



Present: Rosalind Aitken (Voluntary Action Orkney), Gail Anderson (Voluntary Action Orkney / representative IJB), Tamsin Bailey (Relationships Scotland Orkney), Ann Clark (YPEople), Rebecca Crawford (VAO – Community Engagement Worker), Alison Guthrie (Voluntary Action Orkney – Adult Befriending), Katy Kitchingham (Trussell Trust Highlands and Islands), Robert Leslie (Tackling Affordable Household Warmth), Alison Meason (Shapinsay Community Wellbeing Co-Ordinator), Magda MacDonald (Sanday Community Wellbeing Co-Ordinator), Vicky McMillan (Scottish Autism Orkney), Gillian Skuse (Age Scotland Orkney), Michelle Ward (Women’s Aid Orkney)

In attendance: Cecily Cromby (minutes)

1 Welcome and Apologies

Rosalind welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Hillary Allen (Citizens Advice Bureau), Phyllis Braby (Orkney Heart Support Group), Mona Budge (Versus Arthritis), Erika Copland (Home-Start Orkney), Pat Shields (Access Panel Orkney and Orkney Infonet), Sandra Towrie (IJB Carer representative/ Sanday Development Trust)

3 Notes of previous meeting held on 17 July 2020

The notes were approved.

4 Matters arising not on the agenda

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

Cecily advised that she had emailed Denis to request the presentation but had not received a response.

Item 5: Nominations for a third sector representative to serve on the Orkney Alcohol and Drugs Partnership: Gail noted that no nominations had been received for the third sector children and families representative on the Strategic Commissioning Board of the IJB. She asked members to contact her if interested.

5 Smoking cessation (presentation by Public Health)

To be rearranged.

6 ACE’s Collective (verbal report E Copland)

Not given.

7 Renew and Recovery Groups update

7.1 Third Sector Group: Draft action plan (attached)

Rosalind asked members for comment on the action plan. Katy asked the best way of providing information. Gail advised that she would send her the link to the Health and Social Care survey.

Action: Gail

Gail requested that members contact her if they thought anything had been missed in the document. The information would then be fed into the joint renew and recovery groups.

7.2 Joint Renew Groups – verbal update (Gail Anderson)

Gail noted that there was little to report as the groups had been concerned with establishing themselves and aligning with existing groups.

The Communities Group had begun the process of establishing its purpose and remit and gathering information from partners and communities.

The Economic renew group had aligned with the established Orkney Partnership Vibrant Economy group. Gail noted the importance of highlighting the economic value of the third sector, in terms of money brought in by third sector organisations and the support provided to other services.

Rebecca advised that part of her role was to speak with members of the community who would not normally engage in consultations and help inform the renewal process.

Gail highlighted the importance of groups feeding into the process to ensure that plans were based on actual need.

Gillian advised that she sat on the Economy group and noted that the group planned to invite Gail to sit on a new Think Tank to look at the value of the third sector in the Orkney economy.

8 Distress Brief Intervention (paper attached)

The paper had been circulated by Frazer Campbell at Orkney Blide Trust. Members were invited to attend a meeting on 30 September and to contact Frazer for more information.

Gail noted that Distress Brief Interventions had been established in other areas to great success. She highlighted the importance of commissioning third sector organisations to provide services rather than expecting them to take on extra work with no additional funding.

Gail advised that Police Scotland had expressed interest and Tamsin noted that some of the services provided by Relationships Scotland Orkney would fit with the proposal.

9 **Draft Paper: Community morbidity in Orkney: The impact of COVID-19 on longer term health and well-being – Public Health (attached)**

Rosalind, on behalf of Sandra Towrie, highlighted the impact that lockdown had on the mental and physical health of older people and the importance of finding a way for them to socialise.

Robert noted that a small section of the paper covered fuel poverty and mentioned referring people to Home Energy Scotland (HES) and Warmworks. He advised that it would have been useful to mention THAW in the document as they have the ability to refer clients to HES and Warmworks as well as offer other support. Robert noted that between January and July 2020 THAW had issued 330 emergency electricity vouchers (totalling £13,985) and distributed 102 cosy home pack to vulnerable clients.

Gail advised that the paper was intended as an internal document for Orkney Health and Care. The lack of discussion of the third sector in the paper had been picked up at the Third Sector Renew and Recovery Group and would be passed to the report's authors. Members agreed that a greater awareness of the activities of the third sector was essential if the report was to be of real use. Gail advised that VAO would arrange a meeting with Hannah Casey at NHS Public Health to discuss the issues and report back to the group.

