

Agenda Item: 6

Stephen Brown (Chief Officer)

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Chair's Assurance Report to the Integration Joint Board

Title of Report:	Strategic Planning Group.	Date of Meeting:	14 March 2025.
Prepared By:	Issy Grieve	Presented By:	Issy Grieve.
Purpose:	To present the unapproved Strategic Planning Group Minutes from the meeting on 14 March 2025.		

Positive Assurances:	Decisions Made:
Hope Co-Housing: A useful presentation from Hope Co-Housing on their project. Suicide Prevention Plan: The draft Plan was presented for Members awareness which was positively received.	Future Meetings: Reduce meetings to six a year.
Areas of Concern or Key Risks to Escalate:	Major Actions:
None.	Draft Suicide Presentation Plan: To be presented to the Integration Joint Board in April 2025. Future Agenda Items: Members asked to bring forward potential agenda items.
Comments on Effectiveness of the Meeting:	
No issues noted. Meeting well attended.	

Strategic Planning Group

Minute | 14 March 2025 | 1000 | Teams

Present: Issy Grieve (Chair), Stephen Brown, Helen Sievwright, John Daniels, Morven Brooks, Lou Willis, Danny Oliver, Val Stonehouse, Lynda Bradford, Wendy Lycett, Darren Morrow, Deborah Langan, Drew Mayhew, Morven Gemmill, Catherine Kirkwood (Item 3), Trish Spence (Item 3) Mark Smith (Item 3) and Stephanie Johnston (notes)

Apologies: Scott Robertson, Davie Hall, Steven Johnston, Frances Troup, Cathy Martin and Yvonne McPhee.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Issy welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

2. Minutes from previous SPG Meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Those who have yet to complete their actions were encouraged to complete any outstanding ones as soon as possible.

3. Hope Co-Housing Update

Lynda introduced the Hope Co-Housing project, highlighting its innovative approach to community-led support. The project aims to create a co-housing community, inspired by similar initiatives. The project is designed to offer rental homes, making it accessible to individuals who may not be able to afford to buy a house. The site is located on the edge of the village, with plans for a terrace of houses and shared spaces to encourage social interaction. The design includes solar panels and polytunnels for gardening, promoting an active and independent lifestyle for residents. The project has faced challenges, including funding gaps and the need for value engineering to make the design affordable.

The funding structure for the project was explained, noting the Islands Housing Fund covering approximately 72-75% of the costs. The remaining funds are expected to come from a mortgage and amenity funding, with a current funding gap of £250,000 to £300,000. The project is being managed in collaboration with the Communities Housing Trust, which will own the property, while the residents will manage day-to-day activities. Following a query, it was advised that although there has been engagement with the Council, no funding has been made available for the project. It was suggested that perhaps Councillor engagement for support may be useful.

There were other queries regarding the rental levels, funding, and potential care provision for residents. The project aims to maintain rental costs within social rent

levels, and discussions are ongoing to address the funding gap and explore potential support from local authorities and other organisations.

4. Draft Suicide Prevention Action Plan

Stephen presented the draft Orkney Suicide Prevention Plan, developed by the Suicide Prevention Task Force. The aim is to address the high rates of suicide in Orkney, focusing on vulnerable groups such as children, young people, those in agriculture, and individuals involved in the justice system. The Suicide Prevention Task Force has been working on various initiatives, including a young person suicide response plan, training opportunities, and media campaigns.

The Plan outlines eight key actions for the coming year which includes launching the Orkney Suicide Prevention app, organising a Suicide Prevention Conference, and engaging with community groups to raise awareness. The Suicide Prevention Task Force aims to establish access to suicide bereavement support in Orkney and introduce mental health practitioner roles to support GP practices. A minimum data set will be developed to inform the suicide prevention agenda, and the Suicide Prevention Task Force will work with existing groups to hear the voice of lived experience.

There was strong support for the Plan, commending its clarity and focus. Darren raised concerns about the need for a clear pathway for reporting and responding to suicidal ideation and self-harm. Stephen acknowledged the challenges and highlighted ongoing efforts to improve information sharing and support. Morven B suggested linking the app to Voluntary Action Orkney's Community Directory, while Drew offered support from the Scottish Ambulance Service. Wendy and Val provided additional resources and support for the Plan's implementation. Stephen advised that the draft would be presented to a future Integration Joint Board for awareness.

5. AOCB

5.1. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the Strategic Planning Group will be amended to six meetings a year. Members were encouraged to suggest items to Stephen for future agendas that would benefit from wider engagement with the Strategic Planning Group.

Action: all. The dates of the future meeting were noted.

6. Date of Next Meeting

7 April 2025 – Special Meeting.