

Minute of the Shetland Community Safety & Resilience Board
Thursday 12th February 2015
Council Chambers

Present: Cllr Allison Duncan (chair)
Cllr Michael Stout
Cllr Jonathan Wills
Cllr Frank Robertson
Chief Inspector Lindsay Tulloch – Police Scotland
Dr Sarah Taylor – Director of Public Health, NHS Shetland
Billy Wilson – Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Local Senior Officer
Ingrid Gall – Emergency Planning & Resilience Officer, SIC
Elaine Skinley – Road Safety Officer, SIC
Vaila Simpson – Community Planning & Development, SIC
Anna Sutherland – Community Planning & Development, SIC
(minutes)

In Attendance: Dave Coupe – Roads Service, SIC
Bob Kerr – Communications Officer, SIC
Myles Murray – Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Station Manager

Apologies: Cllr Alastair Cooper
Mark Boden – Chief Executive, SIC
Ian Ross – Scottish Police Authority
Ralph Roberts – Chief Executive, NHS
Catherine Hughson – Voluntary Action Shetland
Cllr Gary Cleaver
Cllr Steven Coutts
Jan Riise – Governance & Law, SIC

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Duncan opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending, apologies were noted.

2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

Cllr Wills, Lindsey Tulloch and Billy Wilson asked for minor amendments of the minutes on pages 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively. Billy Wilson also asked for his name to be corrected throughout the minute. The minutes of 20th November were then approved on the motion of ?? and seconded by ??. The meeting between Cllr Cooper and Jan Riise to discuss identifying staffing baselines has not taken place yet but will happen once Cllr Cooper is back.

Action Point: *Meeting to take place between Cllr Cooper & Jan Riise*

Work has been ongoing on the route that statutory plans should take to be approved by the SIC and no problems are foreseen with this in the future.

In reply to a question by Cllr Duncan, Ingrid Gall clarified the previous minute regarding the new helicopter landing site and reassured the meeting that there was no delay to the site, merely that once built it would remain unused until the new AHS is built.

As no-one from the Scottish Ambulance Service was in attendance it was agreed to carry forward discussion on the planned removal of the BP SAR jigsaw helicopter air ambulance service to the next meeting.

Action Point: *BP SAR jigsaw helicopter removal to be added to agenda for June meeting*

Billy Wilson provided an update on enabling the private sector or partner agencies to take a space on the fire course at Sumburgh. While there is an arrangement for HIAL to use the facility, the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service currently do not have the capacity to allow other groups to take part. This is scheduled to be reviewed but this will not start before April.

Action Point: *Billy Wilson to provide an update at the June meeting*

A letter to Alistair Carmichael regarding the National Contingency Plan has been drafted and will be sent once it has been approved by Jan Riise and Cllr Cooper.

As no-one from the Scottish Ambulance Service was in attendance there was no update on the plans for the Bressay and Fair Isle community responder teams. Cllr Stout expressed his disappointment that there was no update as this has been ongoing for some time.

Action Point: *Scottish Ambulance Service to provide an update at the June meeting*

Regarding the lack of housing provision for police officers in Shetland, Lindsay Tulloch confirmed that the Scottish Police Authority estates Officer has visited Shetland and has been in discussion with the SIC. Cllr Duncan asked if a hostel might be built and Lindsay Tulloch replied that this was a possibility for the future. Cllr Stout expressed the need to have a joined up solution involving the other emergency services. Dr Taylor confirmed that these issues are being discussed by the accommodation working group and that all the emergency services are represented on that group. Cllr Stout suggested that the accommodation working group could present a report to a future board meeting.

Action Point: *Report on accommodation for emergency workers for future board meeting*

As Ian Ross was not in attendance the report on the Standing Fire Arms Review was held over to the next meeting.

Action Point: *Ian Ross to provide an update at the June meeting*

Regarding the safety advice offered by SFRS to young tenants, Billy Wilson confirmed that there are ad-hoc arrangements in place and they also work with housing providers. The SFRS plan to review their Prevention Plan soon so this will be addressed then.

