Fa’side

Area Partnership

**Minutes of the meeting of the Fa’side Area Partnership**

22nd April 2025, 19:00-21:00

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| Attendance |

**Chair**

1. Bill Axon [BA]

**Members and substitute members present:**

1. Debbie Middlemass, Vice Chair [DM]
2. Carla Allan, VCEL [CA]
3. Richard Kerr, Pencaitland & District CC [RK]
4. Kathryn-Jane James, Support from the Start [KJJ]
5. Alan Bell, REcharge [AB]
6. David Todd, Macmerry & Gladsmuir CC [DT]
7. Cllr Colin McGinn, Elected Member, ELC [CMcG]
8. Loreen Pardoe, Ross high Parent Teacher Council [LP]
9. Alan Lauder, Macmerry and Gladsmuir Community Council [AL]
10. Robert McNeill, Tranent and Elphinstone Community Council [RMcN]
11. Cllr George McGuire, Elected Member, ELC [GMcG]
12. Rosanne Woods, Fa'side Health and Well Being Chair [RW]
13. Cllr Lee-Anne Menzies, Elected Member, ELC [LAM]
14. Cllr Fiona Dugdale, Elected Member, ELC [FD]
15. Neil Ellis, Tranent and Elphinstone Community Council [NE]

**Others in attendance**

Andy Cheshire, Connected Communities Manager - Fa’side, ELC [AC]

Jude Henderson, CDO, Connected Communities – Fa’side, ELC [JH]

Tracey Redpath, CDO, Connected Communities – Fa’side, ELC [TR]

Lorna Bellany (NHS), Population Health Project Manager [LB]

**Apologies**

Cllr Kenny McLeod, Elected Member, ELC [KMcL]

Shamin Akhtar, Elected Member, ELC [SA]

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| **Key Discussion Points–AGM (item 05)** | | |
|  | **Welcome**  BA welcomed everybody to the meeting. |  |
| **Apologies**  Apologies are noted above. |  |
|  | **Existing Chair and Vice chairperson stand down**  BA explained that DM and himself would stand down from their positions and go through the election process.  AC reminded the group that voting papers for nominations had been previously circulated on March 4th and asked if everyone was in agreement to reappoint BA and DM for the following year.  LAM put the nominations forward for both BA and DM.  CMcG seconded both counts.  BA thanked everyone for their vote of confidence in moving the partnership forward for the upcoming year. |  |
|  | **Proposed changes to Standing Orders**  AC proposed two changes to the standing orders.   1. **Change to quorate number**   BA asked what the current member count is.  AC confirmed it is sitting at eighteen.  BA proposed lowering quorate to ten as to keep it over 50% of voting members.  BA asked for confirmation of whether new member applications would be discussed at a later point in the meeting.  GMcG pointed out that the existing standing orders state that quorate is determined by calculating members number\*40%+1  BA questioned where the current quorate number (eleven) was determined.  AC to investigate.  BA proposed that this is answered, the vote on a new quorate number can be carried on the next AP meeting.   1. **Staggering of chair and vice chair elections**   AC proposed that the elections are kept to the annual AGM meeting instead of the staggered approach described in the standing orders.  No objections.  **Parent councils—Ross High and Pencaitland**  TR pointed out there are only two positions for parent councils.  DM clarified that other parent councils have held memberships in the past, one rep for the primaries and one for the high schools.  AC highlighted that the primaries are meant to rotate, although the partnership does not have a representative for each on the members list.  TR to investigate this and circle back. | AC  TR |
|  | **Proposed changes to the handbook**  No proposed changes. |  |
|  | **Confirmation of members and substitutes**  BA asked if this is ready.  AC explained that admin is still waiting on feedback from organisations.  BA stated that this will be discussed at the next AP meeting. |  |
|  | **Confirmation or nomination of subgroups chairs**  AC confirmed there are no changes—all willing to continue. There are no nominations.  BA confirmed that the AGM came to an end at this point. |  |

