

Update 1

Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS)

Newsletter November 2011

Background

Arran CVS (ACVS) and The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT) are Partner organisations that form the Interface for North Ayrshire. A key function of the Interface is to represent the 3rd (or Community and Voluntary Sector) in engagement with the Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The Interface has a seat (shared between ACVS and TACT) on the CPP. This report summarises recent activity that ACVS has been involved in. For more detailed information on the work of the Interface, or any of the following please contact Jim Nichols at Arran CVS (01770) 600611.

Arran CVS also has a website arrancvs.org.uk

This site provides up-to-date links to matters of local and national interest. The most recent edition of this Newsletter is always on our website.

Community Health Partnership

1. Change Fund

What is it?

The Scottish Government (SG) have implemented a "Change Fund" to support the 'Reshaping Care for Older People agenda. The principal goal of this is to optimise independence and wellbeing for older people at home or in a homely setting. (ie to help older people and their families live as independently as possible in the community through interventions such as re-ablement).

Finance

The North Ayrshire allocation is £1.96 million for the current year. Currently the Fund rules have now been revised to provide for limited carry over to the next fiscal year.

Why/How are Interface involved?

The Scottish Government (SG) implementation guidance stipulated that there should be 4 Partners involved - the Local Authority (NAC), NHS (Ayrshire and Arran), the Independent Sector (Scottish Care) and the 3rd Sector (the Interface). As the Lead Partner is the Community Health Partnership, and Arran CVS is the Lead organisation for Health and Social Services matters (both mainland and Arran/Cumbrae), Jim leads engagement activity for the Interface .

Current Position

The approved North Ayrshire submission has identified 4 Priority Areas:

Promotion of Community Capacity

Encouraging independence and self-care

Integrated rehabilitation and enablement services

Intensive support shifting from Acute to Community Services.

The North Ayrshire submission was signed off by the SG in March. The money was received by NHS A&Arran in June 2011. An allocation process (involving the Interface) had awarded £150000 to Developing Community Capacity. This sum will be used for Lifelong Learning, Active Lifestyles, development of socialisation activity (eg new lunch clubs, extending befriending services), and ensuring the provision of signposting to advice agencies. I am still in discussions with NHS A&Arran and NAC over how the 3rd Sector money will be utilised, but direction of travel is that the Interface will use some of the money to establish a couple of voluntary sector support staff, to cover

both the mainland and Arran. This would lead to Arran CVS employing a part-time member of staff to co-ordinate the lunch club, provision of information and advice, and befriending activities.

Current situation is I am still in discussions with NHS and NAC over the service specification to accompany an appropriate Service Level Agreement.

Governance Aspects of Change Fund

The 4 Partners' (NAC, NHS A&A the Independent Sector and the Interface) meetings have held with the SG Joint Improvement Team (JIT) (May 2011 and August 2011.)

I also met with JIT representatives at the VAS Conference in October (Mr Swinney, Finance Cabinet Secretary also present at the event.)

Longer term there are still governance issues to be resolved. I attended a National meeting at Dunblane together with our Partners on 21st September. Subsequent to this I recently met with South Ayrshire and East Ayrshire Interfaces . Some issues are still to resolved, as there are disparities of treatment within the 3 Local Authority Areas.

Recent JIT guidance has emphasised that the 4 Partners are equal in the Partnership. This will hopefully change a perception on the part of NHS Ayrshire and Arran that the main partners are NAC and themselves.

Arran Health Delivery Model

What is it?

Development of a plan by NHS Ayrshire and Arran to deliver future NHS services to the Island, including GP's, the Hospital, Dentists etc.

Why/How Interface involved?

Arran CVS (ACVS) was involved following a Public Meeting November 2010 in Brodick. A Reference Group of 6 people, chaired by NHS Ayrshire and Arran Non-Executive Director David Price, was established at the Public consultation including ACVS, the Elderly Forum, the Community Council, the Arran Health Consultative Group, the PPF, Cllr Currie and an Arran GP.

Current Position

An on-going series of meetings had seen the original focus shift from the Health Delivery model, to discussions around issues directly related to the future model that must be implemented as a result of the Arran doctors withdrawing from the out-of-hours contract on the Island.

NHS are now looking at how health is delivered in other parts of rural and island Scotland, to determine future practice on Arran. Timescale set by NHS was originally the end of September 2011. NHS are now engaged in on-going discussions with the local GP's, and a way ahead in terms of a process to try to effect a resolution of a future model has been agreed. A public meeting will be held in January 2012 to present the current state of play. Indications are that this is likely to include some proposed changes in the future to current procedures and processes.