Regarding inviting the RNLI to a board meeting to discuss the water safety policy they will be drafting this year, Anna Sutherland confirmed that they are happy to attend a board meeting later in the year when they are starting work on their policy.

Action Point: *Invite RNLI to a future board meeting*

In relation to the report on the wider cost of alcohol misuse to the community, Dr Taylor introduced a paper on costings. The paper uses national costings which have been extrapolated to provide a reasonable estimate for Shetland. Cllr Duncan thanked Dr Taylor for the research and noted that the figures were staggering. He asked what can be done to reduce them? Dr Taylor replied that this is the aim of the work that the Shetland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (SADP) are carrying out and suggested that SADP's annual report could be presented to the June meeting to provide the focus for a discussion on the issues.

Cllr Duncan asked how Shetland compared with the other island authorities. Dr Taylor replied that Shetland is broadly similar though in Shetland the underlying figures indicate a mixed picture. Young people's drinking is coming down but Shetland is still high compared to the Scottish average for the number of 15 year olds regularly drinking. Also, while society is better at discussing the culture around alcohol in Shetland, there are still hidden issues such as the role of alcohol in domestic abuse. These issues are still not discussed that much. Cllr Duncan asked a further question on where these 15 year olds are drinking and Dr Taylor replied that we are good at stopping drink being sold to them directly but they are still getting, mostly purchased by older friends.

Cllr Wills described the figures as fascinating and alarming and asked where the statistics were from. Dr Taylor replied that they were from a variety of sources which is why they are presented as a range of figures. Cllr Wills asked if Shetland is thought to be at the lower or higher end of the figures and Dr Taylor replied that Shetland is probably towards the higher end.

Cllr Stout stated that the figures were no surprise, he had delivered a similar presentation in the chamber 12 years ago. He said that he was glad that the numbers of young people binge drinking are down but there is still a problem with older people. He recognised that SADP are doing a lot of good work but he felt that there are still issues with acknowledging the problems in Shetland. He felt it was important that there is a holistic understanding of the issues underneath the figures.

Cllr Robertson stated that there were also issues with the decrease in the price of alcohol and corresponding increase in availability over the past few decades. He felt that the Scottish Government was failing to stand up to the drinks industry by setting a minimum cost for alcohol.

Action Point: SADP annual report to be added to agenda for the June meeting

3. Single Outcome Agreement Update

Vaila Simpson introduced a paper updating the community safety section of the Single Outcome Agreement for 2015/6. She said the paper had received positive feedback from the Community Planning Performance Group in the morning and this was an opportunity for the CS&RB to comment on it. Lindsay Tulloch said that most of the police figures were also in the report he had tabled as item 5 on the agenda and so the meeting moved on to item 5 to discuss the figures.

4. Development Partnership Five Year Plan

This item was moved to the end of the meeting and dealt with under AOCB.

5. Local Policing Plan Update

Lindsay Tulloch introduced the report and went through the statistics. He highlighted the fact that in a recent audit of Police Scotland's crime recording, the local force had achieved a compliance rate of 98%, which is the highest in Scotland. He also highlighted that following the recent reduction in the drink driving limit, four people had been found to be over the new prescribed limit. He suggested that the low figure was due to the publicity campaign around the reduction in the limit.

Cllr Stout stated that it was overall a good report. He commended the police for their weekend checks on licensed premises and their effectiveness as the police having a friendly presence early in the night sticks in people's minds so that they are happier to deal with the police later in the night. Cllrs Wills and Duncan echoed that the friendly nature of the police contributed to the success of the operation.

Cllr Duncan then asked a question about the blind summit on the A970 at Levenwick and the recent accident there. Cllr Duncan was grateful for the decision to close the road the next day, due to the number of drivers slowing down to look, but wondered why no police officers had been present. Lindsay Tulloch stated that he would look into why there had been no police response and report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Duncan then asked a question about whether the CCTV cameras are working. Lindsay Tulloch replied that currently 50% of the cameras are working and the maintenance company are being chased to fix the rest. Cllr Duncan expressed his concern about having so many cameras not working. Lindsay Tulloch agreed that this was not ideal as the cameras are a very important tool for detection of crimes. He stated that there will soon be an independent review of the CCTV cameras in Shetland as the contract will soon be due for renewal.