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|  | **Key Discussion Points–AP meeting (item 02)** |  |
|  | **Declaration of interest from agenda items (Item 02)**  To be raised before applications are discussed. |  |
|  | **Approval of minutes (Item 03)**  BA sought approval of minutes.  DM approved the minutes.  Seconded by CA. |  |
|  | **Matters Arising – Andy Cheshire (Item 04)**  **Historic. Letter of thanks from SD to Andrew Hogarth.** Letters still to be completed by SD. AC to chase and circle back for the next meeting in June. ***Ongoing***.  **Historic. Fa’side Community Kitchen** – Trustees still being sought. ***Ongoing.***  **Historic. REcharge Young Formers.** AC and AB to liaise with BA and DM post meeting. AC mentioned that it could potentially take the form of an annual general meeting, but keen to receive feedback from members on this. ***Ongoing.***  **Historic. Positive stories of young people.** AB and JH to liaise with Aaron from The Courier to get these positive stories out. ***Ongoing.***  **Historic. Roads update.** Meeting scheduled between AC and roads colleagues on May 9th. AC to report on next meeting in June**. *Ongoing*.**  **Historic. East Lothian Partnership self-assessment**. All updates related to this item will be shared through admin support. ***Concluded.***  **Growing for Change Collective.** No update at this point in time. LB to liaise with AB and circle back. ***Ongoing.***  **Community Asset Transfer/Community Wealth Building - Zahra Hussain.** The community asset transfer document has now been approved and Zahra is now taking this document to various Connected Communities officers across East Lothian. The next step will be to roll out a training program for all CDOs regarding community asset transfer, to begin in the next few weeks. ***Ongoing.*** | AC  LB |
|  | **Connected Communities team update (Item 06)**  **Fa’side AP annual report.** The report was circulated among the papers for this meeting. Instead of the usual individual reports, JH will be delivering a presentation to showcase the achievements of the past year.  **Fa’side Area Partnership annual review presentation.** AC kickstarted the presentation by highlighting the staffing challenges that the team has faced during the last financial year, particularly the fact that the team are all on temporary contracts.  AC also commented on the challenges of lacking administrative support during his first AP meeting, and proceeded to thank the team and both BA and DM for their support during the transition from CDO to CCM. AC also expressed his gratefulness to all the subgroup chairs for their continued support.  TR and JH broke down the allocations from the general budget and the subgroups. TR then proceeded to go through all the projects that were supported with this funding.  **General budget:**   * ELPA—Summer Play activities * PCDT—October and February Lunch Clubs * Fa’side Festive Provision * FCK—New Chiller * REcharge—Resilient, Recharged and ready P6 * D Fie Foe—Ultras Project * Ross High School—70th Anniversary   **FaCTS:**   * Fa’side Walking Action Plan (with Planning Aid Scotland) * Fracer Centre—Pop-up Planetarium * Natural Connections—Heugh Garden * Macmerry Miners Community Hub—Hand Dryers   **Health & Wellbeing:**   * DFT—Coffee and Chat * Roots & Fruits—Increased provision * FCK—Day Trip to North Berwick * New Beginnings—Equipment for their Allotments * Macmerry Miners Community Hub—Kitchen equipment * Tranent & District Community Sports Hub—Promotional Leaflets] * REcharge—Wellbeing Support for Young People   **Children and Young Persons:**  JH thanked AB and highlighted that the CAYP is a younger subgroup than their counterparts.   * **Macmerry Primary School—**P6 Pilot. JH mentioned what a great impact this project has had on young people and they way they carry themselves and communicate. JH will be sharing a full evaluation of the project in due course. * **P7 Transition Event—**Really positive feedback from the partners. * **Tranent Ultras—**Great engagement achieved by D Fie Foe. JH recognized the difficulty of reaching this particular group, but ended on a positive note on the overall success of the project. * **Youth Clubs—**Average of 60 young people attending weekly. Carried a Christmas film night at the Fraser Centre and are campaigning for dog owners do be responsible owners.   **Holiday Hunger:**   * **Easter Study Support**—Young people were provided with two tutors to aid them in areas that they were struggling with, particularly maths. FCK provided lunch. JH will circulate the full evaluation once ready for anyone who would like to see it. * **Christmas Provision**—Delivered jingle and food bags to 113 households, 204 adults, and 266 children.   TR pointed out that Transitions activity will be taking place at Meadow Mill on June 2nd and 3rd.  TR explained that Community Day planning is underway. It is set to take place on June 20th at Ross High. Invitations have now gone out to groups that have been funded by the partnership.  NE has requested for a copy of the slides to circulate among their own groups.  BA thanked AC and the team for their support at ground level. | JH/TR |
