



Minute - Community Planning Board

10am-12noon 10 February 2022

Online – Microsoft Teams

In Attendance:	Cllr Cecil Meiklejohn (Chair)	Falkirk Council
	Cllr Collie	Falkirk Council
	Paul Anderson	Falkirk Council
	Sally Buchanan	Falkirk Council
	Douglas Duff	Falkirk Council
	Kenny Gillespie	Falkirk Council
	Dr Oliver Harding	NHS Forth Valley
	Jen Kerr	Falkirk Council
	Kenneth Lawrie	Falkirk Council
	David Mellor	CVS Falkirk
	Robert Naylor	Falkirk Council
	Ken Thomson	Forth Valley College
	Sarah McCulley	Falkirk Council
	Laura McIntyre	Falkirk Council
	Janie McCusker	NHS Forth Valley
	Craig Walker	Police Scotland
	Susan Thompson	NHS Forth Valley
	Karen Morrison	NatureScot
	Frank McChord	Falkirk Council
	Mandy Paterson	Police Scotland
	Malcolm Bennie	Falkirk Council

Item	Note	Action
1.	Apologies Cllr Robert Bissett Falkirk Council Martin Thom ADP David Sharp SFRS Stephen McAllister NHS Forth Valley Aiden Grisewood Scottish Government Patricia Cassidy Integration Joint Board Victoria McRae CVS Falkirk	
2.	Minute of the Last meeting – 9 December 2021 KT - requested that an Action Log accompany future Minutes so that actions could be recorded, tracked and closed off.	PA
3.	Falkirk Plan – Theme 2: Poverty	

Sally Buchanan presented to the Board on Theme 2 of the Falkirk Plan: Poverty.

The Fairer Falkirk Partnership (FFP) works together to address poverty, and oversees delivery of actions against Theme 2 in the Falkirk Plan. The Council's poverty strategy (*'Towards a Fairer Falkirk'*) published in 2019, is now accompanied by the Child Poverty Action Plan. There is considerable overlap between the two.

FFP didn't meet for a period during the pandemic. However, it continued to share information around issues such as funding opportunities (eg the *'Connecting Scotland'* project). FFP reconvened in October 2021 to consider a review of the action plan, and to ratify the actions detailed under Theme 2 in the Falkirk Plan. It also discussed how these could be achieved.

Work undertaken by the FFP thus far includes tackling digital exclusion, the FC digital communities workstream, and the *Get Into Summer* Programme.

SB - also outlined the additional support provided through emergency COVID-19 funding such as community food provision, targeted support for people experiencing food poverty and Food Futures work. The Partnership will be brought back together soon to build on this work, and to look at what else can be done in a sustainable manner over the longer term.

Chair – asked how we would demonstrate the positive difference brought about by these interventions? What would be the evidence for this?

SB – no simple answer, and definitely room for improvement. Difficult to measure 'poverty' in straight empirical terms. Owing to a number of large scale external factors (fuel costs, inflation, etc) poverty figures will be expected to rise despite efforts being undertaken locally. We need to look at outputs that we know will make a difference to people and that will gradually lead to better outcomes - e.g., people moving into employment, provision of debt advice.

The Child Poverty Action Group is currently looking at developing a baseline of data to attain a better understanding of what poverty levels are and what this means. Working with key partners (NHS, FC) to look at more local data, and to ally this to more qualitative studies to capture a truer picture.

Cllr Collie – asked whether sub-groups of people in poverty (e.g. ,families affected by disability) were being adequately supported in efforts to alleviate poverty. Was targeted action being taken to support these families?

SB – confirmed that families affected by disability are a priority group as identified by the Scottish Government and this certainly informs the work of the FFP with targeted interventions. The Child Poverty Action report for this year will consider targeted actions for sub-groups such as this. Solutions such as more joint working between NHS and the Council are one part of the solution and an area where the FFP has made the biggest difference locally.

KG – confirmed that figures are expected to go the wrong way. An often overlooked measurement is how many people would fall into poverty, or find themselves in even deeper poverty, if we were to stop delivering these targeted services. We shouldn't lose sight of that as a measurement, as it's a positive indicator of the impact of the work that's being undertaken.

KL – delivery plan, alongside the Falkirk Plan gives us a good array of measures to progress work here. Welcomes SBs comments re looking at this more on a local basis. The work that has been undertaken in response to COVID-19 and the multiple interventions have provided a strong building block to continue to tackle poverty.

