

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF SMARTER STRATEGIC GROUP
THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2010
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor J Hamilton(Chair)	The Moray Council
Councillor J Divers	The Moray Council
Councillor M Shand	The Moray Council
Susan Chalmers	Skills Development Scotland
Anne Lindsay	Moray College
Nicolle Cordell	Moray Youth Council

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors L Bell, A McKay, Mr A Keddie, Chief Executive, the Moray Council, Mr S Coady, NHS Grampian, Superintendent S Milton, Grampian Police and Mr P Johnson, Action for Children.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs B Mustard, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Mr J Carney, the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice, Mr J Ferguson, Community Planning & Development Manager, Ms K Delaney, Community Learning & Development, (Team Leader), Youth Work, (in her capacity as support to the Youth Member), Mrs D Skene, Project Officer and Mrs S Kennedy as Clerk to the meeting.

1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 24 JUNE 2010

The Minute of the meeting dated 24 June 2010 was submitted and approved as accurate subject to amending Branch 4, third paragraph to replace 'department' with 'agencies'.

Matters Arising

With reference to paragraph 3(a) Domestic abuse, in particular with regard to the definition of the area referred to as New Elgin (South Central), Councillor Divers advised that this area had been designated as being assigned to the rail track and he was of the view that further work was required to identify this area in more detail. Mr Ferguson agreed to report back on this issue.

2. PRESENTATION ON YOUNG PERSONS ADDICTION

The Group noted the presentation from Mr Robert Bruce, the Young Persons Addiction Counselling Co-ordinator, who outlined the range of work being carried out with young people, agencies, schools and the local authority. He advised that a request had been received from the young people for internet counselling and an application for funding had been applied for. Thereafter, he responded to questions from the Group.

The Chair, on behalf of the Group thanked Mr Bruce for his interesting presentation and looked forward to a further update once the internet counselling service was up and running.

3. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice Service providing the Group with an update against the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) milestones relating to the Smarter theme as at the end of June 2010.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:

- (i) note the performance against milestones, which was due to be completed by June 2010, for which the Smarter Group is responsible;
- (ii) note the progress of each key action and the overall progress made against each local outcome at the end of the first quarter; and
- (iii) identify to the Community Planning Board resource issues which would prevent delivery on any key action.

4. EXCEPTION REPORTS

The Group noted an oral update from Mr J Carney with regard to the milestones falling short of completion in respect of:

- (a) Youth Justice Strategy Group

Mr Carney advised that the Youth Justice Strategy Group had been involved in a communication exercise with 12 Community Councils, which was being progressed alongside public safety. There was a reduction in youth offending and the discussion had been about how this translates into less youth disorder in communities. The feedback to date had been positive. A meeting to review the Youth Justice Strategy with young people was scheduled for 14 October, 2010.

Mr Carney further advised that a meeting of the Practitioner's Forum to discuss youth justice matters had not taken place due to the Forum reprioritising its agenda and an alternative approach was being considered.

(b) Early Years Framework

Mr Carney advised that the data for 09/10 with regard to pre-school baseline figures had not been captured by the end of June. The figures were now available as undernoted:

For 08/09, 98% of children attend Pre-School and 79% attend Anti pre-school.

For 09/10, 95% of children attend Pre-School and 87% attend Anti pre-school.

(c) Development and Implementation of a Moray Lifelong Learning Strategy

Mr Carney advised that the publication of an Employer Engagement Skills report for the engineering sector was now underway and a desk survey would be issued to local employers on 8 November 2010 and progress was currently at 50%.

Mr Carney further advised that the completion of the investigation with regard to the Single Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) implications for Lifelong Learning would be undertaken before the end of quarter 3.

5. MORAY PARENTING PLAN 2010-12

There was submitted a report by the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice Services asking the Group to agree the Moray Parenting Plan 2010-12.

The Group noted that the Moray Parenting Steering Group (MPSG) was a multiagency group consisting of representatives from statutory and voluntary agencies working in support of children and families in Moray and was a subgroup of the Early Years Strategy Group. The MPSG had prepared the Moray Parenting Strategy to guide work with parents, having both Moraywide and Locality Management Group actions. The MPSG will monitor and review the plan with revised improvement objectives expected for 2011-12.

Thereafter, the Group agreed the Moray Parenting Plan 2010-12.

6. MORAY INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2010-12

There was submitted a report by the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice Services asking the Group to agree the Moray Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP), 2010-12.

The Group noted that the Smarter Theme Group had worked with colleagues in Locality Management Groups in preparing the ICSP along with multiagency participation to guide integrated working on both a Moraywide and Locality Management Group base. The Co-ordinating Group will monitor and review the progress of the plan.

Following consideration the Group agreed the Moray Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP) 2010-12.

7. SMARTER STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

There was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager providing the Group with an update on the overall outcome of the full review of the Smarter Strategic Assessment. It was also agreed that Ms A Jermyn, Research & Information Officer, meet with officers who were unable to attend the meeting to gather their views for the assessment outcomes. It was further noted that the 'Young Scot' portal was another avenue which could be used to get young people involved in relevant issues for discussion and the Group agreed that this information be passed to the Citizens Panel. It was also agreed that Ms A Jermyn, RIO meet with officers

8. SCOTTISH SURVEY OF ADULT LITERACIES 2009 (SSAL)

There was submitted and noted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager informing the Group of the findings of the Scottish Survey of Adult Literacies (2009), published August 2010. It was also agreed that Mr Ferguson would liaise with Ms K Delaney and Moray College to bring back a further report on adult and youth literacies for discussion.

9. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

The Group noted that a Statement of Outstanding Business would be submitted to future meetings of this group to keep track of any outstanding items.

In response to concerns previously raised by Ms Cordell, youth representative, Ms Delaney advised that she had met with the youth council who had expressed concern about the format of the meetings. The young people wanted to participate in the meetings, however they wondered if it was possible to get a better understanding of what was being discussed at the meetings. They also found the timings of the meetings to be challenging with some of them missing out on school; they found the presentation of minutes and the language being used difficult to understand.

The Chair, acknowledged the concerns expressed and re-iterated that he wanted the young people to be involved in the Group as equal partners and that he would meet with Ms Cordell prior to the next meeting of this Group and that Mrs Skene would arrange a suitable date for the pre-meeting.

Mrs Mustard suggested that instead of looking at all the items on the Agenda that the young people pin-point items that were relevant to them. Tackle 1 or 2 reports at a time, so that the issues could be narrowed down and input would become more meaningful and pull out any relevant questions to ask at the meeting.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the statement of outstanding business as at 13 October 2010. The Chair advised that this was an excellent practise and should be retained.

10. PRE-PLANNED AGENDAS

The Group discussed items for discussion at the next meeting and agreed that the following milestones relating to the Local Delivery Action Plans would be up for discussion:

Literacies – including youth, adult and Lifelong learning – Mr J Ferguson.
16+ Learning Choices – Out migration of young people from the area – Mr J Ferguson.

11. AOCB

There were no items.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group noted that the next meeting would be confirmed as soon as possible.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There was submitted and noted the Action Sheet from the meeting of the Community Planning Board dated 16 September 2010.

