



---

**THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY**

**REPORT OF MEETINGS**

**Public Health Committee (PHC)**

7 November 2022

**THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY**

*Working together to put our sector first*  
Dumfries and Galloway's Third Sector Interface

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PERSONAL RECORD BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TSDG, NORMA AUSTIN HART. IT IS BASED ON MY OWN OBSERVATIONS. IT IS NOT A FORMAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING.**

1. I had made the offer at the last meeting on 15 August that we would be happy to make our H&SC contacts available to the NHS health inequalities steering group. This had not been captured in the minutes which I asked to be corrected under matters arising.
2. The committee heard an update about the D&G vaccination programme. There was a concern that some vaccination 'fatigue' is setting in across Scotland. Our uptake is better than many other NHS boards.
3. There was concern about the availability of venues for vaccination centres. I offered to contact Deanne Gilbert and Nigel Calvert about how to access the locality hubs for assistance in finding local venues across the region.
4. I confirmed that our communications networks will be available for any push to increase vaccination rates.
5. One of the main items on the agenda was the update on Health Inequalities. Lynsey Fitzpatrick led on this item. Lynsey set out work on mapping current agreed activities. These were mapped against the Joseph Rowntree framework of being 'an inclusive anchor'. This can be used as a tool for self-assessment.
6. Anchor institutions are defined as being large businesses which employ many and have significant contracts. The five areas of anchor organisations: as employer, procurement, assets used, product and service delivery and corporate responsibility. One activity not included is impact assessment.
7. I pointed out that there is community wealth building work going on within the Regional Economic Partnership and SoSE and asked to what extent there is complementary work to avoid duplication. Valerie White assured me there is no duplication but maybe room for joining up the dots.
8. Darren Little from DGC gave an update with progress on producing the next Children's Services Plan. The plan should set out how we will deliver our children's services from 2023-2026. This is a partnership approach, and the plan will be based on the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) produced over the summer months. The analysis was developed at an event on 30 September.
9. Connected with the SNA, Linda Biggar Mental Health Services spoke to a recent survey of young people who feel as they get older that there are fewer available adults they could talk to. Not all young people can talk to their parents or teachers. We are also seeing a trend of more females with increasingly poor levels of well-being though the majority of referrals are male. 9% said they rarely felt love and 3% said they had never felt loved. 24% said they lived with someone with a mental health problem.

## KEY POINTS

10. Counselling in Schools project will continue but SG will not require LAs to ring fence this money. In a D&G this is a joint NHS and DGC Youth Work project. Report will go to DGC education committee in December.
11. All counsellors are trained at basic COSCA level. They are now being trained in level 1 and level 2 COSCA training as required by SG. Some schools employ private counsellors in addition to the project's counselling.
12. Nick Morris chair made the point that the CSP should be linked to other strategic work ongoing which attempts to retain and attract young people to the region.
13. The committee heard a presentation by Regina McDevitt on inequalities of screening; where homeless and other vulnerable groups are less likely to take up health screening opportunities. Third sector colleagues are involved and are willing to encourage screening uptake. There is additional funding to encourage better take up.
14. Valerie White mentioned the TSDG's digital exclusion research and its relevance to this issue. Valerie asked for the research to be circulated to the steering group.
15. I offered to meet with Regina McDevitt offline and at the same meeting as the earlier one mentioned about accessing community facilities for vaccination centres. Both are concerned with reducing barriers to access of NHS services.
16. The Alcohol and Drug Partnership is undertaking a review. Valerie asked if the PHC would like to comment on the new strategy when it is available. This was agreed.
17. The LOIP review will be taken to the CPPB on 11 Nov. Key messages from the consultation: keep it simple -have a few key themes and some priorities within those.

[Public Health Committee Nov 7 Papers \(Zip File\)](#)