SB – confirmed that some of the support secured through the child poverty action strategy is *in kind support* (i.e., not financial). This support can make a huge difference to a household and can lift a household out of poverty in a way that national performance figures don't recognise e.g., free school meals have been extended locally to a wider cohort that isn't recorded through national figures.

Cllr Collie – asked about connections and multi-agency approach to mitigating poverty, with specific reference to malnutrition, hypothermia and the impact of living in a cold and damp home. What is the knock-on effects in primary and secondary health care and at what points are actions taken forward to help people?

SB – there is no local hard and fast data that evidences local impact and connections of such issues. Acknowledgment that more needs to be done here. The Child Poverty Action Report cites the partnership between health visitors and the Community Advice Services Team. They have a direct referral pathway (eg helping young parents who are struggling with family finances, benefits advice, crisis grants, etc.)

The Board approved the Report on Theme 2: Poverty.

4. **Falkirk Plan – Theme 6: Economic Recovery**

Outcome 21 – Community Health and Wealth-Building (CH&WB)

Jen Kerr – presented a short paper on behalf of the Chairs of the Group.

JK noted this is an update, on a new area of work, with a new Partnership delivery group. A significant amount of work has gone on in the background. This update is to inform Board of the establishment of the new CH&WB Partnership

Board is asked to note the progress made by the co-Chairs, and to consider participation by their organisation and sector in the delivery group once it is established.

Section 4 of the Paper confirms that co-chairs of the group will be Hazel Meechan, Public Health Specialist, NHS Forth Valley and Victoria McRae, Manager, CVS Falkirk.

Co-Chairs will take forward a collaborative Group to scope out what CH&WB should look like in Falkirk. The Group will co-create an Action Plan towards this.

The proposed name of the Group is Community **Health and** Wealth Building. Improved health is seen as a key benefit of wealth-building and we feel it's important this is reflected in both the name and remit of the Group.

Board was asked to review the proposed membership of the Group and to suggest or recommend any additional members.

ALL

The Board was also asked to approve the establishment of a CH&WB Charter. This is highly recommended, as this will cement a shared understanding and commitment across all partners to taking forward an action plan for CH&WB as a priority.

A 'twilight' information session was being planned for March, run by CLES, which would give the Board (and other interested parties) exposure to expert thinking and scene-setting on what an effective CH&WB strategy looks like.

Chair – acknowledgement that this is a new and very different area for some people, and also perhaps not very tangible. Important to stress this work won't be *in addition to* what people are already doing; rather it should be embedded within what people are already doing. Agrees that a Charter might assist with that understanding.

KT – supportive of the notion of a Charter. Sought clarity on the genesis of CH&WB in Falkirk; what previous / existing strategies are encapsulated in this new one? Concerns that suggestions for additional members of the CH&WB Group may replicate what is already the task of the Board; need to ensure the new Group doesn't become a talking shop. Keen that this Group has real impact and momentum going forwards.

Chair – agreed that if anyone signs up to the Charter; they have to make their commitment to CH&WB a demonstrable reality.

KL – recognises the value of the 5 Pillars with the concrete examples of how this can make a difference in local communities. This shouldn't be about bureaucracy and meetings; rather this should be action-focused. A high-level, clearly stated and robust Charter could provide that platform.

Chair - suggested that the Group might be a short-life group; i.e. once the principles have been embedded into CPP organisations and translated into actions, then there should be no need for the Group?

The Board approved the Paper.

Outcome 22 – Net Zero / Growth Deal

Douglas Duff – updated the Board on the work with The Growth Deal.

Investment Zone aims to deliver transformation growth, but growth which is also inclusive and sustainable, and will help us get to Net Zero. This requires a blend of investment to help transform the economic fortune of Falkirk. The Growth Deal is integral to that.

£90m was allocated in June 2020 to fund an integrated programme of ten projects. Signed off December 2021. UK Govt will provide £40m, Scottish Govt will add another £50m, £10m of which will be linked to green growth funds.

Full business cases for each of these projects will be developed over 2022, and projects will be delivered by 2032. There are two main programmes:

- Innovation and Industry
- Creating Great Places

DD talked the Board through a detailed (screen-shared) presentation. This would be circulated to the Board immediately afterwards.

PA

Chair – stressed the tremendous opportunity for the whole Council area and the ripple effect that will result. Important that we deliver on these aspirations, as there is huge expectation on the part of local people, and also nationally too, in terms of contribution to the economy of the region and the rest of Scotland.

KL – stressed this isn't just local, but also has national significance. There is an absolute match between the direction of travel of the investment work and that of Net Zero. Significant investment issues still to be resolved, but - after years of planning and deliberation - we are now in a very positive position.

