

Draft minute of the **Health and Social Care Special Interest Group** held at 10.30am on Friday 20 July 2018 in the Board Room, VAO



Present: Gillian Learmonth (Chair), Gary Amos (VAO), Gail Anderson (VAO), June Anderson (RSO), Michael Butler (THAW), Frazer Campbell (Blide Trust), Fiona Dalziel (Orkney Drugs Dog), Linsey Drever (VAO), Lindsay Johnston (VAO), Danielle Moody (Women's Aid), Sarah Murray (RVS), Andy Spence-Jones (Advocacy) Olivia Tait (Crossroads), Sandra Towrie (IJB Carer rep/Sanday Development Trust), Catherine Tulloch (OACAS), Patricia Urquhart (Samaritans), Michelle Ward (Women's Aid), Karen Williams (Vital Talk),

In attendance: Scott Hunter (OIC), Cecily Cromby (minutes)

1 Welcome

Gillian welcomed those present and thanked them for attending

2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Hilary Allen (CAB), Mona Budge (Arthritis Research UK), Erika Copland (HomeStart), Sandra Deans (IJB unpaid carer rep), Caron Jenkins (Arthritis Research UK), Michael Mahoney (Orkney Diabetes Group), Gillian Skuse (Age Concern Scotland)

3 Notes of previous meeting held on 18 May 2018

The notes were approved.

4 Matters Arising

Item 5: Gary noted that the three sub groups of the IJB – Generic Worker, Locality Hubs and Isles Model of Care – would continue as individual groups but work together. He advised that he would act as the third sector representative on a new Data Sharing group which would look at the sharing of information and statistics to inform decision making.

Members discussed continued frustration with the timescale of circulation of IJB agenda, minutes and papers and noted that there was not sufficient time for the third sector to formulate a response to give at meetings. The importance of a third sector response to agenda items and papers was discussed. Scott Hunter advised that the papers were required to go through OIC's legal and HR departments prior to circulation and that the cycle for each meeting was about two months. It was noted that as meetings were held quarterly, a two month cycle should allow papers to be circulated at least two weeks prior to meetings.

Item 11: Gary advised that the online platform was ready to be launched and that members would receive an email shortly.

Item 11: Cecily advised that there had been a limited response to the question of moving the meeting time from 10.30 to 11.00. Members agreed to continue with a 10.30 start and review in the future.

5 Integrated Joint Board (IJB): Third Sector Budget 2019-20 (Scott Hunter, Head of Children and Families, Criminal Justice and Chief Social Worker, OIC)

Gail welcomed Scott to the meeting and noted that he had been invited following requests from members to be informed about the rationale behind OIC's budget and the plans for the next year. Gail suggested that the current financial situation posed great challenges, but also opportunities and she hoped that this meeting would be the start of a longer dialogue between the third sector and OIC.

Scott advised that having worked as a manager at Barnardo's he understood and appreciated what third sector colleagues could bring to the table. He noted the importance of action and transparency rather than rhetoric and advised that his main responsibility as Head of Children and Families, Criminal Justice and Chief Social Worker was to ensure that people remained safe despite the cut-backs to services. He highlighted his commitment to partnership working and hoped that this meeting would be the start of a continued discussion.

Scott noted the importance of the third sector and wider community understanding the rationale behind financial decisions and discussed some of the demands and challenges currently faced. He noted the continually changing legislative agenda and the need to embrace the changes; changing demographics, including an aging population and approaching spike in adolescent population (an age group with specific needs particularly in terms of mental health); and staffing challenges associated with a small population.

Scott noted that the Care Inspectorate was now involved in discussions and that he hoped this would ease some of the issues regarding registration requirements. Members discussed the need for a joined-up approach to staffing given the small pool of workers available, noting that barriers such as data sharing, registration and other bureaucracy should be looked at.

Members discussed the importance of Service Level Agreements (SLA) from OIC and noted that despite receiving the funding they did not always receive the actual SLA. There was therefore no clarity as to what services they were being asked to offer. Members noted that OIC needed to have an understanding of what third sector services actually offered. Members advised that some SLAs stated that a certain amount of care be provided, but did not provide enough funds to do so. It was up to individual services to find funds to cover the gap. Members discussed the possibility of Orkney Health and Care (OHAC) assisting to source additional funding. Andy noted that OHAC had been involved in Advocacy Orkney securing funding for a new Self Directed Care support service for carers.

Members discussed the potential use of OIC reserves. Scott advised that £5-6 million of reserves were used annually. The importance of preventive strategies was discussed and it was noted that £1 million investment in the third sector would have a profound effect on future need and expenditure. Scott agreed that relatively small amounts of money would make a large difference, but advised that it was up to elected members to decide the budget.

Members discussed the commissioning of services. June noted that RSO would welcome commissioning as the service had grown significantly but OIC funding had not. Gail noted that it was essential for the third sector to be seen as an equal partner with OIC and be involved in the planning, not just delivery, of services.

