

Draft minute of the **Health and Social Care Special Interest Group** held at 10.30am on Friday 17 Jul 2020 on Zoom



Present: Gail Anderson (Voluntary Action Orkney / representative IJB), Rosalind Aitken (Voluntary Action Orkney), Tamsin Bailey (Relationships Scotland Orkney), Frazer Campbell (Orkney Blide Trust), Fraser Devine (Care and Repair), Alison Guthrie (Voluntary Action Orkney – Adult Befriending), Karen Mack (Voluntary Action Orkney – Connect Project), Cameron McConnachie (YPeople), Alison Meason (Wellbeing Coordinator, Shapinsay)

In attendance: Cecily Cromby (minutes)

Mathew Thomas (Orkney Alcohol and Drugs Partnership)

1 **Welcome and Apologies**

Gail welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

Apologies had been received from Phyllis Braby (Orkney Heart Support Group), Ann Clark (YPeople), Erika Copland (Home-Start Orkney), Sandra Towrie (IJB Carer representative/ Sanday Development Trust),

2 **Notes of previous meeting held on 15 May 2020**

The notes were approved:

3 **Matters arising not on the agenda**

Item 3: Social Security Scotland presentation (Denis Harvey, Social Security Scotland)

Cecily advised that the presentation had not yet been received from Denis.

Item 8: Public Protection Committee: Gail noted that the planned meetings had not taken place but a development session had been held. Gail will provide more information when available.

4 **Orkney Islands Council / Orkney Partnership Recovery and Renew Strategy**

a. Establishment of a Third Sector Recovery and Renew Sub Group (verbal update)

Gail advised that Orkney Islands Council had established three groups as part of a recovery and renew strategy. The groups focus on the economy, people and communities and had similar objectives to the established Orkney Partnership groups of Vibrant Economy, Living Well and Strong Community. It had been proposed that the groups be aligned and co-chairs established.

Gail advised that she had set up a Third Sector Forum Recovery and Renew Sub Group to enable the third sector to feed into the groups above. The Sub Group had

their first meeting this week and there was a positive attendance from a spread of third sector services. Gail asked members to let her know if they would like to be involved in the group.

5 Nominations for a third sector representative to serve on the Orkney Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (OADP)

Gail advised that Renate Andrews had stepped down from her role on the OADP. Members were asked for nominations for the role. Tamsin Bailey expressed an interest and was nominated by the group.

Gail advised that June Anderson had stepped down from her role as third sector representative on the Strategic Commissioning Board of the IJB. Gail noted that she would email members of the Health and Social Care Group for nominations.

Action: Gail

6 Establishment of a Substance Misuse Service User Forum – discussion led by Mathew Thomas, OADP (paper attached)

Mathew thanked members for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. Mathew advised that the OADP hoped to establish a Substance Misuse Service User Forum to enable the voice of service users to be heard in the provision and planning of services in Orkney. He explained that the voice of service users was already embedded in services such as mental health, social care, and disability but that the substance misuse sector fell behind, both in Orkney and elsewhere in Scotland. He noted that island communities including Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles fell behind mainland areas in Scotland in involving service users in substance misuse service delivery, highlighting issues regarding small communities.

Mathew discussed the benefits of establishing a service user forum, noting that the OADP would like to include all people affected by substance misuse in this, including friends and family as well as service users themselves. The involvement of service users would enable a change from services being seen to do things *to* people rather than *with* people. The forum could improve relationships between services and services users, help organisations improve their service and better meet the needs of users, and help identify training needs. Mathew noted that a forum would allow service users to feel valued by having a stake and a say in the provision of services and help their personal development.

Mathew discussed the challenges of establishing a forum in a small community, highlighting the stigma attached to drug and alcohol use in the local community and local media. Mathew asked members to give their views on the development of the forum and identify possible challenges.

Tamsin suggested that existing trusted relationships could be used to encourage service users to engage, ie support workers or counsellors. She noted the importance of clarity when discussing the role with services users – being clear about what they would be asked to do – and the careful use of language with ‘forum’ possibly not being the most appropriate term. She suggested that support workers/counsellors could start discussions with service users and that an online survey could be useful. There may be a need for a blended approach to engage service users. Mathew noted that the

process should be handled carefully and be low key. He agreed that it would be useful for services to have initial conversations with service users.

Cameron noted that it may be difficult to encourage people to join online meetings and that they could speak through their service. Karen suggested that with the shift of many services to online platforms, an online forum could be seen as a new way of working and that people may be more willing to join the forum once they had experience of other online groups, ie VAO Connect Project.

Karen noted the importance of getting friends and family involved in the forum. This would enable the experience of all those affected by substance misuse to feed into discussions and also provide some anonymity in the group as not all members would be service users.

Mathew advised that he was working closely with Ros and Malcolm at VAO and encouraged members to contact him if they had further ideas.

7 AOB / Member updates

VAO – Ros noted that a new project manager for the Enhancing Wellbeing Group had been appointed. Harry Johnson would start on Monday 20 July.

Care and Repair – Fraser advised that work was starting to pick up as lockdown restrictions eased, notably work around hospital discharge.

Shapinsay Wellbeing Coordinator – Alison advised that the free grocery bags and ready meals service on Shapinsay would end next week, though some households would continue to receive the service. A project to provide free face coverings to Shapinsay residents was going well and Shapinsay Development Trust had secured funding to provide a bottle of hand sanitiser (produced by the Deerness Distillery) to each household on the island.

VAO Connect Project – Karen noted that the young people referred to the Connect Project during lockdown presented with different issues to usual cohorts. New referrals included more young people dealing with mental health and anxiety issues.

YPeople – Cameron advised that YPeople had started to resume face to face sessions for some service users. Service users were given the option to continue with online support or attend face to face appointments.

Relationships Scotland Orkney – Tamsin advised that RSO continued to offer online services to clients and that there had been a recent increase in referrals. She advised that the Child Contact Centre would resume managed handovers this weekend and that RSO was waiting for Scottish Government guidance regarding other Child Contact Centre services.

VAO – Gail advised that she would send members three questions posed by Kirsten Adamson at Orkney Islands Council. She encouraged members to answer the questions which would inform the Caring for People Group. She highlighted the importance of the third sector feeding into the discussions on what needs to change in Orkney.

7 Date of next meeting

Friday 18 September 2020