JK – pointed out the link between the work undertaken in locality planning (esp. in Grangemouth) and Growth Deal. There's a strong synergy between the Community Action Plan for Grangemouth and the potential community benefits being proposed through the Growth Deal.

KT – There is much activity behind the scenes The group tasked with work on Net Zero met yesterday and now has a clear timeline. The project team is now being put in place and the outline business case for each project is being developed. FVC has committed funds towards this. Key challenge is the consistency of approach. Noted the support from local MP and from Cabinet Secretary.

Dr OH - Infrastructure is important. Discussion around Falkirk community hospital sites. Could that be linked into the overall infrastructure plan? It might be helpful to consider a wider regional approach too – i.e., working between local authorities and wider regional partners. Do we have any HE presence locally? That can be a key contributor too. Is there an opportunity to link with HE institutions for an innovation campus?

LMcl - regional meeting with partners taking place on 22 February, looking at an approach to the Forth Valley Economic Action Plan. We already work closely with University of Stirling; also other university inputs too, eg St Andrew's. FVC is very adept at establishing links with HE partners; but are themselves often better equipped to provide that skills resource directly into local industry.

KT – FVC is both an FE and an HE establishment. Currently in discussion with ScotChem based at St Andrews Uni, and is hoping to host ScotChem as a hub for Grangemouth. Also in conversations with the Industrial Biotech Innovation Centre from Strathclyde Uni – they will also be hosted as a hub. There is already a very positive relationship with Stirling Uni, which will include the development of the University College Hospital and the work with Scottish International Environmental Centre.

There's a need for more effective communication with the local community re the interconnectivity and interdependencies behind the Growth Deal.

DD – Community hospital site issue points to the emerging agenda of reinforcing equality of place and how we work with communities as equal partners in that process. Important that this CPP moves the economic agenda

forward in a way that involves local communities. Health statistics in Grangemouth are worse than in other areas of Falkirk. The community's health needs to be linked to community wealth and economic growth.

Outcome 23: Economic Skills and Development

Sarah McCulley – presented to Board on the employability actions in the Falkirk Plan and also gave an update on the changes that have occurred in the Local Employability Partnership (LEP). There has been significant review of local employability services and the role of LEPs. Shift towards local governance has meant that the money coming directly into local areas from Scottish Government is determined by the LEPs.

The LEP has been re-designing local services to meet the needs of priority groups. Evidence-based planning has been undertaken to identify priorities. A SWOT Analysis has been undertaken, as have service mapping and gap analysis. This research has identified geographic areas which require employability support locally.

The 2022-25 Delivery Plan is in the final stages of sign-off by the LEP.

There has been a decrease in overall claimant count for over 16yrs+ cohort. Falkirk is lower than Scottish average. Youth unemployment in 2010 was 10.1% in Falkirk. It's now c. 6.5%. More work to do to ensure this improvement is sustained. In terms of underemployment rate, Falkirk is the top-performing local authority in Scotland. Improvements in gender pay gap (dropping from 10.4% to 2%) is very positive; as is the improvement in the female employment rate. Efforts are continuing to improve the disabled employment rate.

Work to do focuses primarily on young people and other priority groups. For example participation rates aren't where we want them to be. Also, Falkirk's no qualification rate, at 10.3%, is still higher than the Scottish average.

LEP has undertaken a variety of community engagement with priority groups across the Council area: disabled people, disabled young people, care experienced young people, and school leavers who fall into category of non-confirmed destinations.

There have been significant developments across each of the action areas within the Falkirk Plan. These are all evidence-based actions. The publication of the LEP Action Plan in March will further highlight where the priority action areas are locally.

KT – A cut in funding across the board (e.g., £2.5m for FVC) means this will be a challenging area of work over the next couple of years.

The Board approved the update on Outcome 23.

Outcome 22: Net Zero

Laura McIntyre – updated the Board on the work of the Falkirk Economic Partnership Communications Group. The Group supports the work around the various joint Investment Zone initiatives.

