

## **Community Planning – a Recap**

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.

Community Planning has recently been given a statutory underpinning, with the passing of the Local Government in Scotland Act, 2003. This duty requires local authorities across Scotland to initiate, maintain and facilitate Community Planning in their area and have responsibility to determine the means of consultation and co-operation. They are also required to invite and encourage all other public bodies in their area, and appropriate community bodies, to participate in Community Planning, tailored to suit the circumstances of each Community Planning partnership.

Community Planning cannot be an additional, or parallel, process to the various partnership structures already in place – it should act as the key over-arching framework for other partnerships and initiatives at the regional, local and neighbourhood level.

Statutory guidance on Community Planning in Scotland can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/views/views.asp>

## **Who is involved?**

Shetland Islands Council, NHS Shetland, the Northern Constabulary, Shetland Enterprise Ltd and the Association of Shetland Community Councils are currently represented on the Community Planning Board. However a wide range of public, private and voluntary organisations are involved in working together to improve service delivery in Shetland. Communities have an essential part to play, and work is ongoing to ensure they are fully involved in decision-making.

## **The First Three Years of Community Planning:**

### **Joint Future**

The Joint Future Initiative is continuing to progress in areas such as supporting people, advocacy and occupational therapy. New carer services have also been set up with funding from the Scottish Executive. The Older People's Strategy is now complete with work to draw up proposals for Care at Home well underway. Social Care staff have joined-up with the Community Mental Health Team, to provide a more efficient social care service to the community. A broad Disability Strategy is being developed with separate needs for learning disabilities, physical disabilities and sensory impairment. Work is on-going to further integrate support functions to deliver the best possible service. (01595) 744300

### **Local Economic Forum**

Through marketing, development of skills, access to transport and communication and diversification of activity the Local Economic Forum hopes to maintain and enhance prosperity in Shetland. Already, progress has been made with the establishment of the Internet Gateway Prototype, the arrival of the new Norrona and the first Shetland farmed cod sold to the US market. (01595) 746803

### **Community Safety Partnership**

The Community Safety Partnership, comprising of Shetland Islands Council, NHS Shetland and Northern Constabulary, was formally established in March 2003. Progress is being made to promote and develop Community Safety initiatives across Shetland. Issues

causing concern, which were highlighted by the Community Safety Audit 2001 and the Northern Constabulary's Consultation Report 2001 have been prioritised and are awaiting review by the Partnership. Once the key issues have been addressed, progress will be made to develop Action Plans to resolve Community Safety worries. The Partnership will monitor and evaluate their progress at regular intervals. [Jenny.wylie@sic.shetland.gov.uk](mailto:Jenny.wylie@sic.shetland.gov.uk) (01595) 744062

## **A Healthy Shetland**

Activity is underway to implement the Joint Health Improvement Plan 2003-04 (A Healthy Shetland). This was developed and is being implemented by a working group of officers from the Council and NHS Shetland to improve health and reduce health inequalities in Shetland. The emphasis is on ensuring that all organisations across Shetland consider and improve their contribution to health. A seminar was held recently for those working in the field of strategic health to increase knowledge of the Plan and establish support needs; a number of initiatives are planned for the future. [policy@sic.shetland.co.uk](mailto:policy@sic.shetland.co.uk) (01595) 744537

## **Community Learning and Development**

A wide range of developments are taking place throughout Shetland to meet the Community Learning and Development national priorities, such as capacity building of staff to consult effectively with communities, adult literacy, youth work, and the regeneration partnership. A recent Community Learning and Development newsletter (April 03) offers more details. Plans for reviewing the Community Learning and Development strategy in light of recent guidance and incorporating Community Guidance are underway, with partners continuing to work together effectively.

[Community.development@sic.shetland.gov.uk](mailto:Community.development@sic.shetland.gov.uk) (01595) 744006

## **Equalities Group**

An Equalities Group has recently been established, with membership covering Police, Procurator Fiscal, NHS Shetland, the Council (Policy, Personnel, Community Learning and Development) and the Voluntary Sector. A framework has been drawn up, from which all future activity around the Equal Opportunity agenda for Shetland will emanate, including the requirements set out in the Race Equality Schemes of statutory organisations. This includes a Statement of Intent to be adhered to by all voluntary and public agencies in Shetland. [policy@sic.shetland.co.uk](mailto:policy@sic.shetland.co.uk) (01595) 744537

## **Supporting Projects**

With initial pump-priming funding from the Scottish Executive, the Community Planning Board recently agreed to the development of the following projects, to support the process of Community Planning across Shetland:

- A robust and effective mechanism with which to engage fully and effectively with communities.
- A mechanism for datasharing to gather and present data in such a way as to support policy making, plan services, evaluate progress and create a better understanding of the complex and interacting factors surrounding issues.
- The development and implementation of a Capacity Building Plan, to build the knowledge and skills of organisations of the benefits, statutory requirement and ways in which organisations can work in partnership more effectively and use the consultation mechanism to engage effectively with communities.
- The development of a new Community Plan.

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

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