

CAITHNESS DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

ACTION NOTE FROM MEETING OF: 30 October 2015 in Town Hall, Wick

PRESENT: Cllr Willie MacKay (WM) – Chair, Cllr Donnie MacKay (DM), Dawn Grant (DG) THC, Angela Echavarren (AE) THC, Mary Burnside (MB) NHS, Steven Gorman (SG) SAS, Mike Flavell (MF) NHS, Keith Moncur (KM) HLH, Niall Smith (NS) – CVG, John West (JW) HLH, Ian Murray (IM) HLH, Ian Donald (ID) HTSI, Alan Grant (AG) HES

APOLOGIES: Cllr Roger Saxon, Cllr David Alston, Pauline Craw, Bob Silverwood, Joanna McDonald, Shirley Park, Pat Ramsay, Dr Bobby Echavarren

IN ATTENDANCE: Gordon Calder NOS Newspapers, Alex Macmanus (AM) THC, Irene Hendrie (Notes) and 8 members of the public.

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION AGREED	LEAD	NAMED OFFICER	TIMESCALE
	Welcome	WM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself as the new chair of the partnership			
	Previous Action Note 26 June '15	The previous note was accepted. DG informed the group that Graham Nichols had returned on a temporary basis to cover for Maurice McIntyre who would be absent for six months			
1	Joint recruitment information package	MF reported that work was underway in producing a joint information package for recruitment. He was keen to encourage input from as many organisations as possible. A DVD had already been produced for Caithness Horizons and one had been done previously for the NHS although it was not entirely what was required. AM to forward a copy of the Caithness Horizons DVD for reference MF to set up a steering group for the development of the information package		AM MF	
2	Medical staffing at Caithness General	MF listed the clinical staff currently in post and informed the group that locums were helping to maintain adequate staffing levels. Junior Doctors were also forming an important part of the team. The future staffing model was still being perused with rotations from Raigmore and rural practitioner posts being developed. Training status was being postponed till Spring/Summer 2016. The main risk at the moment was the cost of employing locums. The overspend forecast for 2015/16 was currently £1.5m much of which was due to locum costs.			

3	Caithness redesign	<p>MF reported that: Phase 1 – the acute assessment unit was complete Phase 2 – creating capacity within surgical services is underway Phase 3 – moving surgical services to the top floor. The model had been discussed and agreed and was going to the Scottish Government for approval.</p> <p>Within the community staff were relocating from Wick High Street to the Medical Centre. This allowed nurses and social works to be housed together. Care Home offices and learning disability would be moving to the Medical Centre in the future. Work was being done on providing a single point of contact for community services with start a date of 1st December 2015.</p>			
4	Adult Services Change and Improvement Plan	<p>In the absence of Joanna MacDonald MF reported that work on the Change and Improvement Plan was ongoing. The NHS took over adult services in 2012. In 2014-15 the emphasis was on developing care at home and integrating it into the health service. Integration continues this year looking at a new model for care in the community and the redesign of care homes. The lack of buildings was a stumbling block for the NHS. Much of their work took place outside the hospital yet there were very few facilities available to accommodate community services. A polyclinic based in Thurso could house GP practices and integrated teams. Resources were currently being directed mostly towards the hospital but there was also a great need for improved facilities for community services. MF asked that the Change and Improvement plan be a permanent agenda item for the partnership.</p> <p>DG stated that Highland Council would soon be starting work on its local plan for the future delivery of services and that local planning within the partnership could involve the NHS, Highland Council and the voluntary sector.</p>		AM	
5	High Life Highland in Caithness	<p>IM delivered a presentation on the various projects HLH were delivering in Caithness: Thurso library refurbishment £1m complete, Thurso swimming pool £2.5m completion in 2016. The organisation was also contributing to Wick High School £6m, National Nuclear Archive £4m. The group was beginning to look at the Carnegie building and how it may be used for the benefit of the community. It would welcome community involvement.</p> <p>HLH was becoming more involved in the preventative approach to health care. Two main</p>			

		<p>initiatives were supporting AHPs in delivering cardiac rehabilitation treatment in leisure centres and the Otago programme which delivered an outreach exercise programme in care homes, day centres, etc designed to improve core strength and reduce falls.</p> <p>HLH would be willing to get involved in the development of sports facilities in Thurso: an outdoor running track and surfing facilities.</p>			
6	Fuel Poverty	<p>AG delivered a presentation on fuel poverty and the role of Home Energy Scotland. Levels of fuel poverty were highest in the Highlands with 69% of pensioners spending 10% or more of their income on fuel. The organisation was keen to have referrals directly from individuals or their trusted intermediaries who could perhaps identify the most vulnerable: contact number 0808 808 2282. The criteria were constantly reviewed and there were a variety of home improvements such as insulation and better heating systems as well as advice on energy tariffs etc. More information could be found at changeworks.org.uk</p>			
7	Highland Third Sector Community Self-Management Development Fund	<p>ID explained that a fund of £40,000 for the area was available to help people suffering from long term conditions. Applications would be judged against the criteria and decision making should be done locally before 31 March 2016. The Health and Equalities sub group would judge applications with HTSI receiving applications and distributing them by email. A meeting would need to be arranged quickly to inform the sub group of the funding process.</p> <p>AM was tasked with bringing the group together.</p>		AM	
8	Community Safety Action Team	<p>Notes of the meeting of 8 September were distributed for information. No questions were raised.</p>			
9	Next meeting	<p>No dates were set for meetings in 2016</p>			

THC – Highland Council, SAS – Scottish Ambulance Service, HLH – High Life Highland, CVG – Caithness Voluntary Group, HTSI – Highland 3rd Sector Interface and HES – Home Energy Scotland. AHP – Allied Health Professionals.