	<p>There was concern around the lack of credit or profile that the Forth Valley area was given despite its efforts in working towards Net Zero.</p> <p>In the run up to COP-26, a range of partners in the Falkirk Economic Partnership was approached to help to highlight this work. The campaign was pitched along ‘<i>stop talking, start doing</i>’. In particular, we need to highlight what we’re doing about Grangemouth, as it’s a high-CO₂ emitter.</p> <p>These partners pooled their comms resources to help raise the profile of the Net Zero work being undertaken in the local area. Examples included: Arcola presence at COP-26, which included an ADSL/Net Zero bus in the green zone; fuel change showcase led by Forth Valley College; delegate visits to the renewables bio-refinery in Grangemouth; Arcola Hydrogen training in Bo’ness; Net Zero Communities showcase for SMEs. This was complemented by significant announcements including INEOS announcement on ‘<i>Road to Net Zero</i>’ and Fort Ports Report on ‘<i>Net Zero Forth Estuary</i>’; c. 70 local school pupils took part in Arcola-sponsored Hydrogen Challenge with some schools going to COP-26; 1851 Trust and INEOS – <i>Girls into STEM</i> event involved c.250 teenage girls from across Forth Valley to learn about STEM careers; <i>Forth Valley for Net Zero</i> website has a whole range of new releases, updates, videos etc. highlighting good practice locally.</p> <p>Key outcomes: Forth Valley area is now seen as a leader working towards Net Zero. There was a high social media footprint in the run-up to COP-26; the profile of Forth Valley partners and businesses and their commitment to Net Zero was raised; identified an appetite on the part of the local community to learn more about innovation in Forth Valley; established key relationships across the three local authorities. These relationships will be further strengthened through closer work in various Growth Deal initiatives.</p> <p>KM – disappointed not to see the role of nature mentioned more explicitly in the Net Zero ambitions. Falkirk potentially has a very significant contribution to make in terms of peatland restoration, tree-planting, coastal habitat management, dealing with sea-level rise, etc. Would ask that the message ‘<i>nature is climate; climate is nature</i>’ be weaved into strategies and actions. Keen to collaborate going forwards.</p> <p>LMcI – acknowledgement that more could be done to evidence this. However, discussions are ongoing in the background to inform all of these interlinked agendas and strategies. - e.g., schools are involved in initiatives such as tree-planting. Also, working with Scottish Environment Centre. Would welcome any nature-focused input into future plans.</p> <p>Chair - referenced the Bio-diversity Plan and the Mitigation Plan. This work often isn’t seen in working towards Net Zero, so would encourage all partners to work together in achieving this.</p>	KM/LMc
<p>5.</p>	<p>Improvement Plan</p> <p>Jen Kerr presented an update paper. Improvement Plan work started with the self assessment exercise in 2019. Since then, a number of changes have been implemented in CPP strategic partnership. Final Improvement Plan stalled in 2020/21 due to pandemic response.</p>	

	<p>Best Value Audit Recommendations relate directly to CPP; two of which are embedded in the delivery and monitoring schedule for the Falkirk Plan.</p> <p>Localities as worked in the CPP are currently too big and are not in line with recommendations under the 2015 Act. Also, we need to understand our responsibilities as CPP partners to ensure we meet these statutory obligations.</p> <p>To this end, we will be delivering a number of improvement workshops to support this understanding across the next 3 years.</p> <p>Board members are asked to respond with feedback by 9th March.</p> <p>KL – welcomed the comprehensive summary, and acknowledged it was closely tied into findings of Best Value Audit. These are the right actions and will help the CPP achieve the right outcomes for communities. Also, noted the scale of this work placed on the CPT and sub-groups. Need to be careful that this doesn't become overly burdensome or overly bureaucratic. Some of this work can be light touch.</p>	ALL
6.	<p>Locality Planning</p> <p>Paul Anderson summarised briefly the main points of progress that have taken place since Board last met. Positive progress continues to be made across the Locality Planning remit. In all 3 areas where the Partnership is developing CAPs, there have been significant steps forward:</p> <p>Bainsford & Langlees</p> <p>The short-life sub-groups (on Alcohol, ASB, drugs, litter, etc.) are liaising with community groups and community planning partners to develop actions to address these priorities. Each sub-group will develop short, medium and long-term actions. It is the intention that each priority issue will have at least one short-term action, which will offer 'quick-fix' solutions. This will demonstrate to the community that issues are being addressed.</p> <p>The Sub-groups will report back to the Bainsford & Langlees CAP Working Group. The Bainsford and Langlees CAP will be published by end of August 2022.</p> <p>Community events are being planned for Easter. (These are being led by CLD staff in liaison with local community groups) These may well provide an appropriate opportunity to update the local community on progress on the CAP – which members will recall is scheduled for publication in August</p> <p>Early discussions are being held around events planned for the Summer - and we're looking at whether one of these might provide an appropriate platform to launch the CAP (scheduled for end August).</p> <p>Denny Dunipace & Dennyloanhead (DDD)</p> <p>Meeting of the DDD CAP Group is being held this morning. The Group has meetings planned next week with Public Health Scotland (PHS) to update the locality profile for DDD.</p>	