Members discussed the importance of close relationships between organisations who share clients and an understanding and appreciation of what different services do. The importance of face-to-face meetings and informal practitioner groups were noted. Lindsay advised that she had established a very useful practitioners group for colleagues working with young people.

Overall OIC funds were discussed. Scott advised that if spending continued in its current form, by 2021/22 all local authority money would be used on education, health and social care. He noted that three projections had been calculated by OIC – worst case, likely and optimistic. The 'likely' scenario encompassed 3% recurrent savings until 2022 which equalled a further £12 million loss, not including operational overheads which would likely rise in real terms. This loss would be compounded by similar losses in NHS Orkney. Scott noted that this was the likely scenario unless there was a political shift from members in how they would support vulnerable citizens.

Members discussed the fact that citizens had taken charge of some jobs that the council had not completed, for example grass cutting. Frazer noted that young people were looking to form their own group regarding suicide prevention. While such actions were positive, there were health and safety issues. Scott discussed building on participatory budgeting and dialogue with Community Councils and Development Trusts. Andy noted that commissioning would enable dialogue and the third sector provided value for money.

Members discussed that anyone may find themselves in need of support services and that people could find themselves in a vulnerable position very quickly. It was noted that spikes in service need were no longer seasonal and high levels were continuous. Members discussed the importance of hearing from vulnerable young people at events such as the Growing up in Orkney conference. Gillian advised that vulnerable people were feeding into conversations but that this needed to be recognised and acknowledged more widely.

Scott advised that the IJB had recently started work on their new strategic commissioning plan for the next 3 years. He noted that the first plan was too detailed and difficult to evidence outcomes, and that he hoped the new plan would be more strategic with room for adjustment and change. He advised that the draft would be ready by September and that a three month consultation period would follow. He urged members to feed into the consultation and requested the help of the third sector to engage the public to respond.

In response to a question, Scott advised that he hoped that the commissioning process for 2019-20 would start this year. Members noted the importance of knowing funding levels when applying for external funding. Members noted that there was some fear of commissioning given the uncertainty and impact on other services delivered by an organisation if funding was not received. Scott advised that OIC looked at unintended consequences of funding decisions and that such issues would be taken into account. He said that OHAC would like to start commissioning for children's services next year. Members noted

that looking at children's services in isolation may fracture an organisation's services as support for children is often offered via parents – ie Advocacy Orkney supporting parents at Children's Hearings.

Scott advised that OIC wanted to keep local services provided by local organisations. He noted that there would be scope for flexibility in the commissioning process and that OHAC would look at quality and delivery of outcomes as well as cost. It was noted that there was an opportunity in the commissioning process to evidence added value and that qualitative analysis was needed in addition to quantitative.

Members thanked Scott for attending the meeting. Scott advised that he would be happy to attend future meetings to continue the dialogue.

Following Scott's departure, members noted that the discussion had been useful. They noted that it was good to have direct dialogue with OHAC rather than going through the TSI and that as all organisations had different contracts and relationships with OHAC, all needed to have the opportunity to feed in to discussions. Members discussed different models that could be used for funding decisions and noted that work relating to prevention would probably fall into the lower tiers. It was noted that preventive work was very difficult to evidence. Members suggested that the sector collect information on clients who had reported suicidal thoughts as a way to evidence preventive practice. Such data collection and sharing would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting along with practitioner groups and commissioning.

6 Attached for information

i. GDPR Briefing Note, Orkney Health and Care

Members advised that they were working through the GDPR process and they knew what was required. Members agreed to take GDPR off the agenda.

ii. PDA Dementia, Orkney College

For information

7 AOCB

VAO move – Gail advised that OIC had approved the plans for the VAO and tenant move to Garden House and had committed funds to the redevelopment of the building. She reported that all Anchor House tenants with the exception of For Arts Sake would move to the new premises and that the Food Bank would also be based there.

Andy raised the issue of the number of empty OIC buildings and the need to make them more accessible for use.

Mental Health Improvement of Services event 31 July – Frazer reported that the event would be held from 9.00 – 4.00 at the Pickaquoy Centre and that people could pop in throughout the day if they were unable to attend the full event. The event would look at and prioritise the recommendations and there would be a workshop to look at an action plan. Members

discussed the fact that organisations were sometimes asked by OIC/NHS to deliver certain services to clients that did not fit with the objectives of funders.

Meet the Buyer 2 – Gail reported that the recent Meet the Buyer event was a positive session. The slides from the event had been circulated and the notes would be circulated once available.

Universal Credit – Andy reported that Universal Credit would be live in Orkney in September and advised that the third sector was likely to see fallout from the process. Members discussed training and noted that the Job Centre would be holding community events.

8 Date of next meetings

Friday 14 September 2018 - 10.30, VAO Board Room, Kirkwall

Friday 16 November 2018 - 10.30, VAO Board Room, Kirkwall