

Minute of the Shetland Community Safety & Resilience Board
Thursday 25th June 2015
Council Chambers

Present: Cllr Alastair Cooper (chair)
Cllr Allison Duncan
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
Myles Murray, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Station Manager
Neville Davis, Coastguard
Steve Turner, Coastguard
Peter Smith, Scottish Ambulance Service
Ingrid Gall – Emergency Planning & Resilience Officer, SIC
Elaine Skinley – Road Safety Officer, SIC
Lizzie Coutts – Community Planning & Development, SIC
Anna Sutherland – Community Planning & Development, SIC
(minutes)

In Attendance: Carol Anderson, Senior Communications Officer, SIC
Denise Morgan, Executive Manager Criminal Justice, SIC
Ray De Souza, NHS Scotland Resilience

Apologies: Cllr Michael Stout
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
Philip Dinsdale, SEPA

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of 12th February were approved on the motion of Cllr Duncan and seconded by Lindsay Tulloch.

The meeting between Cllr Cooper and Jan Riise to discuss identifying staffing baselines has not taken place but will happen before the next meeting.

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

The rest of the Matters Arising were dealt with during the meeting.

3. Community Justice Redesign & Transition

Denise Morgan introduced a report on Community Justice Redesign & Transition, which was presented to the Shetland Partnership Board in June. The lead officer for the redesign will be Lizzie Coutts, supported by Denise Morgan and Vaila Simpson. A working group will be established and will report through the Community Safety & Resilience Board. A shadow community justice board should be in place by April 2016, taking control in 2017.

Cllr Cooper asked how the Northern Community Justice Authority (NCJA) is feeding into the redesign in individual areas as he is keen to keep the association with other areas. Denise Morgan replied that Peter Willox from the NCJA will meet with the Shetland Partnership Board and could meet with the Community Safety & Resilience Board as well. Everyone is keen to keep working together and looking at what is working in other areas and benchmarking across areas. Cllr Cooper stated that there is a lot of work involved in this project.

Denise Morgan left the meeting.

4. CONTEST Counter-Terrorism Strategy Presentation

Jason Beeston was unable to make the meeting and so this item was carried over to the next meeting. Cllrs Cooper and Robertson both highlighted the importance of engaging with this strategy locally as we have facilities which could be attractive targets.

4.a. Ambulance Service

It was decided to take a late tabled report from the Ambulance service at this point. Peter Smith introduced the report and highlighted three issues:

1. There was an increase in demand for the ambulance service last year with no real reason to account for it. It's too early to tell if this is continuing this year.
2. The JIGSAW helicopter has now gone but work has been ongoing to fill the gap. There will be new helicopters starting at the start of July and the new Inverness based helicopter will be able to get here much faster. It has also been possible to use the Coastguard's SAR helicopter.
3. Progress has not been made yet on the 1st responders scheme for Bressay and Fair Isle. They are hoping to progress this within the next few months, with Fair Isle and then Bressay.

Cllr Duncan asked what the position was with stationing an ambulance at Baltasound. Billy Wilson replied that the Fire & Rescue Service have supported this and are awaiting next steps from the ambulance service. Peter Smith was not sure where this was but would find out. Cllr Cooper replied that he was keen to see this happen and not drift along.

Action Point: *Update on ambulance at Baltasound*

Cllr Duncan asked what the timescale was on the visit to Fair Isle regarding the 1st responder scheme. Peter Smith replied that he wasn't sure as it would depend on when his line manager could come up but it should be in the next few months.

Dr Taylor asked if the ambulance response times in the report reflected targets or achievements. She said that rural areas obviously get a worse response time and would the Community Safety & Resilience Board like to see these response times reflected in future reports. Peter Smith stated that he was not sure how possible it would be to split the figures between Lerwick and rural areas.

Cllr Cooper asked if the increase in demand was due to the increase in the transient population. Peter Smith stated that most of the increase was in the urgent rather than the emergency category and the transient population tend to present as emergencies. Urgent cases were more likely to involve a gp deciding that a patient needed to be transferred to hospital. Cllr Cooper then asked to what extent the ageing population was contributing to the increase? Peter Smith replied that it had to be but he was not sure to what extent. Dr Taylor added that there is an increase in need amongst the ageing population and they are more likely to present as urgent rather than an emergency. Lindsay Tulloch asked if there was any evidence that the increase was due to alcohol or drug related incidents? Peter Smith replied that alcohol and drug issues certainly contributes to demand, especially alcohol. Dr Taylor added that alcohol admissions to hospital have decreased over the past two years.

