

The Highland Council

Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee – 28 October 2013

Agenda Item	8
Report No	<b>SRC 04/13</b>

## Community Planning and Partnership Working in Ross, Cromarty & Skye

Report by the Corporate Manager

### Summary

This report summarises the work of key partnerships in Skye and Ross & Cromarty and asks Members to consider their work in light of the current review of community planning arrangements taking place in Highland.

### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Members will be aware, from the Single Outcome Agreement report presented to Highland Council on 27 June 2013, that a review of community planning arrangements in Highland is currently taking place. The review proposes an approach that meets the public service reform agenda; builds on current arrangements; and links to each partner's governance and accountability arrangements. Progress on this will be reported to the Highland Public Services Partnership Performance Board (the Board) later this year.
- 1.2 The Board has proposed a strategic framework that will ensure strength of leadership and accountability, whilst embedding the ability of partners to both challenge and support to ensure best practice and measurable progress.
- 1.3 In line with the strategic framework, further work is being carried out by each strategic lead partner on the Board to map the local community planning arrangements at the operational level. This will include consideration of what is needed to deliver results and also the ability of existing groups to deliver and, if appropriate, be integrated into local community planning arrangements.

### 2.0 Key Local Partnerships

- 2.1 There are no overarching community planning partnerships within the Skye, Ross and Cromarty wards. However, the area has a number of active community groups and partnerships including the Black Isle Partnership and the Wester Ross Alliance who work closely with the Highland Council and help to deliver activities and projects that support various aspects of the Single Outcome Agreement.
- 2.3 A number of other key partnerships exist but operate on varying geographies. The main ones are as follows:

- 2.4 Antisocial Behaviour Groups – these include partners such as the Police, Housing Associations on an as needs basis and work to tackle specific issues of antisocial behaviour in an integrated way. This supports the aim of reducing offending and creating stronger and safer communities.
- 2.5 District Partnerships – operating throughout Highland these groups support outcomes around early years, health and activity, older people and also tackling inequality.
- 2.6 Ward Forums – operating throughout Highland Ward Forums provide an opportunity to address local concerns and service issues. In Skye the Ward Forum has been structured to take account of key issues and also to address topical subjects such as the current healthcare redesign process and community safety. Representation on the Forum from partner agencies includes Police Scotland, the Fire Service, and NHS Highland. The Third Sector is also represented and other agencies and bodies are invited to attend as appropriate to the topic being discussed.
- 2.7 Employability Group – this group includes partners from Highland Council, Job Centre Plus, Highlife Highland (youth work and adult basic education staff), Skills Development Scotland, North Highland College. Initially it focused on helping the Council's Employability Service assess needs, gaps and opportunities to make best use of the available Deprived Area Fund (DAF) in the Cromarty Firth and Tain and Easter Ross Wards. This work continues but the group has also moved to a wider agenda which includes joined up working, sharing services, commissioning services as well as identifying gaps in services and provision.
- 2.8 Skye & Lochalsh Health and Social Care Forum - the purpose of the Group is to work in partnership regarding specific issues that impact on health and social care, to ensure appropriate networking and communication between agencies and third sector groups.
- 2.9 In addition to formal community planning groups the area has a number of very active community groups who work closely with the Highland Council and help to deliver activities and projects that support various aspects of the Single Outcome Agreement. Members and Council officers also meet as required with major partners such as the Cromarty Firth Port Authority and major employers to discuss local issues and priorities – once again this supports Single Outcome Agreement outcomes.
- 3. Community Planning and Future Changes**
- 3.1 Members will see there are a number of partnerships that currently help to deliver the Single Outcome Agreement. However the various partnerships have grown up in response to different needs and cover different geographies. The mapping and review work noted in paragraph 1.3 will help to evaluate current work in terms of its ability to deliver results and to build on current arrangements.

4. **Resource, Legal, Climate Change, Carbon Clever or Equalities Implications**

- 4.1 There are no known resource, legal, climate change, carbon clever or equality implications as a result of this report

**5. Recommendation**

Members are invited to:-

- i. note the contribution of the key partnership groups as outlined in the report; and
- ii. consider the work of the partnerships in light of the current review of community planning arrangements taking place in Highland

Designation Corporate Manager

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