

Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership

Meeting – Tuesday 1st September, 2pm Conference Room, Stornoway Police Station

Present:

Charlie Nicolson –	Chairperson	Frank Creighton –	CnES
Harry Miller –	CnES, Consumer Services	Joan MacArthur –	Community Nursing
Gordon MacLeod –	Police, Chief Insp	Donald MacLeod –	CnES, Education
Tony Pendle –	H.H.P.	Iain Smith –	H.I.F.R.S.
Iain MacPherson –	CnES, Faire	Michael Stewart –	Criminal Justice
Roddy MacKay –	Police, Comm Safety	Neil MacLeod –	CnES
Tony Wade –	Sports Centre	Alison Ross –	CnES, Social Work
Grant Anderson –	Police, Comm. Safety		
Maria MacDonald –	ASB Co-ordinator	Hugh MacLean –	Police (minutes)

Wendy Ingledeew – A.D.P. (taking part from Uist via video conference)

1. Welcome & Introductions

Charlie Nicolson opened the meeting. He introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Area Commander for Northern Constabulary in the Western Isles, Chief Inspector Gordon MacLeod. Gordon MacLeod previously worked in the Command Area in several roles, latterly as Area Inspector before his transfer outwith the islands in 2003.

Harry Miller then noted that Grant Anderson, Police – Community Safety, is shortly transferring to another post on the mainland. Harry thanked Grant for his work over the last few months and on behalf of the Group wished him all the best for the future.

2. Update from meeting of 26th May (NIM Operational Framework)

Frank Creighton began his update by outlining the main points of the previous meeting:

- The creation of a Tactical Assessment Document.
- Discuss N.I.M.
- Donald A. MacLeod and Wendy Ingledeew to report back re the involvement of CnES Education and A.D.P. respectively with regards to the N.I.M.

Both Donald and Wendy stated that they're happy to feed into the N.I.M, however Donald advised that his department has priority commitments elsewhere for the next year regarding compilation of data. Wendy advised that the Public Health Intelligence Department should be able to provide statistics of behalf of A.D.P. for the Single Outcome Agreement.

Frank emphasised that other agencies can also assist.

Frank then did a quick run-through of the prepared Tactical Assessment Document, highlighting the agreed priorities listed on page 2, the membership list on page 3 – Joan MacArthur of Community Nursing is to be added to this, page 4 which outlines what the Tactical Assessment is for. Two sub-groups have now been agreed on – '*Crime Reduction*'

and 'Accident Prevention/ Safetywise'. With regard to 'Crime Reduction', Frank highlighted page 9 which gives an example of the information typically gathered by the Police. The collection/collation of information should assist the group in seeing emerging patterns and trends with a view to addressing and pre-empting these and achieving the aims of the N.I.M.

Grant noted that in his visit to the Coastguard, the impact of increased visitors to the islands in the holiday period was highlighted to him – typically, sailing and hillwalking incidents. As a result of his visit to the Coastguard, Grant suggests that information/ advisory posters on safety be placed at Visit Scotland and/or Caledonian MacBrayne offices.

At this point, Wendy informed all present that Alcohol Awareness Week is coming up shortly. This has become an annual programme rolled out throughout the Western Isles, however due to current staff capacity issues, A.D.P. will be unable to carry out the programme at the same level this year. Sharon Evans will, however, liaise with Catriona MacIver with regard to the distribution of handouts and promotional material.

Grant added that during his and Frank's visits to agencies, the intention was to explain the N.I.M. process more clearly and how individuals and agencies fit into the framework. This has to date been successful.

Final point was made by Iain Smith (H.I.F.R.S.) and Iain MacPherson (Faire) who have been working together to provide sufficient smoke detectors for all elderly householder over the age of 85 within the Western Isles. It is hoped, if feasible, to extend this to all Faire clients.

3. Structure of Sub Groups

Three sub-groups had initially been proposed:

1. *Violence Reduction*
2. *Anti Social Behaviour*
3. *Accident Prevention/ Safetywise*

Whilst the various roles and remits were being mapped out it became apparent that there would be a great deal of overlap and duplication in sub-groups 1 and 2 – these have subsequently been merged into one entitled *Crime Reduction*.

Harry Miller went on to request an updated of 'Safetywise' representatives as there have been several staff changes since the last list was made available. Iain MacPherson acknowledged this, but stated he is having difficulty at present in establishing a 'core group'. He noted that there is presently no Police or H.H.P. representation within 'Safetywise'. There is some NHS board representation but health statistics remain hard to come by.

All present indicated they were happy with the two named sub-groups and their role and remit. Charlie Nicolson asked those present what their opinions are regarding membership of the two sub-groups. Wendy Ingledew advised that the soon-to-be appointed A.D.P. Development Officer should be part of the Accident Prevention/ Safetywise group. Chief Inspector Gordon MacLeod noted that there is no representation from the Western Isles Domestic Abuse Forum and feels that they would have a role to play in the Crime Reduction sub-group. With regards to further NHS board representation, Colin Gilmour and Malcolm Martin were mentioned for

the provision of alcohol related statistics whilst Elizabeth Shelby was named as being the alcohol liaison nurse.

4. Individual Tactical Assessment Reports from NIM Sub Groups

(a) Crime Reduction

Sergeant Roddy MacKay distributed the RGAI form to all present.