|  | **Consultation Hub (Item 07)**  Consultation on parking charges. AC mentioned a consultation that opened on the day of the meeting (22/04/25) concerning the introduction of parking management in Tranent which entails the introduction charges for on-street and some off-street parking.  AC to circulate more information via admin support.  BA asked for the deadline on this consultation. TR informed it is open from April 22nd until June 3rd.  BA highlighted the importance of getting this information out for members that were not present at the meeting as parking issues always present a challenge.  CMcG pointed out the nuances of this discussion and that parking permits for residents are being considered. CMcG recognized the issue that parking spaces represent for many residents and clarified that this will also be part of the conversation.  TR pointed out that The Courier put out an article implying that parking charges will be introduced, rather than explaining that there will be a consultation.  BA recognised that the subject of parking spaces tends to spark controversy. | AC |
|  | **Subgroup/network updates (Item 08)**   1. **FaCTS (TR)**   Walking Action Plan has been the main focus. Due to RMcL’s health, there is not a meeting date set yet.   1. **Health and Wellbeing (RW)**   Concerns about Haven closing down and the effect this will have on the children.  Maria Baron from ELHSCP will now be taking part in H&WB’s scrutiny groups. RW sought permission to change the role and remit.  TR clarified that it would be useful to have the input of someone involved in Health and Social Care, and that Maria attends Health and Wellbeing’s meeting regularly.  TR to put this in writing in order to change the role an remit, which will be presented during the next AP meeting.   1. **Fa’side Young Formers/Children and Young People Subgroup Recharge (AB)**   The group have been meeting regularly.  A large project has just come to an end, called Tranent Wombles. They have planted trees at the back of the foresters.  They were looking to organize a quiz event on 24/04/2025.  The group have met with Emma Lavery from Connected Communities a number of times now and have been looking at UNCRC Article 13. They have also attended the event for the launch of the video done by the team around the UNCRC that the Families Together team made.  FD mentioned she had the event for the Children’s Rights film. FD commented that she really enjoyed the video and asked if this can be shared for everyone to see.  **AB to send a link to AC so it can go on the minutes.**   1. **Fa’side Children's and Young People Professionals Forum (AB)**   Poverty has been the main focus and how it affects young people. AB has been liaising with different organisation and will circle back once he has had some feedback from them.  The next meeting will be focusing on mental health and it is due on w/c 05/05/2025. Gemma Burns, mental health youth worker, will be giving input during this meeting  The third point that the subgroup will be focusing on is looking at summer holiday providing plan.  Violence and sexual violence against women and girls will also be looked at, along with incel culture and the tiered list, wich comes from online environments and social media, but also from the *Adolescence* series.  AC expressed his interest in attending the meeting and that this subject is something the service has also been looking into in terms of the support that can be offered.  LB mirrored the interest, and proposed joining forces on the matter.  AC added that there needs to be a dual approach, and some of the focus needs to be on the parents and those supporting young people, e.g. increasing their awareness and their understanding around the conversation.  CA mentioned she had a chat with Fiona, the new community police officer, to see what can be done in partnership to tackle the issue.  FD noted that she had attended an online seminar around research on the subject, prior to *Adolescence.* FD asked how parents get to know how to support the young people or who the young people go to.  AB and LB offered to share information held on the subject by their respective organisations.  BA highlighted the importance of widely sharing this information and thanked AB for this.  AC mentioned a *under pressure* training programme that is currently being delivered by a member of the team, and that they shared a paper titled *Many Good Men* from zerotolerance.org about incel culture and misogyny. | TR  AB  AB |
|  | **Third Sector Update (CA) (Item 09)**  Numerous events upcoming. CA to circle back with specifics. | CA |
|  | **Budget update (Item 10)**  AC provided an update regarding the budget at the end of the financial year. A £500 underspend remained due to a miscommunication. The underspend was caused by a £500 payment to ELPA for their provision, which was paid off the general budget, instead of the CYP subgroup. AC apologised for the anomaly. |  |