Cllr Duncan then referred to the national media reports about police stop and search of children and asked what the situation is in Shetland. Lindsay Tulloch replied that consensual stop and search of children has never been used in Shetland, young people would only be stopped by the police if they thought they were in possession of something illegal. There is different legislation to allow the police to do this.

Cllr Duncan then asked for a staffing update for the police locally. Lindsay Tulloch replied that levels are better than they have been for some time. There is currently a vacancy for a sergeant and a constable. There was no interest in the sergeant post when it was advertised so he plans to use it as a development opportunity for a constable.

Cllr Duncan moved on to the drink driving figures and asked if there had been officers in the outer isles during the festive drink driving campaign. Lindsay Tulloch replied that officers had been in Whalsay and Unst and officers would continue to go to the outer isles as part of future campaigns. Cllr Duncan welcomed this but stated that there were still concerns over the increase in people speeding. Lindsay Tulloch replied that the road policing unit were here in January and stopped 83 motorists. There will continue to be a road traffic car operating but education is also an important part of reducing speeding and the police are working with the SIC's Road Safety Officer on this. Cllr Stout praised the campaigns and the value of a proactive police presence, it's starting to change the culture.

Cllr Robertson congratulated the police on their high detection rate and asked about the location for a major incident room. Lindsay Tulloch confirmed that currently this was on the upper floor of the police station.

Cllr Duncan then returned to the blind summit at Levenwick and asked what could be done to alleviate the problems on the road. Dave Coupe replied that this had previously been raised at Environment and Transport committee and it had been decided to conduct a review of the road with proposals going back to the Environment and Transport committee. In the meantime the verge markers will be replaced, a second blind summit sign will be installed and slow markings will be added to the carriageway. These are currently being actioned and should be in place in the next few weeks.

Cllr Stout asked a question on the communications requirements for the police and the fire service, particularly in relation to a major incident, and whether 3g or 4g would benefit this. Lindsay Tulloch replied that this would not be an issue as they used airwaves for communication. Billy Wilson

added that while there had been tentative talk about a successor to airwaves this was at such an early stage that there was no indication what it might be.

Cllr Wills stated that if you looked at common assaults as a per month figure there had been an 83% increase which was worrying. Lindsay Tulloch replied that reporting standards had changed over that period which would account for some of the increase. Also there had been an increase in the reporting of domestic abuse and child protection incidents which led to higher figures. He added that the detection rate for common assaults also remained high. Cllr Stout agreed that a problem with the way the figures were presented meant that they look worse if the police detect more crime. He said it would be better if there was a more sophisticated way of interpreting the figures.

Cllr Wills left the meeting.

6. Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Update

Billy Wilson introduced the report, noting that the cover page should read 3rd quarter. He stated that the figures on unavailability of appliances reflected both the medium term effects of low numbers in some areas and short term effects such as illness and work commitments. Following on from this recruitment is still fluctuating. He highlighted that they had achieved their target for home fire safety visits. He explained that while there had been a statistical spike in deliberate fire setting, Shetland was still a very safe place to live in terms of fire safety.

Cllr Duncan raised his concerns about the Fetlar fire station. The vehicle has been off the run for a long time and needs to be prioritised to get resolved. He asked if the recruitment process could be expedited? Billy Wilson replied that this is a valid concern. It is a retained fire system so delivery of the service is dependent on people coming forward and passing the selection process. In Fetlar one person is now in the recruitment process. He then went on to explain the new recruitment process, which should help understaffed stations like Fetlar. The new process has been streamlined so it should now take 14 weeks. This means that people now got to Lerwick for 1 day rather than having to attend 3-4 times and other parts of the process can now be delivered at Sumburgh airport rather than having to travel south. They will also be running more courses with a minimum of 5 in years 1 and 2 and then probably between 1 and 3 per year after that. Places on courses will be needs based so stations like Fetlar will get as many places as possible. There is also an emphasis on prevention and home fire safety visits are being carried out in Fetlar. The fire engines are the safety net.

