

Community Planning – a Recap

There are many public sector agencies working in Shetland, such as the Council, the Health Board, the Police and Shetland Enterprise. Community Planning is the name given to the joint working of these agencies to plan together for the future of Shetland. This approach to working has been encouraged by the Scottish Executive since 1999. The main objective is to establish a joint vision for Shetland, 'join-up' planning and service delivery and, in doing so, provide better and more seamless service delivery to the people of Shetland.

Who is involved?

The process is being led by the Council and currently involves NHS Shetland, the Northern Constabulary, Shetland Enterprise Ltd and the Association of Community Councils.

'Working Together for Shetland'

This is the Community Plan of the Board, which concentrates on the key issues facing Shetland in the next 10 years and a common vision of what they'd like to see Shetland achieve in that time. The main drivers are to:

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

Community Planning is not a duplication of planning, consultation and joint working that already exists. Instead the Board established a **programme of work** to facilitate further joint working, based around the following topics:

- Better integration between health and care
- Better integration between the Council's economic development functions and between the Council and Shetland Enterprise Company
- Promotion of Community Safety
- Promotion of Public Health
- Working in Partnership
- Consulting with Communities

The First Two Years of Community Planning: Joint Futures

The overall objective is to integrate, where necessary, health and care services in Shetland. Service areas currently being 'joined-up' are older people, mental health, occupational therapy, supporting people, learning disabilities and advocacy services within the community care framework. In addition to a more seamless approach for the customer, this initiative is enabling the practical issues surrounding working in partnership to be explored and solutions found – such as joint funding, joint management of services, secondments between agencies, joint posts working for both the Council and NHS Shetland, use of property on a joint basis, the sharing of information, and so on.

Local Economic Forum

During their first year in operation, this multi-agency group undertook a mapping exercise of current services to identify potential overlaps or gaps in provision. During this, their second year, actions include:

- To develop a co-ordinated approach to initial enquiries by business clients;
- To address gaps in the provision of business services, as revealed in the Mapping Exercise;
- To seek to align the information requirements of key providers of business support;
- To review the 10 year forward strategy for economic development in Shetland;
- To strengthen links between the work of the Local Economic Forum and the Community Planning process; and
- To review Shetland's infrastructure for learning.

This work is progressing in parallel to the Council's own review of how it invests funds in local industry.

Community Safety Partnership

This partnership has developed a Draft Community Safety Strategy (with representatives of the Council as lead agency, the Northern Constabulary and the Association of Shetland Community Councils). The Council approved the draft in July 2002, and it will now go on for wider consultation with interested parties.

Joint Health Improvement Plan for Shetland 2002-2003

This action plan, agreed by a number of organisations in Shetland, is wide ranging and covers broad topics and specific initiatives. On a broad scale implementing the plan will cover the development of health impact assessments on service initiatives, capital investment decisions, public health capacity building and developing each of the community planning partner organisations into public health organisations. Specific projects include supporting work on healthy living, infection control, homelessness and learning disabilities. A working group, at officer level, has been established to further progress this initiative.

Inter-agency ICT working group

This group has been established to assist with the debate into the local Information Technology infrastructure requirements and the practical application of the modernising government agenda on areas such as e'procurement, the Shetland web portal, data sharing and so on.

Litter Prevention Plan

This has been developed to deliver a multi-agency approach to tackle litter and litter related issues. A number of the key stakeholder organisations have signed up to the plan and are active in pursuing its aims.

The next year or so ...

The Community Planning Board will continue to focus on the further integration of services in Shetland in such way that they make sense to people and communities, rather than focus on traditional professional or organizational boundaries. One of the ways this will be achieved will be to listen and provide for individual communities needs and aspirations, by a process of assessment and integrated planning. The aim is to increase the capacity of communities through the "Healthy Communities" model.

If you would like any **further information** on Community Planning, please:

Tel: Hazel Sutherland on 01595 744528

Email policy@sic.shetland.co.uk

Policy Unit, Town Hall, Lerwick ZE1 0HB