|  | **AOCB (Item 11)**  **Request to join the partnership—Friends of Ormiston Park.** The request came through the Community Council Meeting, and it was brought by SA.  LAM asked if it would be fair to have Friends of Ormiston Park, but not Friends of other parks or other parent councils.  BA sought clarification on whether Friends of Polson Park had been part of the partnership.  AC clarified that it had been the sports hub. TR highlighted that they still are members according to the papers, but are sitting stagnant at the moment.  CMcG brought up concerns of an element of duplication, due to the well known fact that the same group of people tend to represent different organisations and groups, and noted that whether they be accepted as members will ultimately depend on the criteria for the partnership’s membership.  TR explained that core members include elected members, community councils (guaranteeing 2 places), and parent councils, with all having equal rights. Additional members, such as representatives of groups or individuals, can join by approaching the chairperson, and must be approved by a majority. Standard members will be removed if they miss two consecutive meetings.  FD raised concerns about fair representation in the partnership, particularly with Tranent being the largest town. She emphasized including both active individuals and underrepresented groups, questioning the fairness of adding members from specific areas and the potential need for further adjustments.  AB raised concerns about engaging sports hubs, noting that sports hubs haven't engaged in over two years and questioning how to represent them.  TR noted a similar concern to AB, mentioning that certain groups, like Friends of Ormiston Park, were invited to subgroups such as climate, travel sustainability, and health and well-being but didn't attend. She suggested that better attendance at these subgroups could improve feedback and engagement with the partnership.  AC responded by acknowledging that a number of these meetings are held during the day, which may not be feasible for volunteers who work.  BA highlighted concerns about equity of representation and the need to make a decision on the application to join the partnership, suggesting either canvassing other similar groups or turning down the application if no further input is sought.  BA proposed leaving the application pending until further research on the matter can be carried out.  DT raised the question of why the applicants are not going through their community council to represent their interests.  AC clarified that a member of Friends of Ormiston Park attends some community council meetings, but not all, and the group feel that they would be more active in the partnership that in the community council.  FD seconded AB’s idea of deferring the decision for the time being as the approval of this membership application could open the door to other groups, and is unsure how feasible this would be.  DM highlighted that even without a vote the meetings are open to the public and they could be in attendance if they chose to do so.  CMcG suggested implementing a clear membership policy to manage new members, considering a structured approach rather than a free-for-all, and acknowledged the value of current volunteers while addressing the need for guidelines.  LAM proposed rejecting the current membership application for now, allowing the group to attend as visitors without voting, and setting a future date for open membership applications with a clear policy.  BA acknowledged the positive news of a community group wanting to join and proposed informing them that their application remains on the table while a membership process is considered, with a follow-up as soon as possible.  **Funding applications**. AC clarified that the Ormiston Community Council's funding application did not list a total amount for the speed reactive sign due to expected cost savings, with the current estimated request being £3,910 for the sign.  **Ormiston Community Council:**  No objections.  **Ormiston Blooms Together:**  FD questioned how the heritage being remembered fits within the area partnership’s objectives.  BA noted that the application may not fully meet the partnership’s objectives, and more detail is needed on the proposal and any other funding sources explored before a final decision is made.  AC to seek clarity with Ormiston Blooms Together and circle back.  DT asked if an application had come in for an upgrade to the speed bumps on West Bank rd.  AC to investigate and circle back. | AC  AC |
|  | **Date of future Area Partnership meetings (Item 12)**  Dates of 2025 area partnership meetings.  24/06/2025  23/09/2025  25/11/2025  BA asked members for any other input.  BA pointed out that June is a potential holiday period for members, and that the face to face meeting might be better off taking place in September instead.  AC in agreement.  BA thanked everybody and ended the meeting. |  |