

The Highland Council

9th May 2013

Agenda Item	
Report No	

The Draft SOA for the Highland Community Planning Partnership

Report by the Chief Executive

Summary

This report describes the requirements for producing the new Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) for the Highlands. A working draft of the SOA is provided for members' views. It is to be concluded by the end of June 2013.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee has considered reports on changes expected for community planning arising from the national review.
- 1.2 Guidance issued in December 2012 set out that Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) are to prepare new style Single Outcome Agreements (SOA) in draft for April 2013 and for agreement with the Scottish Government by the end of June 2013. The key points are that SOAs are to:
 1. Show a clear understanding of place, using evidence to explain the needs and opportunities of the area;
 2. Focus on outcomes to be achieved over 1, 3 and 10 year periods;
 3. Aim for transformational performance improvement in six national priority areas of
 - Economic recovery and growth;
 - Employment;
 - Early years;
 - Safer and stronger communities, and reducing offending;
 - Health inequalities and physical activity; and
 - Outcomes for older people.
 4. Promote early intervention and prevention and include a prevention plan;
 5. Demonstrate community engagement;
 6. Show an understanding of the diversity of experience within the communities CPPs serve and to develop a clear and co-ordinated approach to tackling the inequalities that exist.
- 1.3 In addition, CPPs are encouraged to review their governance, accountability and operating arrangements to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- 1.4 The Council's programme 'Working together for the Highlands' contains a commitment that:

'With partners the Council will implement the changes to community planning and develop the Single Outcome Agreement in line with the Scottish

Government review so that community planning is effective in the Highlands.’

2. Developing the new style SOA for Highland

- 2.1 Given the need to focus on the six national priority areas, particular partners agreed to take responsibility to work with others on developing the SOA for each national priority area. This meant the Council leading on employment and early years, NHS Highland leading on health inequalities and outcomes for older people, HIE leading on economic recovery and growth and Northern Constabulary supported by the H&I Fire and Rescue Service leading on the safer communities theme.
- 2.2 Based on the information provided, a first draft of the SOA was produced and submitted to the Scottish Government on 11th April 2013 as a working draft. It should be noted that an additional section on Environmental outcomes was included and drafted in assistance from SNH. Input from the Cairngorm National Park Authority was also included.
- 2.3 The working draft was discussed with partners at a meeting of the CPP Performance Board on 23rd April and further work was agreed to be undertaken to improve the content and to provide outstanding information by mid-May 2013. This is detailed below:
- To draft the Safer and Stronger and Reducing reoffending section of the SOA following a partnership workshop in mid April 2013.
 - To review and complete all of the delivery plans, including showing which partner is responsible for delivery – this will be important for accountability for performance at a later date;
 - To ensure appropriate use is being made of the [menu of local outcome indicators](#) in the SOA either for context or for use as indicators in the delivery plans
 - Quantifying the total public resources for the priority areas (these are available for the sections on early years and older people at this time);
 - Including broader partner resources on prevention.
 - To review whether the descriptions of the community engagement process are comprehensive, including how that might develop over the life of the SOA.
 - Including hyperlinks to relevant plans.
 - Various text up-dates as highlighted in the current draft.
 - A further meeting of lead officers is to take place to check consistency across all outcomes and that the key inequalities identified will be addressed through the delivery plans.
- 2.4 The working draft of the SOA as at 30th April is circulated separately for members to consider. Many of the Council’s commitments in its programme ‘Working together for the Highlands’ are supportive of the SOA.

3. Next steps

- 3.1 The Scottish Government is planning to provide feedback on the draft SOAs between 17th and 21st May 2013. It intends to do this by involving senior staff from across the public sector as peer review. Officers from the Highland partnership are likely to be involved in this peer review, although details are

not available at the time of writing.

- 3.2 As noted in the report to this Council meeting on the national audit of community planning, a review of partnership working arrangements will be undertaken so that the new SOA, once approved by the end of June, will be supported by the right arrangements for its delivery.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to note:

- the requirements of the new style SOAs;
- the work planned to improve and complete the SOA by partners and including the Council by end June 2013;
- that through a process of peer review, feedback on the working draft of the Highland SOA is expected no later than 22nd May 2013, and that officers from Highland are likely to be involved in the peer review of SOAs submitted by other community planning partnerships.

4.2 Members are asked to comment on the working draft SOA circulated separately for this meeting of Council. Comments will be fed back to partners for the final drafting of the SOA.

Author: Carron McDiarmid, Tel. (01463) 702852.

Date: 29th April 2013