Cllr Duncan replied that he hoped the new process would encourage more people to come forward and asked why had it taken so long to be reviewed? Billy Wilson replied that in the past people's applications had been on hold for sometime as the system didn't recognise that you need a certain number of people to be able to run a course. Also, the move to a single Scotland wide fire and rescue service had caused delays as it took time for everyone to come into line with each other.

Cllr Duncan then asked a question about the need for recruits to be able to travel to a station within 7 minutes, had this been looked at? Billy Wilson replied that 7 minutes, driving under normal road conditions, was the optimum response time but when you take people on there has to be an overall improvement to the service. There is currently a national project looking at response times. They are also looking at composite crewing between stations that are close together. It lengthens the response time but it's still shorter than having to wait for an appliance from further away. Options for Shetland have to fit in with conversations taking place nationally but it might be possible for Shetland to become a pilot area.

Cllr Stout stated that marketing for recruits needed to be to the broader community rather than just to potential recruits and to emphasise the changes that have taken place. The role of community councils needs to be taken on board as there could be challenging conversations ahead as communities need to be involved in order to get the level of service they want.

Cllr Duncan asked if the Sumburgh training facility is being used to full capacity. Billy Wilson replied that the answer was yes in that it was meeting the fire and rescue service's needs.

7. Briefing Notes

Vaila Simpson said that most groups were due to meet in the next week or two so there were no updates available yet.

7.1 Road Safety Advisory Panel

Elaine Skinley introduced her report. She stated that work on the clickimin paths has started and this includes a piece of work at the end of the rugby pitch in preparation for the new roundabout, which they are due to start working on in March. In response to a question from Cllr Duncan she confirmed that the work is on schedule. She also highlighted that the issues of parking in Lerwick is now the subject of a police campaign. A school bus stop awareness campaign is planned but needs support from Education and Transport Planning. The speed counters for Muckle Roe are not in place yet but are on the list.

Cllr Stout said that he was aware of a number of comments regarding parking at Bell's Brae school. Elaine Skinley replied that this issue has been ongoing for a number of years, there have been talks about changing the layout but funding to do this failed to materialise. The police are currently patrolling the area. Lindsay Tulloch added that this has been controversial and that he is meeting with Jennifer Wadley from the school and Colin Gair from the roads service.

8. AOCB

Life Project

Dr Taylor introduced a paper on the Life Project. This should help with some of the issues raised today. The project works with families with problems to help them to change their lives. It is currently at the feasibility study stage but if it goes ahead Dr Taylor is happy to take it back to the board for further discussion. Cllr Duncan suggested it should be added to the agenda for the next board meeting.

Action Point: *Life Project to be added to the agenda for the June meeting*

Development Partnership Five Year Plan

Vaila Simpson introduced the initial draft of the Development Partnership's Five Year Plan and advised that any comments could be sent to herself or to Rachel Hunter.

Cllr Stout said that it was an interesting report and he was disappointed that there was not enough time to go through it. Cllr Robertson agreed that it is a substantial report which needs time to be spent on it.

Vaila Simpson replied that this is a very early early draft and there will be more opportunities to comment. She agreed that the board would be kept updated on progress at the next board meeting

Action Point: *Progress update on the Development Partnership Five Year Plan at the next board meeting*

Police Station Opening Hours

Cllr Duncan asked if there had been any change in the opening hours of the police station since the last meeting.

Lindsay Tulloch replied that the station is currently open until 6pm, due to staffing. He is about to recruit 2 support workers to cover reception, bringing the total number of support workers to 3. This will enable the station to remain open from 8am until midnight. In response to a question from Cllr Duncan, Lindsay Tulloch confirmed that this would be the same opening hours as comparable stations.

Cllr Stout asked if the police will keep note of how well the extra hours are used and whether it is a good use of resources. Lindsay Tulloch confirmed that this will be reviewed.