

Community Empowerment Group  
Thursday 24 February 2022, 2-4pm

Member	Present
Michelle Cochlan, Aberdeen City Council (Chair)	Yes
Maggie Hepburn, ACVO (Vice Chair)	Yes
Claire Smith, Police Scotland	Apologies
Dave Black, GREC	Yes
Bryan Nelson, SFRS	Yes
Fiona Clark, ACC	Yes
Wendy Henderson, Independent Care Sector	Yes
Susan Thoms, ACC	Yes
Colin Wright, ACC	Yes
Martin Wyllie, ACC	Yes
Paul Tytler, ACC	Yes
Elaine Sinclair, UoA	Yes
Louise Ballantyne, NHSG	Yes
Matt Reid, ACC	Yes

Item	Title	Lead	Notes/ Actions	Responsibility
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	All	<p>Welcome to Paul Tytler who replaces Rachel Harrison on the group to represent Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships. ACHSCP to confirm replacement for Gordon Edgar as representative for the Locality Empowerment Groups.</p> <p>Fiona Clark shared her news that she will be retiring from the Council in May. The Council is currently recruiting to the post at the moment.</p>	
2.	<a href="#">Actions from the last meeting</a>	All	<p>Actions from the last meeting were marked as complete or covered on todays agenda with the following exceptions:</p> <p><u>Aberdeen Engagement Schedule</u> – Maggie took an action to follow up with Jade after this meeting to look at how the ACVO online event calendars and the youth engagement calendar could be merged and evolve.</p> <p><u>CLD Annual Report</u> – Due to staff absence the CLD Annual Report has been delayed and therefore not on todays agenda. Colin will circulate when ready which is expected to be in advance of next meeting.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>CW</p>

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			<p><u>Mental Health Wellbeing Fund</u> – Maggie advised that the Partnership group hasn't met since the last meeting but work has been ongoing to look at how application support for the Health Improvement Fund, Fairer Aberdeen Fund and Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund could be streamlined. The Partnership group is meeting in March and Maggie will advise of intentions to reflect this work in the Community Empowerment Strategy as a way of empowering communities. The Community Empowerment Group will be keen to kept updated on progress and help with overcoming any issues.</p> <p><u>Participatory Budgeting</u> – Susan provided an update on PB for the Fairer Aberdeen Fund and advised that she has started doing some work with Rachel Harrison to develop a PB toolkit for use by the Council but felt that this could be a partnership toolkit. Louise advised that Adam Caldwell is also interested in pb forming part of the community engagement framework for the NHS. Wendy agreed that it would be a good idea to have a CPA toolkit to ensure consistency of application across partners. It was agreed that Michelle would arrange a meeting with Susan, Maggie, Louise, Rachel and Neil to discuss further and we would bring a summary of discussion back to the next meeting of the group. Dave suggested it might also be a topic of discussion for a future Network meeting.</p> <p><u>Strengthening Communities Post</u> – Maggie advised that the post closes on Monday and will update the group on recruitment at the next meeting.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>MC/MH/ST</p> <p>MH</p>
3.	<b>Revised Community Empowerment Strategy – Early Draft</b>	Dave, Maggie, Fiona, Michelle	<p>An early draft of the revised Community Empowerment Strategy was circulated in advance of the meeting. There are still some sections to be completed but the group was asked to provide feedback on the work completed so far.</p> <p>Members were positive about the draft and the scope of the document given the broad subject matter. There was a question mark about the audience for the document and whether this was just for Community Planning Aberdeen or to be used by individual partners. At the moment the document is very focussed on Community Planning Aberdeen structures.</p> <p>The group discussed the Levels of Empowerment diagram included in the strategy and how we hope all partners would sign up to this. Populating the section with more partner examples would help illustrate the universal application of the levels. The section on Community Planning Aberdeen arrangements is to clarify how Community Planning Aberdeen are applying the levels and the next steps section highlights areas for improvement.</p> <p>Elaine advised that UoA are developing a community engagement strategy as part of their Civic University work. Links could be made within this to the CPA Community Empowerment Strategy and in particular the Levels of Empowerment. Elaine will consider whether there are any UoA examples which could be included in</p>	

