to future meetings of this group; and
- (iv) that the Corporate Policy Unit Manager would bring forward a more detailed report to the next meeting of this group.

5. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Healthier Strategic Group to consider and approve a Partnership Agreement, to guide the operation of the Group.

Following consideration the Healthier Strategic Group agreed to:

- (i) note that similar Partnership Agreements would be created for each of the Strategic Theme Groups and the Community Engagement Theme Group and that each agreement would be circulated to all groups for reference purposes; and
- (ii) approve the Partnership Agreement which will guide the operation of the group.

6. MORAY DRUG & ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM (MDAAT)

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Group to support and oversee the work of the Moray Drug and Alcohol Action Team (MDAAT) under the revised Community Planning Structures.

During discussion, Sandy Riddell, Chair of the Moray Drug and Alcohol Partnership, (MDAAT), advised the Group that he was very supportive of the proposals. He intimated that Moray had been involved in a pilot on substance misuse, which had received positive feedback from the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA), however, he felt that MDAAT should be linked into Community Planning as strategic direction was crucial to delivering the Single Outcome Agreement.

Thereafter, the Group agreed to:

- (i) note that the Healthier Strategic Theme Group is the lead group for drug and alcohol misuse; and
- (ii) oversee the work of the Moray Drug and Alcohol Action Team (MDAAT) and support its continuing efforts to address issues of substance misuse within Moray.

7. LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

There was submitted a joint report by the Acting Trading Standards Manager and the Licensing Standards Officer inviting the Group to support the further development of the role of the Local Licensing Forum under the revised Community Planning Structures.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager and the Principal Trading Standards Officer updated the group and advised that under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, the Act requires that each Council must establish a Local Licensing Forum for there area.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:

- (i) note that the Healthier Strategic Theme Group is the lead for alcohol issues; and

- (ii) support the further development of the role of the Local Licensing Forum under the revised Community Planning Structures.

8. EQUALLY WELL: HEALTH INEQUALITIES TEST SITE

There was submitted a report by the Acting Public Health Lead inviting the Healthier Strategic Group to note the Test Site Proposal.

The Acting Public Health Lead Officer updated the Group on the proposals for the test site. She referred the Group to the Moray profile on page 3 of the report, which outlined the initial mapping and research that is being carried out by the “More Choices More Chances” Strategy Group to identify issues, barriers and gaps within the current service.

In response to a concern expressed about out of date figures being reported, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that “Fairer Scotland Funding” had been received to look into deprivation and she was of the opinion that once the project develops there would be more reliable figures.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager also advised that Research & Information Officers were responsible for producing statistics within the Council and they had received free training from the Government on Community Safety to train analysts. This training was open to other partners and if anyone wished to attend they should contact Bridget Mustard in the first instance.

Thereafter, the Healthier Strategic Group noted and supported the proposal for a test-site and the research being carried out by “More Choices More Chances” Strategy Group as detailed within the report and the need for engagement with other agencies. It was further noted that the Corporate Policy Unit Manager would make huge efforts to update the data.

9. A LOCAL TOBACCO ALLIANCE FOR MORAY

There was submitted a report by NHS Grampian inviting the Healthier Strategic Group to support a Local Tobacco Alliance for Moray.

The Acting Public Health Lead Officer updated the Group on the proposals for a Local Tobacco Alliance in Moray.

During discussions, Councillor Hamilton expressed concern about Scottish Government funding being utilised for the funding of posts and sought clarification on what would happen if the funding stopped. In his opinion he felt that the Group needs to be made aware of any financial implications prior to making any decisions and that it would be beneficial if the corporate template for Community Planning was used for reports.

Dr Cameron advised that ASH Scotland had been successful in securing funding from the Scottish Government and NHS Health Scotland to ensure that the Local Alliance Project continues for another three years. In his opinion, he felt that that if the project was worth doing, the strategy should

continue on the assumption that the funding would stop and, if not, then it was a bonus.

Thereafter, the Healthier Strategic Group agreed to:

- (i) support the national Strategic approach for a Local Tobacco Alliance for Moray subject to more up to date data being provided to theme groups;
- (ii) that future reports be in the corporate style and include any financial implications.