

**THE MORAY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTE OF MEETING OF SMARTER STRATEGIC GROUP**  
**THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2009**  
**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

**PRESENT**

Councillor J Hamilton (Chair)	The Moray Council
Councillor L Bell	The Moray Council
Councillor J Divers	The Moray Council
Councillor M Shand	The Moray Council
Superintendent Sharon Milton substituting for Inspector Hugh Mackie	Grampian Police
Anne Lindsay	Moray College

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor A McKay, Ms J Mackie the Acting Head of Community Care, Mr R Donald, the Acting Head of Educational Support Services, Inspector H Mackie, Grampian Police, Mr S Coady, NHS and Mrs S Chalmers, Skills Development Scotland.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs B Mustard, The Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Mr J Ferguson, the Community Planning & Development Manager, Mr G Sinclair the Head of Educational Development Services, (Substituting for the Head of Educational Support Services), Mr J Carney, the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice, Sgt A Moar, Partnership Development Officer, Mr A Jamieson, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Mrs D Skene, Project Officer, Mr D Westmacott, (Apprentice Committee Services Officer) and Mrs S Kennedy as Clerk to the meeting.

**1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED**

The Minute of the meeting of the Smarter Strategic Group dated 4 June 2009 was submitted and approved.

**Matters Arising**

With regard to Item 3, page 2 of the Minute in respect of HMIE Joint Services for Children, Interim Inspection June 2009, Mr J Carney, the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice advised the group that he expected the interim follow-through report to be published on the 1/10/09.

With regard to Item 6, page 3 of the Minute in respect of the Community Planning Website, Mrs Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that owing to the Community Planning Officer being on sick leave the website report had not been completed. She further advised that if there was something to report she would ensure that it was placed on the Agenda.

The Chair advised that it had been previously agreed by this group that the Community Planning Website would be a standing item on the Agenda.

## **2. DOMESTIC ABUSE**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager providing the Group with a progress report on the Domestic Abuse Key Action under Local Outcome 16, (Children protection services in Moray will improve).

Sgt A Moar, the Partnership Development Officer updated the Committee on the current position and outlined the progress to date with regard to Key Actions for Quarters 1 and 2. He further advised that for quarter 3 they would focus on Gay and Transexual issues and for quarter 4 they would be looking at a media campaign to highlight the 'white ribbon' to encourage men to stand up to violence. He also advised the Group that an agreement had been reached with Wiseman Dairies for an awareness message to be placed on milk cartons at the beginning of 2010.

During discussions members' expressed some concern with regard to the annual Domestic Abuse Conference and in light of the current financial climate the consensus of opinion was that if external funding could be secured then the conference could proceed. Concern was also expressed with regard to the future funding of the two support worker posts and if the pilot was successful the group as a partnership would have to discuss funding issues.

Thereafter, the Group agreed to:

- (i) note the progress of the Domestic Abuse Forum in relation to the milestones set down within the Domestic Abuse Key Action; and
- (ii) that in view of the current financial climate the annual Domestic Abuse conference could only proceed if external funding was secured.

## **3. REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL GROUPS**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager following instruction from the Community Planning Board that all Strategic Theme Groups review their operational groups to ensure they reflect the local delivery action plan priorities and have appropriate representation.

The Group agreed to discuss items 3 & 4 together.

Mrs B Mustard, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager updated the group on the current position with regard to the Community Planning Board's request for a

review of theme groups with a consistent approach and when all the information is available the whole suite will go to all theme groups outlining the whole Community Planning Structure.

In response to a concern expressed by Councillor Divers with regard to Youth Councils, Mrs Mustard the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that she was looking to create a separate heading for engagement on the organogram and Youth Councils would be included as part of this. Councillor Divers requested that Mrs Mustard update the Youth Councils on the current position. She further advised that the information contained in the organogram had been collated by the Community Planning Officer and circulated to all theme groups and lead officers were currently reviewing operational groups which will be reported to the Community Planning Board on the 19 November 2009. A good draft and remit of the operational groups would be submitted to the next meeting of this group.

Thereafter, the Group agreed to:

- (i) review membership of the operational groups;
- (ii) list the remit of each operational group; and
- (iii) report back to the Community Planning Board on 19 November 2009 on progress.

#### **4. REVIEW OF ASSOCIATED GROUPS**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice Services advising the Group of actions taken to date to review the remit, composition and relevance of groups associated with the Smarter Theme and how these relate to Local Action Plans arising from the implementation of the Single Outcome Agreement.

This item was discussed alongside item 3 above.

Thereafter, the Group agreed:

- (i) to note the progress made in reviewing the associated groups;
- (ii) the next steps to be undertaken by the Smarter Co-ordinating Group;
- (iii) that Mrs Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager would write to the Youth Council to update them on the current position and
- (iv) that the blue writing be changed to black writing to make it easier to read.