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			<p>the CPA strategy. Elaine was also interested in the earlier discussion about PB and how this could form part of the University's engagement strategy.</p> <p>Louise confirmed that NHS have an engagement framework and key objectives to diversify networks rather than a strategy and that the framework is always evolving. One of the challenges they experience is how do they know whether people feel empowered? She was pleased to see the draft Community Empowerment Strategy includes a section on indicators of success. The NHS engagement focusses on recognising the barriers to engagement and how to overcome them. The group suggested that it would also be useful for the revised Community Empowerment Strategy to reference the identification and mitigation of barriers to engagement. Louise agreed to share NHS framework/ objectives.</p> <p>Bryan advised that SFRS would be keen to embrace any local engagement strategy and is happy to give examples of SFRS engagement for inclusion in the strategy. E.g. Gramps Walks and Talks.</p> <p>Louise queried what time period the strategy will cover. The group agreed that this will be based on what we are going to change and how long it will take us to achieve that.</p> <p>Martin queried the term Community Empowerment and whether this is the right language as it creates a divide and a 'them and us'. There followed a discussion about the audience for the strategy which was described as for staff with public facing elements within the toolkit/ appendices. Martin accepted the use of professional language within a strategy for staff but challenged that even if the strategy is for staff it sets up a certain attitude. Dave highlighted that empowerment doesn't always have to be given and that we would want to encourage community self-empowerment.</p> <p>Wendy agreed and reflected that during Covid people were just empowered. They knew what was needed and what they could do. The strategy needs to raise awareness of an ongoing need for communities to be involved in helping to deliver the longer term vision of the City and the important role they can continue to play in that.</p> <p>The strategy review group thanked members for their feedback which they will take on board in the next stage of drafting. If any members would like to get involved in this please contact one of the team.</p>	<p>ES</p> <p>LB</p> <p>BN</p> <p>Dave, Maggie, Fiona, Michelle</p>
4.	<b>Review of Aberdeen City Voice – Draft Report and Recommendations</b>	Michelle, Anne, Bryan and Dave	The draft findings report was circulated in advance of the meeting. The report presents the findings of the group so far. Further engagement with stakeholders including holding focus groups with panel members is taking place this month. Dave confirmed that he is holding a session with the equality network this evening.	

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			<p>The main topic of discussion was the potential move to making City Voice fully online and the requirement to have an email address to do so. The following points were noted:</p> <p>Not everyone will have an email address. This presents both a challenge and opportunity. Need to be careful that we not in breach of equality legislation. Citizens could be supported to set up an email address which has wider benefits than for City Voice. For example, support could be arranged through the local library. Even though the ambition for the Census 2022 is to be digital first, a paper copy of the questionnaire is still available on request. Not everyone wants to be online – Fiona shared example of blue badges experience and warned against over reliance on libraries. Support should be available via other settings/ community organisations. Louise shared data from NHS public engagement exercise in April 21 that showed how people want to engage with NHS.</p> <div data-bbox="607 657 1890 1150" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><b><u>What we found out - Public Engagement Exercise (April 2021)</u></b></p> <p>106 members of the public gave their views on how they would like to engage with NHS Grampian after a survey was shared on social media, key learning is shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Respondents preferred way to give their views were:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Short online surveys about what's important to them (85%)</li> <li>➢ Online opinion polls with 2 or 3 'hot topics' (75%),</li> <li>➢ Longer online surveys asking about their experience of receiving care (53%)</li> <li>➢ Email asking for their views on health care strategies and plans (25%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Respondents preferred way to access engagement opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Opt in to complete surveys through links shared on Facebook (66%)</li> <li>➢ Sign up in advance to receive emails about engagement opportunities (58%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </div> <p>Wendy provided an update on action from last meeting to say ACHSCP are currently recruiting to a post on to support people to use tech. Jane Boyle leading on tech workstream.</p>	
5.	<b>Locality Planning and Update from LEGs/PNPs</b>	Paul	This item was not discussed as Paul had to leave the meeting early.	

