

MEETING OF SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

28 JULY 2009 AT 2.00 PM IN ROOM 308A COUNCIL HQ, ELGIN

Present:

Susan Chalmers, Locality Manager, Skills Development Scotland
Eileen Bush, Chief Officer, MVSO
Tracey Gervaise, Public Health Lead, MCHSCP
Tom McGarry, Assistant Principal, Moray College (in place of Anne Lindsay)
Iain Terry (HPM), Community Services, Moray Council
John Ferguson, (CPDM), Chief Executive's Office, Moray Council (Chair)
Jacqui Taylor, Fairer Scotland Manager, Moray Council
Jackie McCreadie, Fairer Scotland Administrator, Moray Council (Minute)

Apologies:

Anne Lindsay, Assistant Principal, Moray College
Jim Masson, Partnership Development Inspector, Grampian Police
Gordon Gray, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service
Martin Johnston, Area Manager, HIE Moray
Graham Jarvis (CLD Manager), Educational Services, Moray Council
Fiona Simpson, Equal Opportunities Officer, Moray Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

John Ferguson welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

2. Minute and Action Points of Previous Meeting

Tracey Gervaise pointed out that the minute should read MCHSCP for Moray Community Health and Social Care Partnership and this was noted. There were no other comments on the previous minute and this was approved.

3. Matters Arising

John and Jacqui reported on the financial inclusion event which was well attended. The focus of the day had been to identify the current position in relation to financial inclusion in Moray and seek ideas for future developments.

Jacqui reported that there had been good feedback from attendees and that the workshops had proven to be particularly useful. Councillor Wright had been very positive about the event in his comments to the Board. The intended outcome of the event is the development of a financial inclusion strategy network. Jacqui reported that there is a financial inclusion survey ongoing at present and that work on the strategy is also under way.

4. Fairer Scotland Fund Process Update

At the previous meeting there was some debate as to the remit of the Board in connection with the Fairer Scotland Fund. Jacqui reported that following a number of meetings it has been agreed that the Social Inclusion

Implementation Group is responsible for managing the fund and making recommendations on proposals to the Board for final approval.

John reported that all matters relating to social inclusion is now reported directly to the Board rather than the Safer and Stronger Theme Group as was the case previously.

5. Service Level Agreements/Tendering Process

Jacqui briefly reported that the Service Level Agreement for the GIRFEC proposal is with contracts for final approval and that the Domestic Abuse one is currently with social work to finalise the outcomes.

The tendering process is now under way for the employability service, ten pre-qualification questionnaires have been received, there is a meeting tomorrow to evaluate them. The deadline for receipt of the full tender is 19 August. Jacqui reported that the Procurement Team has been very supportive throughout this process.

6. Budget

Jacqui circulated budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Taking account of projected costs and money already allocated there is £251k left to spend until March 2010 and £392k for next financial year, giving an estimated total of £644k until March 2011. Jacqui confirmed that we will not be able to carry over an under-spend in future.

Iain Terry raised the issue of the year 3 funding not being ring-fenced and a discussion followed around what could happen in future. John agreed that this will need further discussion.

7. Second Round Proposals

Jacqui reported that today's applications total £180k. The proposals have been sent to the Theme Group Chairs for feedback.

FSF-14 – Community Food Initiative North East (CFINE)

This proposal is to fund the development and expansion of services across Moray for CFINE through: establishing and growing community food outlets; growing the Fare Share Scheme, which provides free produce to vulnerable groups; recruiting, training and supporting volunteers and creation of employment opportunities.

Discussion followed and members were of the opinion that the proposal was unstructured and it was difficult to determine what CFINE were seeking the funding for and it appeared to rely heavily on other match funding which has not yet been approved. There was also discussion around the fact that the outcomes would be difficult to measure. Jacqui reported that she had requested further information which was provided but there were still some unclear areas.