CHP Forum

What is it?

The Forum is a formal Governance Committee within the Community Health Partnership structure.

It is primarily used by NHS Ayrshire and Arran as the primary consultation process with non-employees (employees attend a

parallel 'Officer Locality Group'). Main purpose has been to use the forum as a sounding board for new ideas or practices.

The last meeting was held on 11th November 2011, the agenda including:

Mental Health Strategy consultation - a Consultation will take place on the mental health strategy 2011-2015. Document has not yet been circulated.

Ayrshire Central Hospital-Update received re progression of the business case for the new Hospital.

Integrated Resource Framework- closer working between NHS and NAC, in areas such as children with complex needs.

Arran Clinical Review (see previous)

Cumbrae Clinical Review- a Public reference group is being established based on the model set up in Arran.

Minutes of September Forum are on the ACVS Website.

Why/How Interface involved?

CPP decided both Arran CVS and TACT should be involved in the CHP Forum, due to geographic differences and issues between the islands and the mainland. 2 representatives of the PPF also attend the Forum.

Current Position

Change Fund and Arran Health Delivery Model are on the agenda of each meeting.

PPF Core Group

What is it?

Established by Statute, Public Partnership Forums are the main link between communities and the Community Health Partnership. It is the primary consultative process to communicate through a network directly with the public, including community groups. A 'Core Group' of 15 facilitate the

business within North Ayrshire. Janet Lacey and Jim Nichols are members of the Core Group.

Current Position

Core Group meets regularly with a broad agenda of health related issues.

Last meeting of the Core Group was 18th October.

Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

What is it?

Governance committee of the CHP focusing on alcohol and drugs related issues.

Why/How Interface involved?

Through Interface Lead for Health. At recent request of NHS A&Arran officers, I was asked to try to increase involvement of mainland North Ayrshire and Arran Groups in the Partnership. This is to ensure a democratic nomination process for the Community seat in the Partnership in the longer term.

Current Position

Arran Alcohol Forum is currently outwith the formal AD Partnership. I attended 2 meetings of the ADP, and have now remitted future attendance to TACT, as issues are almost 100% mainland focus.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement Reference Group

Formerly the Compact Reference Group.

What is it?

Group comprising NAC, NHS, Police and Fire Brigade together with the Voluntary Sector, looking at all issues relating to the

processes used for engaging with the community. Cllr Currie represents NAC at the meeting, in addition to officers.

Why/How Interface involved?

From the development of the North Ayrshire Compact agreement, ACVS and TACT have 2 of 5 community places on the reference group..

Current Position

NAC are working up a strategy for NAC engagement with the Community. The Community Engagement Group are holding a series of meetings to inform this work through the NAC Officer leading.

Community Engagement Network

What is it?

A network of interested parties, who meet quarterly to discuss matters of interest and activity between the Community Planning partners and the community.

Why/How Interface involved?

Core remit - Connection with Community Planning.

Current Position

Last met late August. Arran was represented through Cllr Currie and Bill Calderwood, who attended representing their respective roles as Elected Member and Community Council. For info on the August meeting content please ask either, as I was on leave.

CPP Economic and Learning Partnership (ELP)

What is it?

CPP Strategic Partnership focussing on employability, training, jobs.

Why/How Interface involved?

Evolved from former CVS role. TACT and ACVS both have a seat, geographically representing the 3rd Sector.

Current Position

Last meeting I attended was 26th September. Main focus was on the poor situation in North Ayrshire for job prospects for 16 - 24 year olds and impact of benefit changes relating to Incapacity benefits.

A further meeting was held on 7th November, but I was unable to attend due to coinciding with NAC Straight Talking event.

Local Social Economy Partnership

What is it?

Sub group of the Economic and Learning Partnership, specifically focussing on the development of Social Enterprises.

Why/How Interface involved?

Development of Social Enterprise is a core Interface remit from the SG. Lead area for TACT. Direction of travel is towards Interface taking a co-ordinating role in the future and forming a Social Enterprise Network.

Current Position

TACT in discussions regarding the future role with NAC Economic development. Next LSEP meeting scheduled for 17th November.

Housing

North Ayrshire Housing Partnership

What is it?

A NAC Strategic group to implement the Local Housing Strategy for North Ayrshire. Membership included NAC Housing Services, NAC Planning Dept., Social Services, Health, the SG, Housing Associations and ACVS.

Why/How Interface involved?

Through the Arran CVS rural housing remit. Jim has seat as Chair of the Rural Housing Group.

