

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF SMARTER STRATEGIC GROUP
THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2008
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor J Hamilton (Chair)	The Moray Council
Councillor L Bell	The Moray Council
Councillor J Divers	The Moray Council
Councillor A McKay	The Moray Council
Councillor M Shand	The Moray Council
Alan Pilkington (Substituting for Sean Coady)	NHS Grampian
Hugh Mackie	Grampian Police
Susan Chalmers	Skills Development Scotland
Anne Lindsay	Moray College

APOLOGIES

Councillor J Divers	The Moray Council
Eric Scarborough	The Moray Council

IN ATTENDANCE

John Carney, Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice, Donald Duncan, Director of Educational Services (substituting for the Head of Educational Support Services), John Ferguson, Community Planning & Development Officer and Mrs S Kennedy, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Hamilton welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Council's new Smarter Strategic Group.

2. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

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

The meeting noted that an updated version of the original Partnership Agreement had been submitted to the Community Planning Board for approval. Similar formal documents had been created for each of the five Strategic Theme Groups and the Community Engagement group to regulate the operation of each group within the revised Community Planning structure. The Partnership Agreement for the Smarter Strategic Group was attached as appendix 1 to the report.

During discussion the Community Development Manager responded to Members' questions in regard to the Single Outcome Agreement; membership of the group; and budgets.

Thereafter, the Smarter Strategic Group agreed to:

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

3. ROLE AND REMIT OF THE SMARTER 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.

The meeting noted the key areas of activity covered by the Smarter Theme Group were early years' development, support for vulnerable young people, educational attainment and achievement and lifelong learning. It was noted that these activities had been previously been covered by the Children & Young People's Partnership with the exception of lifelong learning which came under the Building Stronger Communities. It was also noted that a range of strategies were currently being taken forward which included the Integrated Service Plan for Children and Young People, Lifelong Learning Strategy, Youth Strategy, Youth Justice Strategy and the Parenting Strategy

Under reference to the Community Planning Board meeting, dated 29 May 2008 the meeting further noted that the Smarter Strategic Group was responsible for the delivery of national outcomes 3,4,5 and 8 from the Single Outcome Agreement as detailed in appendix 1 of the report. The role and remit of the group was detailed in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 of the report.

During discussion of this item the Group sought clarification on what was expected from this group and felt that they needed to be absolutely clear on what their role was.

The Community Planning and Development Manager agreed to liaise with the Corporate Policy Unit Manager to clarify and expand the topics and roles of the group to ensure that everyone was clear on what was expected from the group.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed the role and remit for the Smarter Strategic Group subject to more detail and clarification of the role and topics with a report being submitted to the next meeting of this group.

4. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Group to note the Strategic Assessment for the Smarter Theme Group, which will be used to develop Strategic Priorities for the partner organisations and be included in the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010.

Following consideration the Group noted that the Strategic Assessment for the Smarter Theme Group was still at development stage and would be submitted to the next meeting of this group along with a detailed timetable.

5. INTEGRATED SERVICE PLAN (2nd DRAFT)

There was submitted a report by Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice Services inviting the Group to consider the second draft of the Integrated Service Plan for Children and Young People and agree to it going out for consultation.

During discussion of this item the group noted that the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice would liaise with the Director of Educational Services to agree the timescales for circulating the plan.

Susan Chalmers referred the meeting to page 8 of the report in relation to the Moray wide figures for young school leavers going on to a positive destination in education, training and employment and advised that the figures for 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 should be 86%.

Thereafter, the Group agreed that the second draft of the Integrated Service Plan go out for consultation.

6. LITTER DISPOSAL

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services inviting the Group to consider a referral from the Greener Strategic Group about the need for greater education on the safe and efficient disposal of litter across Moray.

During discussion the Group expressed some concerns about which Theme Group had the responsibility for litter and clarification was sought on what the mechanisms were for cross referrals between the Theme Groups.

Thereafter, the Director of Educational Services agreed to liaise with the Community Planning and Development Manager to clarify the position regarding cross referrals between theme groups and that a report would be brought back to the next meeting of this Group to clarify the position.

7. AOCB

The Group noted that the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice had prepared a list of National Outcomes for SOA 3,4,5 and 8 and advised that he would arrange for the list to be circulated with the minute to all members of the group.