#### **5. LOCAL DELIVERY ACTION PLANS**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Group to note the current progress against the development of the Local Delivery Action Plans, the comments for the Community Planning Board and revision which are required.

Mrs B Mustard, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager updated the group on the current position with regard to the Local Delivery Action Plans which had arisen out of the special meetings of each theme group where key actions were identified to assist in the delivery of the local and national outcomes. She further advised that a considerable amount of work had been undertaken by lead officers, staff and research and information officers to develop local delivery action plans which would support the SOA for 2009-10. She advised that monitoring reports for Quarters 1 & 2 will report on milestones and will provide a measurable indication as to whether the action being carried out and the impact against the outcome will provide information for the required public performance report. She also intimated that at the Wealthier and Fairer theme group it had been suggested that the local delivery progress should be discussed at the closure of the official meeting.

Councillor Bell expressed concern about this and stated that that he could not support meetings outwith meetings.

Superintendent S Milton, Grampian Police expressed the view that if the group tried to consider everything there would be risks and expressed the view was that this group should focus their efforts on areas where the greatest risks were. She also advised that this group was on track to meet governance arrangements.

Mrs B Mustard, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that all reports to theme groups should be in a written format.

## **6. GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD (GIRFEC)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice as requested at the meeting of the Group on 4 June 2009.

During discussion Mr J Carney, the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice expressed concern about future funding of the GIRFEC Development Officer post. He advised that a bid for funding had been made to the Fairer Scotland Fund seeking continued funding until 31 March 2011. However the Implementation Group advised that this did not meet the criteria.

Mrs B Mustard, the Corporate Policy Unit Manger advised the group that governance arrangements for the Fairer Scotland Fund were remitted by full Council to the Community Planning Board and theme groups were asked for their comments with the Implementation Group making recommendations to the Community Planning Board who remitted it to the Safer and Stronger Strategic group. Theme groups were asked for their comments on particular bits. The Social inclusion Implementation Group makes recommendation to the Community Planning Board who ultimately approve the funding proposals. She informed the Group that if they felt strongly about the decision of the Implementation Group then they should make a recommendation direct to the Community Planning Board.

Superintendent S Milton, Grampian Police advised that the Group recognised the difficult times that lie ahead for funding and that tough decisions would have to be made. However she was of the view that this group needs to be aware of the risks and if the HMIE inspectors come back the Council would stand to be criticised, and in light of this the Group needs to look at where the greatest risks are. She advised that as a multiagency one aspect of the partnership was to provide resources and it was right and proper that concerns are made to the Community Planning Board.

Thereafter, the Group agreed:

- (i) to note the current GIRFEC workplan;
- (ii) to note the funding for GIRFEC to date; and
- (iii) that the Corporate Policy Unit Manager and the Community Planning and Development Manager would write to the Community Planning Board indicating the theme groups support for continuing the GIRFEC Development Officer post.

## **7. REVIEW OF INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Children, Families & Criminal Justice advising the Group of actions taken to date to review progress on the implementation of the 2009-10 Integrated Children's Services Plan.

During discussion Mr J Carney, the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice Manager updated the group on the current position.

Mrs B Mustard, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised the Committee of a suggestion from the Healthier Strategic Group requesting that they would like to see a one item Agenda and asked for comments from this group.

Following discussion the group expressed the view that this might result in long delays for other important items and there was a need to find a balance.

Mr G Sinclair, the Head of Educational Development Services suggested that an overview with milestones for all activities be provided with more detail being provided where there were exceptions and that the group receive a focus decision for the next group giving them greater flexibility to call in reports. He felt that a 3 part structure would be good and that a decision be made at one meeting for the next on a focussed report.

Thereafter, the Group agreed to:

- (i) note the progress made in reviewing the 2009-10 plan;
- (ii) note the level of detail required from the first and subsequent reviews;
- (iii) the suggestion made by Mr G Sinclair, the Head of Educational Development Services as undernoted to move to a 3-part structure Agenda as undernoted:

- (a) to receive an overview with milestones for all activities;
- (b) to provide reports where needed where exceptions arise;
- (c) to decide at the end of one meeting what is being called for and to receive a focussed report to the next meeting.

## **8. AOCB**

Mr J Carney, the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice referred the group back to the Domestic Abuse Conference and advised that a series of lunchtime meetings had been planned for November 2009 to discuss various issues e.g. early years, Community Services Service Plan, HMIE etc. This would involve around 60-70 professionals and in light of the current financial climate he was of the view that that these should be held in abeyance. He intimated that he would liaise with the local support officer to see if there was a better way of communicating progress. He also expressed concerns about putting too much information on the website.

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The meeting noted that the next meeting of this Group would be held on Thursday 17 December 2009 at 9:30 am.

## **10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

There was submitted and noted an Action Sheet from the Meeting of the Community Planning Board dated 27 August 2009.