

## **Shetland Council of Social Service - Community Planning and Involvement in Delivery of SOA in Shetland**

### **Background**

SCSS is the Council for Voluntary Service for Shetland and is one body that supports, develops, manages, advises and represents the interests of both voluntary organisations, and volunteers . We are nationally recognised as the Council for Voluntary Service and the Volunteer Centre for Shetland.

Shetland Council of Social Service mission statement states:-

***Shetland Council of Social Service seeks to respond to and support voluntary services in Shetland by meeting present and emerging needs, developing and promoting new ways of responding and encouraging people in Shetland to offer voluntary service to their community.***

This year SCSS is 50 years old and in that time we have developed and established over 36 organisation and projects delivering services to the people of Shetland, these include CAB, Disability Shetland, and Shetland Befriending Scheme.

Our largest development to date has been the establishment of the £2.2M voluntary sector hub at Market House in Lerwick. This has proved to be a successful venture and has received positive reviews from Scottish Government.

### **Community Planning**

SCSS has been a partner in Community Planning process since 2003, in March 2008 the Local Authority proposed a new model for Community Planning in Shetland comprised of a Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and a Community Planning Delivery Group (CPDG). SCSS is a full partner in the CPDG.

SCSS and the local voluntary sector are represented on various strategic groups that report directly either to the CPP or the CPDG, these include the Community Health and Care Partnership, the Area Regeneration Partnership and various thematic groups from Child and Adult Protection to Transport and the network of Local Service Delivery Groups.

We are one of the partners involved in the development of Local Social Economy Partnership for Shetland and a sub group of the Area Regeneration Partnership has been set up to take this forward. We are planning a series of road shows in the islands and are delivering training in partnership with the Social Enterprise Academy .

- 1. Community Planning Partnership** – SCSS is a member of the CPP. This partnership has the responsibility of monitoring the SOA and Sustainable Shetland.

The group facilitated its first summit event in October 2008 that looked at the five focus themes for Shetland, Wealthier and Fairer, Healthier, Safer and Stronger, and Smarter and Greener.

At the summit, attended by 53 individuals involved in community planning both locally and nationally. The Community Planning Delivery Group (CPDG) “Champions” gave their 6 month updates on progress against the focus areas from the Wealthier, Fairer, Stronger, Healthier, Greener, Smarter sections of the SOA. A report on the outcomes from the summit has been produced and can be sourced from the Local Authority Organisational Development Team.

The Executive Officer for SCSS is one of the Champions involved in leading the work in connection with the focus areas of Wealthier and Fairer. This includes looking at ways to reduce poverty especially child poverty and fuel poverty. We have established a multi agency group to act as a think tank to tackle these issues in Shetland and how best to use of the Fairer Scotland Fund to assist in that process.

- 2. Community Planning Delivery Group** - SCSS, represented by the Executive Officer is a member of this group makes sure that the priorities selected are still current and relevant and are delivered in the coming year. It meets frequently to receive updated reports. This group makes recommendations on the allocation the Fairer Scotland Funding.

To date developments supported by the Delivery Group include development of transport and other initiatives contained in the SOA for Shetland:-

- to improve mainline and feeder services
- trialling dial-a-ride services in the Central and West Mainland of Shetland
- supporting the Bridges Project that is seen as a key to ensuring that all school leavers obtain the best possible opportunities to progress into either further education or training and employment
- supporting the development of Social Enterprises with growth plans and becoming more pro-active in engaging with business
- supporting individuals with welfare checks and increasing the number of children who are supported to attend formal nursery education.

SCSS along with partners NHS and SIC have been leading the development of a compact for Shetland and this is nearly complete and we would hope to have this launched in 2009.

**Summary of Achievements to date:-**

- **CVS/VC – one body in Shetland operating under one governance structure**
- **Members of the CPP and CVPDG**
- **Represented on various thematic forums**
- **Created in partnership with LA the Poverty Reference Group**
- **Champion under SOA for Fairer/Wealthier area of SOA**
- **Involved in development of SOA for 2009/2010**
- **Lead development of Compact**
- **Development of LSEP**
- **Delivering Road shows around Social Enterprise**
- **Delivering Training on Social Enterprise**

**Signed on behalf of Community Planning Partnership**

..... **Mr Sandy Cluness**

**Signed on behalf of the Shetland Council of Social Service**

..... **Mr Leslie Angus**

**21 March 2009**