	<p>Additional actions have been identified to address new issues that have arisen since the plan was drafted in 2019. These include: public / community transport infrastructure, fuel poverty and child poverty.</p> <p>Cllrs for Ward 3 will be invited to take part in the meeting of that group scheduled for the evening of 23 February.</p> <p>The Group intends to hold a launch event towards the end of March when the CAP is due to be published.</p> <p>Grangemouth</p> <p>Grangemouth has the sharpest focus at the moment – the CAP is due to be published at the end of this month. The CAP is in the process of being finalised. This will require us to update and refresh the essential key data, facts and figure and statistics to capture a reliable, robust profile on which to base future actions.</p> <p>PA made a request of Board Members - if they could ask their staff to respond positively to any requests from Annette Kerr in Community Planning for meetings to discuss and confirm latest data. These requests will come out this week and next</p> <p>It's in everyone's interest that the CAPs contain the latest and most reliable data – and we can only do that if we have those focused conversations. So co-operation across the Partnership would be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Grangemouth Stakeholder Group</p> <p>The re-establishment of the Grangemouth Stakeholder Group has brought real sharpness of focus and clarity of thought as to what's required in Grangemouth. A number of colleagues here this morning are on that Group and we've recently been joined by colleagues from Forth Valley College who have added to the positive momentum of this Group and we're keen to see that continue.</p> <p>Launch event</p> <p>A sub-group has been formed to co-ordinate a launch event for the Grangemouth CAP. This Group is in fact meeting this afternoon, to plan an online event scheduled for the evening of 24 February 2022. This will be followed up by a number of in-person road-show-style events and meetings in Grangemouth.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>CLD Action Plan</p> <p>Frank McChord presented a short summary of the CLD Action Plan for 2021-24, which focused on the change of governance around the Plan.</p> <p>The Council has a statutory duty for delivery and annual reporting of the Action Plan. 2020 Guidance from Education Scotland and HMIE recommend that all CLD action plans would benefit from wider partnership and collaborative governance in respect of delivery and monitoring. To this end, the CLD Action Plan has been developed with clear alignment to the Actions within the Falkirk Plan.</p>	

	<p>Progress on the CLD Action Plan will be reported through the Locality and Place Planning Group, which reports to Theme 1 of the Falkirk Plan '<i>Working in Partnership with Communities</i>'.</p> <p>In future, the required annual report will be presented to Board by the Head of Children's Services, prior to submission to Scottish Government.</p> <p>KL – pleased to see the alignment between the CLD Action Plan and the LOIP/Falkirk Plan. Good for the CPP to see the impact that CLD has in local communities and the lives of individuals. This is often overlooked and this Action Plan speaks to that and the value of the work being undertaken by CLD.</p> <p>Chair – similar to third sector partners, the work of CLD colleagues often goes unnoticed. Colleagues often don't get the credit they deserve. This Action Plan will help raise the profile of the positive impact made by CLD.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>8.1 – Comms Strategy (CPP Website)</p> <p>A procurement exercise was undertaken last Summer, where three web design companies bid for the contract. However, in each case there were significant gaps in the tender information required, which meant we were unable to proceed with the process.</p> <p>We're now at a stage where we're looking to re-boot the tender / procurement process. It will be a case of going through a similar process, asking web design companies to bid. All three of the three firms previously involved have said they are content to re-bid again.</p> <p>However, having discussed this at length, with both the suppliers and with IT / Comms managers across the partnership, it's clear that we can't run this project on an ad-hoc basis. This requires a dedicated project manager – preferably someone with an IT / project management background – and ideally with experience of procuring a new website. We're now looking at internal capacity options to consider how this might be achieved. Any offers of support would be welcomed.</p> <p>8.2 – Seony Ross</p> <p>From Oct 2018 until last month, Seony was the Community Planning Policy Officer with Falkirk Council. Seony was in large part responsible for the delivery of the high-quality Falkirk Plan that we're all now working to. It was Seony's expertise and commitment that means Falkirk now has one of the most comprehensive, ambitious, and high-quality LOIPs of any local authority in Scotland. Seony has moved onto a promoted post at Renfrewshire Council. We're very lucky to have had Seony working with us. The Board formally acknowledges Seony's contribution to Community Planning in Falkirk, and thanks her for all her hard work. The Board wishes Seony every success in her new post.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting Thursday 14 April 2022 (10am-12noon)</p>	