After further discussion it was agreed to reject the proposal. **Action: Rejected.**

FSF15 - Milton Drive Community project

This proposal is to fund a feasibility study into the possibility of moving the existing Milton Drive Community Project to larger, more appropriate premises. Members were supportive of the application but had slight reservations about whether the decision to move was made as a result of an appropriate options appraisal and if consideration had been given to the future sustainability of the project. After some discussion it was agreed to approve the proposal subject to confirmation that all other options and future sustainability have been considered and success of the match funding proposal. **Action: Approved £10,000**

FSF 16 – Young Persons Mental Health Social Work Service

This proposal is to fund an eight-week course aimed at young people aged 15-22 who are being supported through the young person's mental health social work service and partner agencies. Members questioned what contribution partner agencies were making towards the proposal and felt that there could be funding elsewhere for this type of course – Tracy suggested that Health and Wellbeing in Schools could be an option. It was then agreed to reject the proposal and to suggest that the applicant discusses funding options with partners. **Action: Rejected**

FSF 17 – Elgin High School

The proposal submitted is to part-fund the further development of a pilot which was trialled by Elgin High School during December 2008 till June 2009, where the school adopted a 'keyworker' style approach using an existing member of staff to support 14 S4 pupils who were at risk of disengaging completely from school, all of whom went on to achieve positive outcomes.

It is hoped that the evidence and outcomes from the second pilot will help shape provision and support the development of a more effective planning and support structure for pupils within the school and influence future mainstream provision.

Discussion followed, members acknowledged that Elgin High School works in one of the most disadvantaged areas of Moray and John stated that the catchment area for Elgin High falls into the bottom 5% in Scotland using the Education Indicator in SIMD.

There were slight concerns around the fact that the depute head was taking on the keyworker role and what this means in terms of added value. After further discussion members agreed to approve the proposal.

Action: Approved £20,000

FSF 18 – Riverside After School Care Club (Aberlour Primary School)

This proposal is to fund a feasibility study to look at the possibility of the existing Riverside After School Care Club developing into a sustainable social enterprise and becoming self sustaining. Members felt that the proposal does not fit well with the Fairer Scotland Fund and agreed to reject the application and suggested that we feed back to the applicant that Business Gateway or

Leader may be more appropriate and provide them with the contact details.

Action: Rejected

FSF 19 – REAP

This proposal is to fund an additional member of staff plus associated costs to develop the 'Cosy Keith' project. This is an advice and information service aimed at increasing awareness of fuel poverty and facilitating individuals facing fuel poverty to get together to access support and improve their situation.

There were concerns that this proposal does not represent value for money due to the small geographical area being covered and that fuel poverty is relative to all of Moray.

It was suggested that the existing Fuel Poverty Strategy Group should be involved in some way with any such proposal and that potentially fuel poverty could come into the wider financial inclusion strategy currently being developed. Members agreed to reject the application. **Action: Rejected.**

FSF 20 – Anti-Social Behaviour

This is a joint application between Youth Justice and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team for a one year pilot which will focus on tackling youth offending through the use of restorative approaches including Acceptable Behaviour Contracts as well as supporting the victims of youth offending. This proposal is a development of the two previous separate submissions, taking on board advice given and bringing both services together into a partnership to stimulate an integrated approach. Members agreed to approve the proposal. **Action: Approved £40,000.**

FSF 21 – Mobile Information Bus

This proposal is to seek funding for the Mobile Information Bus for 12 months while a critical review of the service takes place. The intended outcome of the review is to develop the existing provision into a partnership provision which can be used by all partners. This is to ensure that the bus can be use to its full potential. Members agreed to approve the proposal. **Action: Approved £12,000.**

FSF 22 – Speech Language Therapy

The proposal is to part-fund a part-time project worker plus resources for the development of a three year project which will be delivered primarily through the Speech and Language Therapy Department but also in partnership with all professionals working with children and their families. This will take the form of an early intervention approach towards supporting the development of child communication and interpersonal skills. Although the project will target all parents with young children in year 2 of the project there will be a targeted approach to working with vulnerable and disadvantaged families.

Members felt that this proposal fits well with the FSF aim of improving life chances and agreed to approve the application. **Action: Approved £30,630**

8. Apprenticeship Scheme Funding Package

Jacqui briefly reported on the proposed apprenticeship scheme funding package and talked members through the various options. She stated that the Employers Coalition is fully supportive of the scheme.

Members felt that the two year option would be preferable to employers and would give the young people a comfortable length of time to complete an SVQ in most subjects as well as two years' work experience. Taking this into account as well as availability of budget it was agreed to take forward the application on the basis of a two year proposal. The contribution from the Fairer Scotland Fund for this project is £267,000 with match funding of up to £800,000 being sought from ESF priority 2 and Future Jobs Fund.

9. AOB

There was no other business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15 September at 2.00 pm in Room 308A, Council Headquarters.