Cllr Cooper asked if the Coastguard was happy with their SAR helicopter being used for the ambulance service. Neville Davis replied that they were happy to help if the situation was life or limb threatening otherwise a normal air ambulance should be utilised. He added that it was worth bearing in mind that the helicopter stationed here is not for exclusive use and can be used anywhere but in practice it tends to be used for the North of Scotland, Orkney and Shetland.

Peter Smith stated that the head of the air ambulance service intends to be in Shetland in August and would be happy to meet with the Community Safety & Resilience Board or its representatives.

Action Point: *Peter Smith to forward on dates of head of air ambulance visit*

5. Performance Against Local Policing Plan

Lindsay Tulloch introduced his performance report, highlighting the following:

1. Less people had been detected for not wearing seatbelts or using their mobile while driving, he was not sure of the reason for this.
2. More than £50,000 worth of controlled substances have been seized.
3. Shetland is above the national targets for detection of sexual crimes, domestic abuse and hate crimes.
4. There has been an increase in common assaults, 50% of these were within or as a result of licensed premises.
5. The number of visits to licensed premises were down but are now back up.

Cllr Duncan asked what could be done about the increase in assaults in licensed premises? Lindsay Tulloch replied that he was increasing the number of visits and also taking the drugs dogs into licensed premises. He felt it was important that the police were seen to be engaging with staff in premises. He said that premises were very busy at the moment and that the police could look at reporting back to the Licensing Board with recommendations such as increasing the number of people on the door and restricting numbers within premises. Cllr Duncan asked if most of the problems were at weekends. Lindsay Tulloch replied that this was correct as there were more transient workers and local using the premises at weekends, though there has also been some increase through the week which has not been the case before.

Dr Taylor asked about the lack of reporting on numbers of stop and searches. Lindsay Tulloch replied that the police would not be reporting on stop and searches whilst the

national review into the practice was underway and training was rolled out. He also noted that voluntary stop and search was not used here, the police always used a legal basis. Dr Taylor asked if the national review would change local practice here but Lindsay Tulloch replied no as it has not been an issue here. Cllr Robertson said that due to the numbers of people moving in and out of the islands it must be challenging to find drugs etc. Lindsay Tulloch replied that it was wasting time to do stop and search if there's no legal basis to do it. They receive intelligence from the mainland and also utilise the drugs dogs.

Cllr Cooper stated that lots of people are concerned about speeding and buses and lorries. Lindsay Tulloch agreed that this is an ongoing issue with the police regularly receiving reports from the public. In response he tries to deploy officers creatively. An unmarked police car has been up in the past and will be up again in the future. This detects people speeding but there are also national campaigns where the emphasis is to try to stop people speeding in the first place. He finished by saying that he's always open to suggestions.

Cllr Duncan stated that he wished to bring up the A970 in the South Mainland and specifically two black spots, at Levenwick and Quarff. He said that he gets many reports about speeding at these places. He thinks that the police are doing a very good job and the unmarked police car and radar have been very successful, especially around schools. But he thinks that there needs to be a fundamental approach and more working with the SIC. He asked if speed cameras should be introduced. Lindsay Tulloch replied that he would welcome anything that would help and that speed cameras are a consideration. He said he would be happy to discuss with the SIC how to take forward a consultation. Cllr Cooper said that he was not convinced that speed cameras work as people just slow down for that bit of road, would average speed cameras be better? Lindsay Tulloch replied that he was not familiar with average speed cameras but if there was a mobile speed camera unit then people wouldn't be able to get used to where they were. Cllr Duncan added that he thought that fines would act as a deterrent.

Cllr Cooper brought up the issue of visiting yachts and the possibility of them carrying drugs. He asked if detection was hampered by a lack of customs locally. Lindsay Tulloch replied that if this was an increasing issue then the police would work with customs but it was difficult to commit resources without having intelligence. Cllr Cooper replied that he was not saying it is a significant issue but people are asking if these yachts are being checked. Lindsay Tulloch replied that the police do not routinely check yachts. Cllr Cooper then asked what the coastguard's position was locally. Neville Davis replied that they are working more closely with the maritime intelligence service as there is a greater desire to know who's sailing around our shores. This may lead to an increase in intelligence. Lindsay Tulloch agreed and said that maybe this can be captured under CONTEST. Cllr Cooper stated that it would be nice to reassure the community about visiting yachts. Ingrid Gall added that yachts coming from abroad have to register with the Border Force. Lindsay Tulloch agreed and added that the police and the Border Force meet regularly.

