

Shetland Partnership Summit

18 February 2016

Shetland Partnership's 10th annual summit took place on Thursday 18 February at Islesburgh Community Centre, with a programme entitled 'Where can the Shetland Partnership add value, and what should our priorities be?'

Ian Kinniburgh, Chair of the Shetland Partnership Board, welcomed everyone and remarked on the good turnout, which was in the region of 80 delegates. He noted that the day offered a chance to reflect on progress to date, and with an ambitious, challenging and enjoyable programme, he encouraged attendees to participate fully in discussions in the afternoon's workshops. He posed the question, 'What does the Partnership need to do to make a difference in Shetland?', before introducing Emily Lynch, Programme Manager, Performance Management and Benchmarking, at the Improvement Service.



Shetland's Outcomes Profile

Emily's presentation to the summit, on Improving Outcomes for Local Communities, is available at: www.shetland.gov.uk/communityplanning/documents/SCPOutcomesFeb2016.pdf

It sets out some comparisons of economic, social, health and wellbeing outcomes for Shetland versus national data, against both the Scottish average and similar rural areas such as Highland and Argyll & Bute. Emily emphasised that outcomes from national data sources are only the 'start of the discussion', and asked, do they ring true locally here in Shetland? She acknowledged that further work needs to be done to reflect Shetland's geographical situation, and that the zones used can disguise patterns happening at a local level of streets or households.

She stated that in an increasingly complex landscape, we must target communities where partnership working can make the biggest difference, and where current service design and delivery don't work so well; where we can make the biggest difference by working together without replicating existing work.



The focus must be on outcomes, not services. The Local Outcome Improvement Plan needs to identify communities where outcomes are worse and identify approaches to deal with them.

In general, outcomes for Shetland are better than for Scotland as a whole. There is significantly lower child poverty, and the differences in outcomes for the 10% most and least deprived are smaller than in some other areas of Scotland.

However, some areas, such as Lerwick South, perform worse than their comparator average in some indicators, which gives us an opportunity to ask why this is and what can be done about it: what's driving this difference?

More local data is needed so that it can be used to compare outcomes at a local level;, to see if what we're doing is making a difference, to support planning with the most vulnerable communities, and to assist collaboration and learning between partnerships about what works. Some of our outcomes are the best in Scotland – other partnerships will want to know what we're doing right.

Emily took some questions from the floor, including, 'What is a tariff score?' (referred to in her presentation.) This is an educational score, an average based on exams and attainment. A better measure using Curriculum for Excellence will be in place in future.

Commission on Inequalities – 'On Da Level'

Shetland's Commission on Inequalities hopes to signpost the way towards equity and fairness in Shetland. You might ask, why does Shetland need such a commission, when it is a good place to live with a relatively affluent community? However, we know there are inequalities which mean some folk are not able to access all the opportunities available to others. You can view a PDF version of the presentation from the summit, which outlines information on the background, membership, remit and findings of the Shetland Commission, by clicking on the link below:



www.shetland.gov.uk/communityplanning/documents/CommissionPresentationFeb2016.pdf

Gary Robinson, Vice Chair Shetland Partnership Board, informed us that Shetland's commission was the 4th to be set up in Scotland, and using a local commission is now recognised as best practice in tackling inequalities, as national published data does not 'tell the whole story.'

Although the Commission's report and recommendations had not been finalised at the time of the summit, its findings were already making a difference, with evidence being used to strengthen funding applications and lobbying, such as influencing Children in Need to review its policy on rural disadvantage.

There was an opportunity for questions and discussion from the floor. One of the points made was that we need to be careful not to create stigma when targeting resources and provision. We were told that there has been lots of discussion around stigma at the Commission.

The commission's full Report and Recommendations are now also available on the SIC website: www.shetland.gov.uk/equal-shetland/evidence.asp



Shetland's Outcome Improvement Plan 2016 – 2020

Ralph Roberts, Chair of the Shetland Partnership Performance Group, outlined the present position. Shetland's current Outcome Agreement runs until 2016, so needs to be refreshed to run until 2020. The aim is 'To develop a consistent, focused Improvement Plan delivering the outcomes of the Community Plan 2013-20; building on the progress already made and working in partnership to address inequalities.' He highlighted the importance of the work from the Shetland Commission on Equalities in achieving this.

The previous Agreement contained too many priorities, so he underlined the need to focus on what is being done as partners. He acknowledged the huge amount of work that had been done to identify priorities, through workshops in thematic groups and with partners. He was now keen to get input from delegates via the afternoon workshops to identify any gaps or errors before making the plan. He then introduced short presentations from representatives of each of the thematic groups outlining the priorities that had already been identified, and why:

Rachel Hunter, HIE	Wealthier & Fairer
Catherine Hughson, VAS	Learning & Supportive
Elizabeth Robinson, NHS	Health & Caring
Lindsay Tulloch, Police	Safer
Juan Brown, SNH	Greener

You can view these as a PDF document:

www.shetland.gov.uk/communityplanning/documents/ThematicGroupsFeb2016.pdf

Workshop Sessions 1 & 2 – Outcome Improvement Plan Peer Review and Priorities

After lunch, delegates had the chance to review, scrutinise and challenge priorities in two workshop sessions. All sessions were well attended and generated a lot of good discussion, debate and some additional areas for consideration.

The main themes for each workshop session were:

Outcome A: Learning and Supportive

1. To ensure the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people are met
2. To hear the voices of our children and young people

Outcome B: Healthy and Caring

1. Increase physical activity (among those least active)
2. Improve mental health and resilience
3. People are the key “assets” in their community

Outcome C: Safer

1. Keeping people safe
2. Reduce the harm caused by alcohol
3. Improve outcomes for those at risk of offending or reoffending, victims, families and communities
4. Build community resilience

Outcome D: Wealthier and Fairer

1. Attracting more young and talented people to Shetland to live, work, study and invest
2. Make the best use of existing assets, infrastructure and human capital for sustainable socio-economic development
3. Supporting the development of a digital, diverse and innovative business base



Members of the Shetland Sporting Partnership Strategic Group

Outcome E: Greener

1. Mitigate, and adapt to, climate change
2. To protect and enhance our natural environment, and promote the benefits to society (including health) that it provides
3. Resource and energy efficiency

Workshop Session 3 - Priorities

The Shetland Partnership Board had previously agreed that the new Outcomes Improvement Plan should focus on a smaller number of priorities, which through partnership working will add value to the work of individual partner organisations. This workshop asked delegates to help to identify the top three priorities for the Board over the next four years.

Groups were asked to check that each outcome covered at least three or more of the outcome areas A – E, and required partnership working. They were then asked to rank each outcome from 1 – 4 (where 1 is having no or minimal impact, to 4, having a high level of impact) for each of the following areas:

- Addressing inequalities (as defined by Shetland's Commission)
- Building individual, family, community resilience
- Prevention activity
- Community acceptability

Reassuringly, all outcomes scored well. The top three ranked outcomes were:

- To ensure the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people are met
- Make the best use of existing assets, infrastructure and human capital for sustainable socio-economic development
- Supporting the development of a digital, diverse and innovative business base

Close of Summit

Ian Kinniburgh thanked delegates for their attendance and participation, and for making the day a success. Shetland Partnership Board would take on board the feedback from the event. There is much work to be done, and many benefits to be won for everyone.



For more information, please contact Shetland Islands Council's Community Planning and Development Service:

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