

Community Planning Newsletter

Issue No 1 April 2000

What is Community Planning?

Community Planning is the name which the Scottish Executive has given to inviting all the agencies in Shetland to plan and work together. The objective is to deliver better services to the community by “joining up” planning and service delivery between all the service providers.

What’s In this Issue?

- What is Community Planning
- Why do we need it?
- What will it achieve for Shetland?
- How will it be achieved in practice?
- Who is involved?
- How does it affect you?
- How does it fit into what we already do?
- How to get more information.

Why do we need Community Planning?

There are many public sector agencies working in Shetland, such as the Council, the Health Board, the Police and Shetland Enterprise. All these agencies provide different services to the people of Shetland. It has been recognised that we do not always work as well together as we might when it comes to planning and delivering services. Community Planning gives these agencies the opportunity to focus on working more closely together.

What will it achieve for Shetland?

It is hoped that all the agencies will sign up to a common vision of what they’d like to see Shetland achieve in, say, 10 years time and then put together a programme of work to achieve that vision. The main drivers are to:

- improve services to the community through closer working arrangements; and
- to find better, more co-ordinated ways of identifying what communities want.

How will this all be achieved in practice?

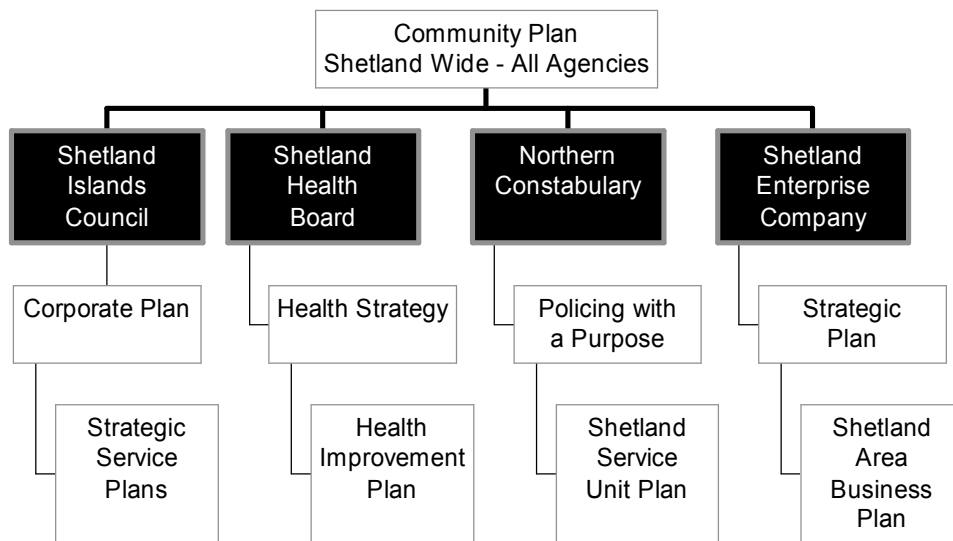
The agencies have agreed some principles. These are to:

- agree a common agenda for Shetland;
- work in partnership, where possible;
- achieve clarity in the decision-making process;
- maximise synergies and avoid duplication, wherever possible;
- share information, expertise and good practice;
- seeking comment and input from each other on strategic documents; and
- ensure community consultation and involvement in the process.

Who is involved?	How does it affect you?
<p>A Community Planning Board has been established with representatives from the following local agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shetland Health Board • Police • Shetland Enterprise • Association of Shetland Community Councils • Shetland Islands Council (who have been given the role of writing the Community Plan) 	<p>There are many examples of successful inter agency working which delivers integrated services to the Shetland community. Examples of these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Justice • Emergency Planning • Childcare Partnership • Housing Joint Strategic Agreements • Community Learning Partnership <p>However, community planning can influence many areas of service delivery. Topics which may be explored for better integrated working are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Care and Continuing Care • Transport • Economic Regeneration • Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development • Community Safety

How Does Community Planning fit into what we already do?

You may well say – not another plan! The Board members are keen that the Community Plan does not duplicate the planning, consultation and joint working which already exists. Instead, the Board wish the Plan to concentrate on the key issues facing Shetland in the next 10 years and how, in practical terms, they will work together to improve service delivery. The diagram below describes the Community Plan as an “umbrella” which builds a framework for each agency to work within.



If you would like any **further information** on Community Planning, please telephone Hazel Sutherland on 01595744528 or e-mail h.sutherland@sic.shetland.co.uk or write to her at the Town Hall, Lerwick.