

Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community  
Planning Partners  
16 November 2005

**STEVENSTON, 16 November 2005** - At a Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners at 12.00 am.

**Present**

Councillors David Munn, Peter McNamara, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Sam Taylor and Nan Wallace (North Ayrshire Council); Pauline Fyfe and Marella O'Neill (North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership); Inspectors Ian Ness and Neil Kerr (Strathclyde Police); and Liz Brady and Murdo Henderson (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

**Also Present**

Angela Ingram (Three Towns Healthy Living Project); and Bill Lesley (Scottish Criminal Records Office).

**In Attendance**

B MacDonald, Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion); A MacLean, Quality Improvement Officer (Secondary) (Educational Services); J Burt, Service Development Manager (Catering and Cleaning) (Property Services); and J Bannatyne and E Fisher, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

**Chair**

Councillor D Munn in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Gordon Allison

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Liaison Meeting held on 17 August 2005 were confirmed.

**2. Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company**

The Chair advised that this item had been withdrawn.

**3. Health Issues**

**(a) Health Service Developments**

Submitted report by the Operational and Performance Improvement Manager, North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership on new and or emerging service developments in the Three Towns Area.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran currently has an extensive modernisation programme and the Community Health Partnership are charged with ensuring that estates and facilities are developed to best meet the needs of the population.

The Central Avenue and South Beach surgeries in Ardrossan have both been approached in respect of exploring the feasibility of rationalising primary care premises services within the Ardrossan area. It is unlikely that both practices will be sited within the same building but that separate sites will be pursued. Developments are at the briefing stage and procurement options will be explored.

The new Health Centre in Stevenston has been completed and was officially opened in July 2005. Interim findings suggest that the new build is benefiting staff and patients, offering a more comfortable and user friendly facility.

The extension to Saltcoats Health Centre has been completed, offering more space to both practices but it was reported that car parking space has been compromised which can cause difficulties for service users.

Discussion took place on parking issues at Saltcoats Health Centre and the grassed area opposite the Centre.

The Liaison Meeting agreed (a) that Councillor Taylor consult with the Head of Roads on the possibility of the use of the grassed area opposite the Health Centre for extra parking space for Health Centre users during the day and as additional parking space for the residents of Barnett Crescent outwith Health Centre hours; and (b) that Strathclyde Police also investigate the current parking situation at the Health Centre.

### **(b) Three Towns Healthy Living Project**

The Liaison Meeting received details of the current position regarding the Three Towns Healthy Living Project from the Project Senior Development Officer.

The Healthy Living Company, based in Hamilton Street, Saltcoats, is now 3½ years into a five year funded project and has had a significant impact on the number of service users. Its partners are North Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, North Ayrshire Leisure and local Community Planning voluntary groups such as One Plus. It is managed by a board of directors and its goal is to improve the health and wellbeing of the local communities of Stevenston, Saltcoats and Ardrossan. The Company aims to use innovative methods to target hard to reach groups, reduce health inequalities, encourage changes in health related lifestyles and modify service delivery by overcoming barriers to attendance. A wide variety of activities is delivered from a range of Hubs throughout the area and services provided include stress management, Moving On North Ayrshire counselling and training, Ayrshire Cancer Support, Doing Well by People with Depression, a sexual health drop in for younger people, an IT buddy service and information on welfare rights. Opportunities are provided for people within the community to participate in a wide choice of health, leisure and learning pursuits including a comprehensive health and fitness programme for older people and a street dance class aimed at teenagers,

providing an opportunity to make friends as well as increasing physical activity.

Volunteering is fundamental to the Three towns Healthy Living Company and its comprehensive recruitment and support package for volunteers ensures they have a positive experience within the organisation. The Company are currently seeking funding for sustainability and at present NHS Ayrshire and Arran are carrying out an internal evaluation which will help to form the basis of a business plan.

Noted.

#### **4. Scottish Criminal Records Office**

The Liaison Meeting received a presentation from Bill Lesley of the Scottish Criminal Records Office on Crimestoppers Shop a Dealer.

Crimestoppers operates across the UK, supported by over 500 volunteers, working in close partnership with the police, media, businesses and various external agencies. Its aim is to work with the community to keep criminals off the street and help bring them to justice. All information provided to Crimestoppers is treated with respect for anonymity.

Key areas of the work of Crimestoppers are working with young people, helping to reduce levels of crime and victimisation by means of educational resources for teachers, theatre in education and events promoting active citizenship.

Crimestoppers rely heavily on support from companies, charitable trusts, the Community Fund and individual supporters.

There are leaflet drops carried out in certain areas if the police require information. Examples were given of various instances of people phoning Crimestoppers to report on drugs, firearms and serious assault and information was given on the rewards scheme.

Noted.

#### **5. Post 14 Vocational Education**

Submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the implementation of Post 14 Vocational Education in North Ayrshire secondary schools.

The Scottish Executive is committed to providing 14 to 16 year old pupils with opportunities to develop vocational skills in order to broaden their curricular choices and enrich their educational experiences.

The Post 14 Vocational Education Initiative started as a pilot project in August 2004 and offers part-time vocationally based courses in Administration and Construction to S3 pupils in Irvine Royal and Ardrossan Academies and was extended in 2005 to include Largs Academy. The pilot programme was implemented in partnership with North Ayrshire Council and James Watt College. Pupils participate in the

programme for 1 afternoon each week and by the end of S4 will achieve a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Level 1 in Administration or Catering, Skills for Work courses in Construction Craft Skills, Sport and Recreation or a Scottish Progression Award (SPA) in Construction and Building. These offer progression opportunities into Modern Apprenticeships, Skill Seeker programmes or an HND course in further education.

Currently 46 S3 pupils and 22 S4 pupils are participating in the Post 14 Education Programme and a School - College Strategy Group has been established in order to develop a strategic approach to extending the range of provision available to 14 -18 year olds in North Ayrshire. Details of the courses offered and pupil participation were provided in an Appendix to the report. The Post 14 Vocational Education Initiative will continue to be supported from North Ayrshire's allocation of Enterprise in Education funding.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 12.55 pm.