6. Review of Year 1 of the Local Policing Plan

Lindsay Tulloch introduced his second report. He stated that there was a focus on speeding, wearing seatbelts and using mobiles whilst driving.

Cllr Cooper said that there are concerns about people overtaking cyclists. Lindsay Tulloch replied that there had been publicity on this last year and there would be more this year. It is about raising awareness.

Lindsay Tulloch went on to speak about the supply of drugs and the importance of having the support of the community in reporting things. There are concerns over the increasing abuse of legal highs though more are now covered under the misuse of drugs act. They are also working with the Shetland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.

Cllr Cooper said that he was aware of concerns that phone calls to 101 were not being taken as urgently. Lindsay Tulloch replied that he would need to look at specific instances to see if there are issues and what they are. It is worth noting that in some cases, especially drugs, the public would not see an immediate response as the police need time to build a case. He reassured the Board that everything that comes in through 101 does get reported to the police station locally.

Cllr Duncan asked when the national Legal Highs Committee would report and will they make more legal highs illegal. Lindsay Tulloch replied that this was a continuous process and that they were concerned with making the substances within legal highs illegal, to prevent people going on to create a similar product containing the same substances. Dr Taylor added that it was cleverer to ban the substances so that each mix would be illegal. But she added that we don't know what impact making the substance illegal will have so we don't know how well it will work.

Lindsay Tulloch went on to highlight the work on anti-social behaviour focusing on early intervention towards disorder within residential premises which has led to a reduction in incidents. He also highlighted the familiarisation work police officer have been doing at Sumburgh airport and will be doing the same at the gas plant. Cllr Cooper welcomed this as there is significant oil activity nearby and there could be incidents. He stressed that we need the capacity to deal with incidents and we need to be prepared. It is important to keep exercising to be ready. Lindsay Tulloch said that CONTEST is a counter terrorism initiative that is starting locally. There is a Highlands & Islands CONTEST Board and in Shetland there will be a multi-agency steering group to share expertise from the mainland and co-ordinate prevention of radicalisation initiatives. Dr Taylor welcomed the steering group as NHS Shetland are currently looking at what they need to put in place.

Lindsay Tulloch went on to speak about community engagement and that police officers are attending community council meetings as often as possible. Each school also has an officer allocated to it and the drugs dogs also make school visits. Cllr Cooper said that he welcomed officers attending community council meetings but in his experience they tended to receive a generic report rather than the officer reporting on issues in the particular community council area. Lindsay Tulloch replied that he will take the comments on board. The report is designed to be delivered by an officer, who can provide local context. Cllr Robertson congratulated the police on their community engagement.

7. SPA/Police Scotland Joint Agreement On Police Policy Engagement

A report was tabled on a joint agreement on police policy engagement involving Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. Everyone agreed that they were happy to sign off on the agreement.

Action Point: *SIC to formally sign off on the agreement.*

8. Resilience Update

Ingrid Gall introduced her report. She began by updating the Board on the new helicopter landing site. She said that when the new helipad was created they had been trying to keep the size of the pitches intact but this was no longer an issue as there's going to be a 60/40 pitch. The helicopter can land at the new helipad but, depending which direction it lands in, there is not always room for the ambulance trolley cot to get around. The helipad can be extended to 15m within budget, but it may need to go back to planning. Cllr Cooper replied that it was a pity that it didn't happen initially but we are where we are. Ingrid Gall reassured the Board that the extension would only take about a week to complete.

Ingrid Gall went on to speak about emergency planning exercises. Recently there has been a cruise ship disaster exercise in Edinburgh which highlighted how important it is for agencies to be able to work together. BP has also run an oil spill exercise and hopefully there will be a similar exercise run locally. Cllr Cooper remarked that every incident throws up different issues so it is important for everyone to keep talking to each other. Ingrid Gall continued that Sumburgh airport has recently held an exercise and that Exercise Silver Swan will be happening in Shetland in November, this is part of a national pandemic influenza exercise in Scotland. Cllr Cooper remarked that in such a situation death registration would now be a pinch point due to the removal of the rural registrars. Ingrid Gall replied that this would be an issue for the exercise. She went on to say that in the autumn there would also be an exercise around the Brent pipeline and an exercise at Tingwall airport.

Ingrid Gall then went on to speak about community resilience and issues with interesting community councils in local emergency plans. She said that Scottish & Southern Energy have a fund to help communities to help themselves, such as buying a generator for a local hall, but that to access this the community must produce an emergency plan to detail how the equipment will be used. Despite this being advertised to community councils there have been no applications from Shetland. She plans to work with Community Planning & Development to try to get communities interested.

