

Liaison Meeting between the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area  
Committee and the Community Planning Partners  
2 June 2005

**IRVINE, 2 June 2005** - At a Liaison Meeting between the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners.

**Present**

Councillors Ian Clarkson, Tom Barr, Drew Duncan, Jane Gorman, Margaret McDougall and Donald Reid (North Ayrshire Council); Pauline Fyfe (North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership); Sergeant Scott Irvine (Strathclyde Police); and ADO Alex Lindsey (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

**In Attendance**

S. Bale, M. McKeown and A. Little, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

**Chair**

Councillor Clarkson in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Jack Carson.

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Liaison Meeting held on 18 November 2004 were approved.

**2. Format of Area Committee Liaison Meetings with Community Planning Partners**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council on the arrangements to open the Area Committee Liaison meetings to the press and public and to allow public participation.

Area Committee Liaison Meetings with Community Planning Partners were introduced in 2003 to replace the former Community Partnership Forums. The remit of the meetings is to support the implementation of Community Planning at a local level and to address service delivery activities and functions with a view to effecting improvements. To date the Area Committee Liaison Meetings have excluded the press and public. There has however been a shift amongst public agencies towards more openness and transparency and greater involvement of the public.

Meetings have taken place to discuss possible improvements to the effectiveness of the Liaison Meetings and encourage Partners attendance. The Community Planning Strategy and Co-ordination Group's Community Engagement Working Group examined all forms of community engagement and outlined conditions for success. Following discussions with the Leader of the Council, the Area Committee Chairs,

the Community Planning Co-ordinator, the Chair of the Community Planning Strategy and Co-ordination Group, and Partners on the Strategy and Co-ordination Group, it has been agreed:-

- (a) that the Area Committee Liaison Meetings will in future be open to the press and public;
- (b) that an Open Forum will be held for approximately 10 minutes at the end of each Liaison Meeting, at which members of the public can put any questions to the Members and officers in attendance, or raise any issues;
- (c) that the Liaison Meetings will be publicised in advance, indicating that they will be holding Open Forums;
- (d) that included in the publicity will be a request that members of the public submit questions in advance of the meeting; and
- (e) that the Open Forum will be for members of the public only. Press questions will be directed to the Council's Communications Section.

It was acknowledged that (a) appropriate training would be required for elected Members and Partners before the proposals could be implemented; and (b) it would not be possible to have sufficient officers in attendance to answer all questions by members of the public and a note of questions would need to be taken to be answered at a later date.

Noted.

### **3. Health Priorities for the Area**

On 18 November 2004 the Liaison Meeting between Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners received a presentation on a health and well-being profile of their community. The Public Health Practitioner has identified three key health priorities within the Committee area:-

#### **Breastfeeding**

Parts of the Committee's area have the lowest rates of breastfeeding in North Ayrshire, 20-30% below the national target for 2005.

Support, advice and information to be provided through primary care services and local actions, include:-

- The roll-out of the pilot initiative 'Best Fed Baby' in Redburn and Vineburgh; and
- A Breastfeeding Support Group provided by midwifery and health visiting services

#### **Oral health**

The rate of children being admitted to hospital for dental reasons is twice the Scottish average.

Support, advice and information will be provided through primary care services and local actions, including:-

- Tooth brushing initiatives in schools;
- Funding for oral health educators in schools;
- Dental hygiene pack for children at 8 - 21 months; and
- Dental packs for families in hostel and temporary accommodation in Irvine

## **Smoking**

The incidence of coronary heart disease is above the Scottish average.

Local actions include:-

- NHS funding provided to set up smoking cessation services
- BNSF initiatives targeting smoking in pregnancy and smoking by young people
- Direct care from pharmacies providing support and nicotine replacement

In order to generate media activity, exert influence within schools and community settings and to act as a conduit between the general public and health, the support of elected members in championing these priorities was requested in promoting the health agenda at a local level.

The Liaison Meeting agreed that elected members interested in becoming involved in championing a health priority should contact the Operations and Performance Improvement Manager directly.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.