

February
2004

Community Planning Newsletter

Issue No 4

What is Community Planning?

Community Planning is essentially about public, private and voluntary agencies working more effectively together and, in doing so, setting the communities who use the services firmly into the decision-making processes, by genuinely engaging with them. The aim is to improve the way public services are delivered.

Statutory Duty

Community Planning has recently been given a statutory underpinning, with the passing of the Local Government in Scotland Act, 2003. Statutory guidance on Community Planning in Scotland can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/views/views.asp>



Who is involved?

As Community Planning in Shetland develops more and more agencies, organisations, businesses and communities should become genuinely involved. The Community Planning Board, who are responsible for sponsoring community planning and providing leadership currently Shetland Islands Council, NHS Shetland, the Northern Constabulary, Shetland Enterprise Ltd and the Association of Shetland Community Councils. It is the Council's role to initiate, co-ordinate and facilitate the process.

Community Planning Board Meetings 2004

Monday 19 January	12.00-2.00pm
Monday 8 March	11.30am-1.30pm
Monday 10 May	11.30am-1.30pm
Monday 12 July	11.30am-1.30pm
Monday 13 September	11.30am-1.30pm
Monday 8 November	11.30am-1.30pm

Any items for the agenda/papers should be with Emma Perring within 10 days of each meeting.

New Extranet Site

There is now a Community Planning website for Shetland. At the moment it is set up to provide a method of communicating information about community planning and a mechanism for communication between agencies. During 2004 it will be also be developed to provide information to the public.

Training

A programme for training about community planning has been developed. The first phase is aimed at middle-managers, or equivalent, primarily within Community Planning Board partner organisations. This is to raise awareness about Community Planning and encourage staff to take an active role in the process as a means of improving service delivery.

The course is being run on:

- Thursday 22 January 9.00am-1.00pm
- Wednesday 4 February 1.00pm-5.00pm
- Thursday 12 February 9.00am-1.00pm
- Tuesday 17 February 1.00pm-5.00pm

From April more detailed training on different elements of community planning: partnership working, engaging with communities, involving hard-to-reach groups, for example, will be available.

Datashare Project

This project is looking at ways of reducing the gathering of statistical information. Hopefully partners will find other useful information held by other partners that is of use to them in community planning.

A prototype datasharing application is currently in development to gauge usage and develop interest. The prototype will be a web-based application that allows users to upload files that can then be downloaded by others.

Community Planning Framework Approved

After consultation with all partner agencies and other organisations in Shetland, the Board approved the framework for publication in December. This covers overarching themes, to which all those involved in community planning should consider when involved in developing strategies and policies.

Your Voice

During January and February a panel of 500 residents, representative of the Shetland population, are being recruited to provide this panel, called Your Voice, will be available to use by organisations to seek the views and opinions of Shetland on issues and service delivery. A postal questionnaire will be sent out to 'Your Voice' in early March, covering general issues about services being provided. Results from this should be available by May. The intention is to organise three such questionnaires each year, focusing on different areas. It will be possible to establish specialist forums from this panel.

Along with this, efforts are being made, along with Community Learning and Development, to bring together the huge quantity of information (about community needs, aspirations, priorities) that we find out in the course of our day-to-day work with community organisations. With the work of the Equalities group (see below), the Community Planning Board will be

sponsoring a robust system by which the public sector will be able to actively engage with communities.

Equalities

This cross-agency group is investigating ways of sharing resources to deliver on equalities: both ensuring and promoting equal opportunities. For example:

- The Local Training Forum is establishing equalities and diversity training to be delivered across agencies in Shetland: in time a programme of more specific training is planned.

- Methods to better hear the views of 'minority' groups on the services we provide are being developed.

Local Support Networks

Six Local Support Networks for Children and Young People have been established across Shetland. These bring together people from different services, provided by different agencies, to find solutions to issues involving Children and Young People.

If you would like **further information** on these initiatives or Community Planning in general, please contact:

Tel: 01595 744537

Email: policy@sic.shetland.gov.uk

Address: Policy Unit, Shetland Islands Council, Town Hall, Lerwick, ZE1 0HB.

<http://content.shetland.gov.uk/communityplan>

Username: communityplan

Password: work2gether

If you have feedback on this newsletter or would like something included in future issues, please also contact the Policy Unit using one of the above method.