At this point Neville Davis and Steve Turner left the meeting. Cllr Cooper thanked Neville Davis for his attendance at Community Safety & Resilience Board meetings and wished him a happy retirement.

9. Fire & Rescue Update

Billy Wilson began his update by announcing that Miles Murray has been appointed group manager for Shetland on a permanent basis.

Billy Wilson then introduced his report highlighting the following:

- Ongoing fire station availability issues remain. The new recruitment process is underway. There have been two campaigns in Shetland and a total of 31 people came forward.
- There has been an increase in dwelling fires this year but the 5 year trend is still going downwards.
- Home fire safety visits. There has been an increase in fire deaths across Scotland. Factors include living alone, alcohol and mobility. In almost every fatality the person was known to another agency so data sharing is very important to ensure that vulnerable people are targeted.
- Unwanted fire alarms. The fire service now has to engage with the duty holder and there is an escalation process if the duty holder doesn't take steps to reduce.

- Sumburgh training facility. The fire service is using the facility to full capacity for their own needs and so do not have the capacity to offer it commercially.

Cllr Duncan asked what the impacts would be locally following the recent Audit Scotland report into the Fire & Rescue Service national budget. Billy Wilson replied that the report was looking ahead to the budgetary implications of government savings over the lifetime of the next parliament and was a worst case scenario. Currently they are working to a 1 year flat budget, as there is an election next year but they are working to a scenario of budget reduction over the next few years. This will be in a Scotland context rather than a Shetland context and he reassured the Board that the retained service is already seen as a very cost effective model. Cllr Cooper asked if wage costs were a possibility but Billy Wilson replied that terms and conditions are set nationally and pay rises are a process of negotiation.

Cllr Duncan asked if Fetlar is still off run. Billy Wilson replied that Fetlar still hasn't achieved the safe number of people. There is one person in the recruitment process and if they pass the selection process they will be offered a place on the next training course. Cllr Cooper went on to say that he is concerned about the lack of firefighters in Shetland, especially in Brae, which is an area of high employment. Billy Wilson replied that the fire service has tried very hard but some stations are easier to recruit to than others. They have been to community council meetings and engaged local councillors to get involved. The process is better now but they still need people to come forward. He will look again at Brae to see what the issues are. Also, the Fire & Rescue Service Futures project is starting to look at what the service should look like. There is a balance between things which may improve the service locally and national policy. Cllr Duncan asked how our recruitment compares with Orkney and the Western Isles. Billy Wilson replied that it was similar across the 3 island groups and worse than the Highland mainland. However, Aberdeenshire has similar problems.

Cllr Cooper asked if there would be any increase in whole time numbers locally. Billy Wilson replied that the aspiration is for a Local Liaison Officer and 3 others but it will take time to get there. There are also issues around housing.

Ingrid Gall and Ray De Souza left the meeting.

Briefing Notes

Dr Taylor said that when the report on the audit of child protection services is published it will be taken back to the Community Safety & Resilience Board with an action plan.

Elaine Skinley introduced her report on road safety highlighting the following issues.

- The path around Clickimin will soon be fully reopened and will come in within budget. Sustrans are happy with it.
- There has been a poor uptake in volunteers to help run bikeability and she is now going to try getting parent councils to help with recruitment.
- The Driving Ambition programme will be running again after the summer. Cllr Cooper said that there had been very good feedback from last year and Elaine Skinley invited Board members to attend a session.

Dr Taylor introduced the Shetland Alcohol & Drug Partnership reports. She said that the treatment services redesign has been completed. Currently the biggest priority in terms of

impact is alcohol. Cllr Cooper said that he felt that reducing the driving limit has changed attitudes socially when people are out but he wondered if people were drinking at home more than they used to. Dr Taylor replied that the Drink Better programme works on issues of drinking at home such as the fact that people underestimate how much they are drinking at home. It is also focussed differently for different groups of people as young people drink different things and in different ways than older people. There are also the invisible effects such as domestic violence. Cllr Duncan asked how successful Drink Better was with young people. Dr Taylor replied that surveys show that overall less young people are drinking but there is still a small number who are drinking to excess. However, she felt that we are talking about alcohol now in a way that we weren't even five years ago. Cllr Duncan went on to ask how successful Drink Better is with older people. Dr Taylor replied that admissions to hospital are going down but they are still seeing people in their 50s and 60s with chronic conditions so it will take longer to see the effects of the programme amongst older people.