Current Position

LHS has been submitted to the Scottish Government for 2012 onwards.

I attended last meeting on 9th November 2011. Agenda included:

Older Peoples Housing Strategy Survey results

Antisocial Behaviour Strategy

Empty Houses

Future Housing Consultations

Rural Housing Sub Group reports - Arran and Cumbrae

Innovation and Investment Fund Update.

(Under this heading, in the Arran context, currently there is uncertainty as to whether the proposed 56 house development in Lamlash can proceed as per the bid submitted.)

Local Arran activity

Ferry Committee

What is it?

Meeting of business interests, community interests and NFU with Calmac at the Ferry Committee Monthly meeting.

Why/How Interface involved?

Jim Lees (ACVS Director) is a nominated Ferry Committee member on behalf of ACVS. Jim Nichols provides secretarial support.

Current Position

Main interest recently was the impending announcement expected regarding RET, and the departure of Phil Preston from the Calmac management team.

For information on the FC, contact Jim Lees via ACVS (600611)

Community Council

What is it?

Arran Community Council Monthly meeting

Why/How Interface involved?

Bill Calderwood (ACVS Director) is also a Community Councillor, and Secretary of ACC. Jim attends as Minute Secretary.

Current Position

Key issues discussed included Arran Roads and other matters of local interest (eg Pirnmill Bridge), ACC now have own web site, which includes the ACVS Managers Report

Next meeting 25th October 2011 Ormidale Pavilion 7.30pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend

Elderly Forum

What is it?

Forum established on Arran in 2009 to provide a focus for the interests of the elderly (membership open to over 55's). Meets monthly.

Why/How Interface involved?

Communicating role in terms of what's going on at CPP (and in particular - Health matters)

Current Position

Meets monthly in Ormidale Pavilion.

At the October meeting, Jim gave an update on the Change Fund, and received the views of the Forum members.

Next meeting- 16th November 2011

Access Trust

What is it?

Local forum of access providers and users, meeting together to provide new paths and maintain existing paths on Arran.

Why/How Interface involved?

Arran CVS provides secretariat to the Trust, and will become Company Secretary this year.

Current Position

Meeting held 6th October 2011. Main discussion was the lack of progress on the Multi User path between Brodick and Corrie, and future applications for funding. The Visitor Payback initiative (Arran Trust) is starting to benefit the Trust, and has part funded remedial work in Glen Sannox.

Further meeting was held 11th November.

Isle of Arran Homes Sub Committee

What is it?

Trust Housing Assn. - Local Governance Committee for Isle of Arran Homes. Attended by Trust Directors and Managers from Edinburgh, NAC Councillors, Tenants Representatives and Community representatives.

Why/How Interface involved?

ACVS Manager is Adviser to Committee
(historical remit)

Current Position

Main issues discussed were an on-going governance and service delivery review, and the new SG Innovation and Investment Fund. Last meeting was held 27th October.

Rural Housing Group (RHG)

What is it?

A Sub-Committee of NAC Local Housing Partnership. RHG was originally established by NAC to address the shortfall of affordable housing shortfall on Arran. Key involvement included the Craigforth Study and the Study relating to Forestry Commission sites. Members of the Rural Group include NAC Housing Services, Scottish Government, NAC Planning Department, NAC Social services, Trust Housing, ACVS, Community Council, the NFU, and our Elected Member.

Why/How Interface involved?

Originally ACVS was instrumental in helping NAC to ensure the appropriate community reps were round the table. Jim chairs the Rural Group, and as Chair, attends the NAC Housing Partnership meetings.

Current Position

Meeting held 12th October. Main issues discussed were: Exploration of engagement with Private Housing Sector for affordable housing rentals, Submission to Scottish Government information relating to the LDP and the North Ayrshire Local Housing Strategy, the Innovation and Investment Fund outcomes and a local issue relating to the siting of sewage facilities in Corrie.

Arran attendees:

CLlr Currie NAC, John Inglis, Arran Community Council, John Murchie (NFU) and Jim Nichols ACVS.
Next meeting January 2012

LEADER

What is it?

European funding to support community projects

Why/How Interface involved?

Jim sits on Argyll and the Isles Leader Local Action Group (LAG)

Current Position

To see the awards made through LEADER, please access the website Argyll and the Isles LEADER, or visit the portal through the ACVS website arrancvs.org.uk

Arran CVS would welcome feedback on this report, especially in terms on content, usefulness of information and suggestions for improvement.

Please contact Jim Nichols

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Or phone 01770 600611.