

# *'On Da Level'*

Shetland Partnership Summit

18<sup>th</sup> February 2016



# History and Context

- Why does this matter to us?
- Inequalities vs Poverty
- Why community planning?
  - to improve outcomes, reduce inequalities and change lives within an area.

# Shetland's Commission on Tackling Inequalities

- Commissioners brought mix of experience, skills and knowledge to the table, both local and from out with Shetland
- Tasked with assessing the nature, causes and impact of socio-economic inequalities in Shetland, and to use this to develop recommendations to reduce these inequalities

# Shetland's Commission on Tackling Inequalities

The Commissioners met on 6 occasions to hear evidence on the following topics:

- Baseline Research
- Household Finances
- Fuel Poverty
- Transport
- Geography and Communities
- Early Intervention and Prevention



# Findings



# Findings: Household budgets

- A Job Seeker in Shetland receives £73.10 a week, whilst those on the median wage receive £537.70 (gross of tax and housing costs) (DWP, 2015/16)
- 2.6% unemployment, compared to 5.9% in Scotland (July 2014 to June 2015)
- Growing issue of in-work poverty, which we feel we need to know more about:
  - Living Wage
  - Flexible and affordable childcare for working parents
- Household budgets need to be 10-40% higher in remote rural Scotland to achieve a minimum acceptable living standard (2013)
- A single person on Income Support living in a remote island settlement will receive 28% of the income required for an acceptable standard of living (2013)
- Debt - 30% of all local CAB enquiries: with an increase in demand and size of debt

# Findings: Resilience and Capability

- 2.2% of Shetland's young people were being supported to move into employment, education or training during 2013/14
- Of these, 2/3 were male and nearly 1/3 suffered from long-term illness (the highest rate in Scotland)
- 2.6% of Shetland's adults were unemployed between July 2014 and June 2015
- Of those people over 25 being supported into employment locally (end of 2015), 10% had a criminal conviction, 60% had poor mental health and 20% had substance misuse issues
- 92.5% are long-term unemployed or have had no recent period of sustained employment
- In 2014/15, 75% of those supported by the Council's Criminal Justice Service were unemployed, 66% were males under 25, and many had poor qualifications

# Findings: Geography

- Access
- Potential of Technology
- Those with the resources (financial and human), will be more equipped to overcome the challenges geography can provide, but the choices of those without will be more limited
- Statistics vs asset rich communities

# Findings: Summary

Individuals and families who are particularly vulnerable are those: -

- With poor educational experiences: engagement is difficult, attainment may be low
- Unable to achieve or maintain employment
- At risk of homelessness
- With poor mental health
- With chronic illness
- With experience of substance misuse
- Not involved in their local community (this may include not attending pre-school)
- Living in remote areas, where employment opportunities are limited and the cost of transport or running a private vehicle can be prohibitive; AND
- Looked After Children
- Workless or low income households
- Young parents



# Recommendations

## A. POCKETS

- **A.1 Understand the level of, and issues surrounding, in-work poverty in Shetland and develop a cross-agency project to reduce in-work poverty**
- **A.5 Ensure that travel concessions are targeted towards those on low incomes so they are able to travel**

## B. PROSPECTS

- **B.2 Reduce stigma and loneliness, and thereby also the risk of mental illness**
- **B.3 Ensure effective intervention for Drug and Alcohol Misuse**

## C. PLACE

- **C.1 Ensure provision of broadband and mobile technologies and the equipment and skills required to meet the demands of increased digitisation**
- **C.3 Ensure that services are planned and delivered with communities, where possible**

## D. WAYS OF WORKING

- **D.1 Use the evidence base of the Commission to improve and broaden understanding of socio-economic inequalities in Shetland**
- **D.2 Use the evidence of the Commission to improve the targeting of resources and ensure inequalities do not widen as local financial resources diminish**

