

**BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES (BSC) PROGRAMME BOARD
MEETING 5, 17th JUNE 2014, 13:30 – 15:30
Resonate Arts House, Alloa**

Membership

David Hume	Scottish Police Authority
Rose Fitzpatrick	Police Scotland
Bob Jack	SOLACE
Paul Johnston	Scottish Government (Chair)
Martin Johnstone	Poverty Truth Commission
Karyn McCluskey	Violence Reduction Unit
Susan McVie	Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research
Wendy Wilkinson	Scottish Government

In Attendance

Lorna Ascroft	Scottish Government
Cathy Barlow	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Carolyn Brennan	Scottish Government
Duncan Beamish	Scottish Government
Douglas Krestoff	Scottish Government
Fergus Millan	Scottish Government
Cheryl Smith	Improvement Service

Apologies

Jackie Brock	Children in Scotland
Lesley Fraser	Scottish Government
Donald Henderson	Scottish Government
Lewis Ramsay	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

1. PRESENTATIONS

1.1. The Executive Director of Resonate Arts House, Angela Beardsley presented to the Board on the purpose, impact and challenges of the Alloa-based social enterprise.

- Angela highlighted the importance of sitting down and listening to the community, building trust with them and removing barriers to their participation. She likened Resonate to a 'family business' emphasising how it had grown organically, based on the community's own ideas, and how its work had 'resonated' with the wider community.

1.2. Keith Jack from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and May Richmond, Centre Manager / Link Up worker, presented to the Board on their assets based work in Hawkhill.

- Key points were the importance of focusing on positives by asking 'what are the good things in these communities?' rather than obsessing over problems. Taking an assets based approach does not mean abandoning traditional approaches, the two should work in tandem. Results from this

approach may be hard to quantify, but people on the ground will see the difference it makes and, in effect, evaluate their work daily. Importantly, we should recognise that there is no compelling reason *not* to take an assets based approach.

2. PROGRAMME UPDATE

2.1. Duncan Beamish presented the BSC Programme Highlight Report to the Board and noted that all actions from the last Board meeting had been completed. (See **Action Log** for full details on actions from April meeting)

3. PLACE-BASED PROPOSALS & DISCUSSION

3.1. Lorna Ascroft introduced a paper which identified three key themes for our place based approach and proposed six initial areas (Craigmillar, Ferguslie Park, Fraserburgh Harbour, Gorbals, Alloa and Possil) where we could offer support and help to facilitate the testing of improvement approaches. These areas were identified through in-depth multi-agency data analysis, consultation with local partners and consideration of where there is already strong grassroots community activity.

3.2. The Board was invited to consider a list of suggested activities on what form our engagement should take, how these activities should be prioritised and what would be the resource implications.

3.3. The following points were noted in the discussions that followed:

- We must listen to the communities themselves alongside the professionals working in these areas. More work must be done on gathering ideas from the local people and ensuring our work focuses on what is important to them.
- Consider innovative approaches to asset-mapping, such as holding local events within the community and listening to attendees. Also recognise that we should not duplicate previous or existing work with regards to identifying assets.
- Giving small grants to kick-start projects is not a sustainable approach as these projects would end when the grants stop and such pump-priming could not be replicated nationally as there are not the funds to support this. Instead we should focus on making the best use of existing resources to identify overlaps and look to make mainstream funding more available for innovative practice. However, there is still potential to use limited funds as an enabler for sustainable work in communities.
- Evaluating and measuring change at a local level will be vital to judging the success of any change made as part of the Programme. Consider

learning from previous programmes such as the typological approach used by 'Safer Cities'.

- The work of the BSC Programme should remain rooted alongside the work of Community Planning Partnerships (CPP).
- Recognise the role of community leaders and support these “spectacular individuals” to connect and share their experiences with the wider community.
- The Board should consider what its members and their respective organisations want from the Programme and what resources they can offer, if and when required, to help deliver meaningful results.

AGREEMENT: The Board agreed for the BSC Programme Office to begin working in the proposed areas. Our work will be based around the following areas:

- **Working with areas to support them in the ways that *they* want. Ensure that we listen to the voice of the community and we channel the available resources of our respective organisations towards the issues that matter to these communities**
- **Developing an evidence base around what works and how to evaluate effectiveness**
- **Using the Improvement Framework to empower community enterprises**
- **Spreading learning and supporting sustainability**
- **Using existing public sector resources in partnership with third and private sectors to support and empower community cohesion.**

ACTION POINT 1: The Building Safer Communities team will take forward its work with the six areas identified in the paper, looking to co-produce and test specific ideas in these communities.

ACTION POINT 2: As part of their engagement in Craigmillar the BSC Programme Office will ask Total Place colleagues what learning is available on community involvement in resource decisions.

ACTION POINT 3: Susan McVie will share learning from the Safer Cities initiative with the BSC Programme Office on how to evaluate success.

ACTION POINT 4: Susan McVie will work with Police Scotland to drill down into police data and to try and provide a breakdown of victimisation in the identified areas.

ACTION POINT 5: Martin Johnstone will look into hosting a ‘good neighbour’ style event as an innovative way to draw out community strengths and assets in one of the identified areas.

ACTION POINT 6: National Community Safety Team to contact Cormac Russell at the ABCD Institute to seek advice on asset-based approaches and good practice for measuring their success.

ACTION POINT 7: Rose Fitzpatrick will champion the BSC Programme with her staff in the identified areas and look to arrange multi-agency meetings to promote a place based approach.

4. SCOPING OF PHASE 2

4.1. Cathy Barlow gave the Board an overview of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service’s (SFRS) initial scoping work on reducing unintentional harm for Phase 2 of the BSC programme.

- SFRS will host a meeting for national partners in July and a stakeholder scoping event on 28 August. These events will help to define what we mean by ‘unintentional injury’ and consider how to address gaps in the available data related to these types of injury.

ACTION POINT 8: SFRS will host a stakeholder event in August as part of their work on Phase 2 scoping and will share a list of proposed participants so that Board members can identify if there are others that should be invited.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1. The next meeting of the Board was scheduled **26 August**. The Board were invited to consider cancelling the August meeting and next meet on 4 November. There is an option for the Board to get together for a short meeting at the programme’s next Learning Network event on 8 October if desirable or to receive a written update in advance of the November meeting.

ACTION POINT 9: The Board will agree whether to cancel the meeting in August and next meet formally in November.

Building Safer Communities Programme Office
June 2014

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

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