Discussion then took place regarding alcohol related incidents; alcohol being a major factor in almost all crime in the Western Isles. Roddy advised that one of the aims of the sub-group is to promote safe drinking measures such as a Local Licensing Forum and a Common Barring Policy. Police measures include high visibility patrols. The desired outcome of all such measures is of course a reduction in alcohol related incidents. Neil MacLeod, CnES, pointed out the source of alcohol purchased for persons under 18 yrs of age is generally friends and relations, but notes that the percentage has gone up from 15% in 1998 to 32% in 2008. Wendy Ingledew noted that Test Purchasing has been made legal but is at present discounted as impractical in the Western Isles given the close-knit nature of the community.

Roddy then brought the subject round to the Vandalism Action Team. They have produced a package which has been rolled out to all primary schools in the Western Isles and is soon to be made available to all secondary school pupils.

Road safety was then mentioned, at which point Roddy emphasised that the Group should be promoting the positive aspects of the work we do as opposed to the more negative side of crime that is generally highlighted in the media. Harry Miller suggested a newsletter and will raise the matter with Sharon Evans. Ian MacPherson noted that the Momentum scheme is a good initiative to highlight. Roddy also highlighted the Emergency Accident Scene in the town centre in 2007 – the simulated car crash – and noted that road traffic collision figures are down, but that we need to make sure we keep them down.

Roddy also noted the works that gets done the Anti Social Behaviour Team and feels that this should also be highlighted. The excellent co-operation between Police, A.S.B. and H.H.P. was emphasised.

Roddy added that Domestic Abuse needs to be taken into account, linking in to both child safety and general family protection. At his point, Neil MacLeod extended an invite on behalf of the Youth Justice Strategy to Franck Creighton to formalise links with the Community Safety Partnership Group.

Chief Inspector MacLeod raised the matter of press releases and general communication with the media. The National Violence Reduction Unit have a campaign scheduled for Christmas, monitoring domestic abuse, and he feels the Group can be a great resource.

Charlie Nicolson concluded this section of the meeting by highlighting the need to emphasise the positives of the Groups initiatives and achievements. He advised that Isles FM have indicated they are very happy to provide airtime to broadcast information, stories and interviews. The web-site Hebrides News was also highlighted as a resource.

(b) Safetywise

Iain MacPherson opened by stating there are two main aspects he wished to be highlighted. The first was a review of Safetywise membership. This having been covered earlier in the meeting, Iain went directly to report on the group's on-going safety initiatives:

Child safety – the fireguards and stair-gates initiative remains a continual strain on resources. The provision of car seats for youngsters; the continual changing of legislation was noted.

Water safety – there are some information displays around the Western Isles, and assistance has been provided by the Coastguard and Community Education.

Road Safety – the group continues to liaise with CnES Road Safety Officer, Kenny MacLennan.

General home safety – Tigh Innse Gall continue to visit the elderly and make arrangements to improve home safety.

Moving on, Iain advised that the scheduled AGM did not take in June but has been rescheduled for September. It is intended to focus on who are the prime holders of responsibility. After 15 years it is felt there should be a new focus given the amount of new faces and that any assistance from the Community Safety Partnership would be welcomed.

Iain went on to refer to the Integrated Childrens Services; part of the baseline information required is the number of children presenting at A&E. Statistics will hopefully be provided by Malcolm Martin, but there is difficulty in obtaining medical statistics. Frank Creighton advised that he and Grant Anderson will make approaches to obtain the necessary statistics.

5. Action Points from Tactical Assessments

Page 8 of the document was referred to; different areas and priorities, actions the Group can take.

Frank Creighton and Roddy MacKay pointed out the necessity of gathering as much information as possible to get a clearer picture. Harry Miller referred to page 9 of the document and noted that a lot of the information is very much Police/ CnES orientated. Harry feels that a more holistic source of information is needed. Chief Inspector MacLeod advised that in a previous role as Safety Communities Inspector he looked at partnership working, noting that A&E statistics on-going problem elsewhere. He went to emphasise that reports to the Police represent only a fraction of, say, assaults that are committed. The need for working together and sharing information and addressing issues was pointed out. Harry added we need to think about what information we've got and what further information we can get. Frank advised he and Grant will be carrying out further visits to agencies to look at this . Charlie Nicolson concluded the discussion by stating the importance of obtaining as full a picture as possible for presenting a case for funds, etc.

6. 'Proof of Age' Hand Held Readers

Tony Wade opened by advising that the new Smart Card is to be introduced over the next 2-3 months. The card can be used in a range of settings such as travel and sports facilities and has wider social benefits such as providing proof of age and controlling access to alcohol and events. The card provides a quick and easy way to prove whether a person is over 18 yrs of age. Harry Miller added that the card has been funded by the Community Safety Partnership and the software developed jointly by the Community Safety Partnership and Moray Council. To date there has been mixed success in introducing the card to trade and general population.

Wendy Ingledew considered the scheme to be excellent, however wondered how it would compare to the 'Validate' card previously used in Uist. She is to liaise with Tony and Neil MacLeod on this matter.

Donald MacLeod and Roddy MacKay were keen to see the card used to provide access to entitlements at schools, colleges, etc.

Charlie Nicolson concluded by observing there are various cards available at present and we ideally want the right single card for the Western Isles.

7. A.O.C.B.

Frank Creighton advised all present that he and Grant Anderson are available to visit any individual/organisation to provide further information, clarification or receive suggestions for any proposed projects.

8. Programme of Meetings

The following dates were agreed for future meetings:

Tuesday 3rd November 2009 (Subsequently changed to 10th November 2009)

Tuesday 12th January 2009

Tuesday 16th March 2009

Each meeting will take place at 2pm within the Conference Room at Stornoway Police Station. The duration of each meeting is expected to be around 60 – 90 minutes.

Charlie Nicolson requested all present to ensure that any relevant documentation/ papers be delivered prior to future meetings.