Action: Gail/Rosalind

10 **Partner updates**

VAO – Rosalind advised that the new VAO website would go live today. She asked members to contact her with feedback about the new site.

Sanday Community Wellbeing Co-Ordinator – Magda advised that work was being carried out to engage with the older generation and that a virtual Sanday Blether would be held next week. She noted that the Community Led Support team would attend the meeting. Connectivity was an issue for many residents and Magda advised that the Sanday Development Officer was involved in work to improve connectivity on the island.

Relationships Scotland Orkney – Tamsin advised that RSO continued to operate primarily by telephone and online with face to face meetings held only when absolutely necessary. She noted that most clients had switched to online work and that the service had seen an increase in demand in recent months. She advised that the Child Contact Centre recently resumed operation after clearance from Scottish Government. Tamsin advised that she was currently in post 2.5 days/week until the end of the year when hours would increase. She encouraged members to contact her with any questions about the service.

THAW – Robert advised that he started as Service Manager on 1 September and that three other members of staff started in August. He advised that most services were provided by telephone/online, but clients could be seen face to face if needed. He noted that an increase in demand was expected over winter and that THAW was looking at options for future funding.

VAO Adult Befriending Service – Alison advised that the service continued to offer telephone befriending alongside some home and doorstep visits. She noted that the service was still looking to recruit more volunteers.

Women's Aid Orkney – Michelle advised that staff continued to work predominantly from home and that they hoped to go back to the office on a rota basis at the end of the month. She noted that some clients were engaging in socially distanced outdoor meetings and walks. The office and client accommodation were in the process of being redecorated. WAO currently support 71 women and 26 children and young people and had experienced an increase in referrals during August. Michelle advised that the service had a new postal address that she requested be circulated to members.

Action: Cecily

Shapinsay Community Wellbeing Co-Ordinator – Alison advised that work was being conducted on the future of the project for the next 2-3 years. She noted that people were struggling with mental health and isolation and the community was looking at ways to deal with this over the winter. Future plans include development of a Men's Shed, a pop-up charity shop and support for teenagers. She noted that a lot of one-to-one work was being conducted.

Scottish Autism Orkney – Vicky advised that the service currently supported 10 individuals with autism. She noted that there was a shortage of services available to clients due to Covid. The organisation had experienced a high turnover of staff and Vicky noted that recruitment was difficult.

Trussell Trust (Highlands and Islands) – Katy advised that her role was to provide operational support to foodbanks across the Highlands and Islands, part of which was to make connections with services that worked alongside foodbanks. She noted that the switch to online meetings had made this easier. She advised that the Trussell Trust were launching a strategic framework for the development of the organisation and that both local and national needs, resources and issues would feed into this.

Magda noted that Sanday planned to open a Community Pantry and asked Katy if this was something that the Trussell Trust could support. Katy discussed the differences between food banks and food pantry/larders and noted that she would be happy to discuss further. The pantry model could help reduce the stigma associated with using a foodbank but could prove difficult when seeking funding as it harder to determine that those most in need are being helped. Katy noted the importance of acknowledging that foodbanks/larders are sticking plasters.

Robert advised that THAW would like to be informed of new foodbank/pantry initiatives as electricity vouchers were often needed to enable clients to cook the food provided.

YPeople – Ann advised that YPeople had experienced an increase in demand for supported accommodation and their counselling service. They have recently introduced a new service, YChange, for people over 16 who have experienced difficulties with drugs, alcohol and associated behaviours like offending. Ann noted that it had been difficult to launch a new service during lockdown and that she would arrange meetings with local agencies to inform them of the service.

VAO – Rebecca advised that she was recently in post as Community Engagement Worker at VAO and that her role involved focussing on members of the community who would not normally engage and be heard. She noted that she would contact local organisations to discuss further.

VAO – Gail advised that VAO were recruiting a Tech Peer Mentor to deliver a multi-agency Technology Peer Mentoring programme.

11 AOCB

Gail thanked members who had completed the health and social care survey and encouraged all members to complete. She highlighted that the survey would help inform the IJB regarding future funding.

Gail requested that those organisations working with children and families provide information for the next Child Poverty Report. She noted that while people in the Orkney community still required support from organisations like the foodbank, it would be incorrect to say that Orkney had a vibrant economy.

Magda asked how groups were preparing for a second wave and potential lockdown. Gail highlighted the importance of collaboration between organisations to align services/resources as effectively as possible. This was being discussed in the third sector renew and recovery group. Rosalind noted the importance of maintaining the links/relationships already made this year.

12 Date of next meeting

13 November 2020