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6.	<b>Engaging Communities in the Census</b>	Michelle	<p>The Census 2022 stakeholder engagement toolkit was circulated in advance of the meeting. Michelle advised that Scottish Government is looking for support to engage minority groups. Fiona and Maggie shared concerns about the level of support the Scottish Government are looking for to get engagement locally given that they will not be doing door knocking. Maggie has reflected this back to the Scottish Government. Fiona advised that libraries and the CLD team have been engaged for some time now in activities with the Scottish Government in the run up to the Census.</p> <p>All members agreed to look out for communications coming out on this from the Scottish Government directly or via the Council/ Community Planning Aberdeen and disseminate through normal channels.</p>	ALL
7.	<b>Scottish Recovery Network – What Makes Engagement Meaningful</b>	Dave	<p>The Engagement document was circulate in advance of the meeting as a good practice example. All agreed it was easy to read and would be useful to refer to in developing the revised Community Empowerment Strategy.</p>	
8.	<b>Health Determinants Research Collaborative</b>	Martin	<p>Martin briefed the group on the Health Determinants Research Collaborative bid which he also posted about on the Improvement Community MS Teams site. See below:</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council along with its partners has submitted a bid for funding to setup a Health Determinants Research Collaborative (HDRC). The purpose of the HDRC is to enable Aberdeen City Council along with its partners to become more research focused, using evidence to inform its decisions, and undertaking research and evaluation relating to Aberdeen City Council activities. The bid is based on incorporating the HDRC into Aberdeen City Councils existing partnership arrangements. The HDRC will strengthen existing relationships with partners and build new ones.</p> <p>The HDRC aim is to support improvements in public health. This will be done by creating research led environment to support decision-making. The HDRC will bring people and researchers together to identify evidence that will help with decision making and to make recommendations for funding research into areas of concern or interest. It will do this by training professionals and citizens on how to prioritise research needs and ensure research reviews are available to support decisions made. The HDRC will engage and involve people and communities and will share back what is discovered, how research and learning has been used and what impact this has had on people’s health. This will be shared both locally and internationally. Aberdeen City is facing a social and economic transformation. This transformation will happen because of the decline in the oil and gas industry, on-going changes toward a net zero economy and to deal with the impacts of Brexit and Covid-19. Aberdeen City Council and its partners are working very hard to improve the</p>	

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			<p>economic prospects for all and to reduce economic, social and health inequalities. The HDRC will support our research led approach to improving people's lives ensuring that research will be applied in practice to improve the health of everyone and to reduce inequalities.</p> <p>Martin will produce a briefing note/ communication on the HDRC bid which can be circulated to wider partners (E.g. Management Group) and those unable to access MS Teams to bring them up to speed. The briefing note should confirm which partners have been involved so far and the interface with plans for the Community Planning Aberdeen Research Forum.</p>	MW
9.	<b>North East Culture Collective and Community Empowerment</b>	Michelle	A very brief update was provided on the work of the North East Culture Collective and potential to collaborate with Community Planning Aberdeen. CPA has identified a number of LOIP projects which would benefit from involvement from the culture and creative sector. This includes cross cutting work around engaging hard to reach groups. Murray Dawson and Stewart Aitken are considering and will come back with proposals. Michelle to keep the group updated and will invite Murray and Stewart to attend a future meeting if relevant.	MC
10.	<b>AOB</b>	Elaine	Elaine posted in the chat about an upcoming event for interest - As part of the University's work to support new Scots/become a University of Sanctuary, they have a Community of Practice Group (mainly staff and Students, some local partners). The next meeting on morning of March 10th (online) will host a meeting with input from the Glasgow Student Action for Refugees (STAR) group, to talk through their activities supporting refugees with our student and staff members (the hope is we can encourage a new STAR group at Aberdeen to form). Sheona Bell and Karen Quin from the City council are attending and also colleagues from GREC. Elaine kindly extended the invite to members of the Community Empowerment Group and will send on the link to those who wish to attend.	ES
11.	<b><u>2022 Meetings</u></b> 31 March 28 April – Network 26 May 30 June 28 July (Maggie) 26 August 29 September 27 Oct (Maggie) 24 November	All	Michelle has not yet had the chance to arrange a planning meeting for the next Network meeting and suggested that this should be pushed back to April instead. The group agreed. Michelle and Maggie to meet to discuss.	MH